Written by Gary Childers
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Ashe County's Board of Education took the unusual action during Monday night's meeting of approving "two" school calendars for next school year. With Board of Education chairman, Charlie King's, encouragement interim superintendent, Donnie Johnson, explained why he recommended they take this action, "There is some thought that they might allow school systems to go back to 180 days."

Both calendars show school starting for teachers August 16th and for students August 20th. Dr. Johnson further explained that the calendars are similar as far as holidays go with one adding five additional instructional days at the end to meet the legislature's current requirements. In other action the Board approved a Chemical Hygiene Plan for School Science Labs presented by assistant superintendent, Phyllis Yates. The plan is designed to create safer environments and controls for teachers and students who work with chemicals in school science laboratories. The Board also heard a presentation from ASU professor, Dr. Kurt Michael, on the positive results being attained through the recently implemented Ashe County Assessment, Support, and Counseling center at Ashe County High School. The Board also heard supporting testimony of the positive results for students at Ashe High School from counselors and the Director of Student Services, Kim Barnes. Board member, C. B. Jones, reflected support for these efforts by commenting that he was glad to see increased emphasis on dealing with mental health issues facing students in the school system.