

## Board of Education Meeting

May 11, 2026

6:30 PM, in the Stearns Education Center Boardroom

There was Board member training at 5:30

**Members Present:** Chairman Ashworth, Vice-Chairman Mr. Covil, Ms. Allen, Ms. Gibbs, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Page, Mr. Stich

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Superintendent Todd Murphy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Human Resource Specialist Tonya Odel, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, Director of Preschool Lori Byars and Attorney John Henning, Jr.

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Mr. Ashworth called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Special Presentation**

Mr. Murphy recognized PCHS senior Lucas Johnson for earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal-the United States Congress' highest honor for young Americans-becoming the first student in Polk County history to do so.

### **Approval of April 13, 2026 Board Minutes (Action)**

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the April 13, 2026, Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Facilities Report for Performance Services – Justin Stephens**

Justin Stephens, Business Development Manager for Performance Services, gave a brief presentation regarding the district's facility study. He briefly went over a summary of the Polk County District Facility Physical Assessment that was electronically attached to the agenda. The study not only looked at current conditions but also made recommendations as far as future upkeep. He said that the staff of Polk County Schools have done a phenomenal job of maintaining some old buildings with a tight budget. They have managed to do some amazing things for those schools, but those schools are aging out to the point where the buildings are not falling down, but there is some catastrophic potential around the corner. So, they are looking at our situation from multiple angles.

Due to the extensive issues with some of our buildings and the repair cost involved, Mr. Stephens recommends that the district apply for the NCDPI Needs Based Grant. He feels that the Facilities Report will be an asset to the grant request process. Mr. Stephens said that his company does have staff on board that could assist us with the grant request process.

## **I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

### **Beginning Teacher Plan Revision – Jan Crump (Action)**

Jan Crump Director of Curriculum and Instruction presented a revision for the Beginning Teacher Plan. The NC Department of Public Instruction has asked that we add two statements to our current plan. One statement is in the introduction and states that teachers with fewer than three years of experience, regardless of licensure type and licensure pathway (e.g., temporary license, residency license, and initial professional license) are required to participate in the NC Beginning Teacher Support Program for three years. Polk County has always done this.

The second revision was to add that the completion of the recent graduate survey will be required by the beginning teacher (BT) and the employer survey by the principal of the school during the BT's first year of teaching, following the completion of an approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) as part of the requirements to measure the performance of EPPs state in GS 115C-269.35. The surveys will be administered at the end of each applicable year.

Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the Beginning Teacher Plan Revision as presented. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to approve the Beginning Teacher Plan Revision as presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

### **Spring Testing – Angela Dufford (Information)**

Accountability & Testing Coordinator Angela Dufford presented a Spring Testing update with the Board. Ms. Dufford presented the information previously shared on the electronic agenda. This information consisted of general information, testing schedules, additional assessments, and reporting results. Mr. Ashworth called for questions and there were none.

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)**

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved. Mr. Stich made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment, and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The motion was approved 7-0.

### **Student Transfer Request - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

The Board agreed that there was no need to discuss the student transfer requests further in closed session. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the student transfer requests. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the student transfer requests as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The student transfer requests were approved 7-0.

### **Flooring Bid (Multi-Site) - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, Director of Operations, told the Board that one of the district's annual summer capital projects is flooring work that needs to be completed throughout the district. This work spans multiple sites, including at least

five of the seven school sites. Projects include recarpeting classrooms, replacing carpet with tile where possible, and making similar improvements.

Because the total cost exceeded the \$50,000 threshold for micro-bidding, the project was brought before the Board for approval.

Dr. Schweitzer stated that the low bidder for the cumulative flooring projects was Southern Carpets Inc. in the amount of \$67,227.46. Because these projects are renovations of classroom-bearing buildings, the district plans to recoup the funds through Repair and renovation accounts.

Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any questions, and there were none. Mr. Ashworth then entertained a motion to approve the Flooring Bid (Multi-Site). Mr. Stich made the motion to approve the Flooring Bid, and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Establish Dates for Summer Board Meetings – Todd Murphy (Information)**

Superintendent Todd Murphy held discussion with the Board regarding summer Board meeting dates. The Board agreed to keep the regular meeting scheduled for 6/8 at 6:30, and have the second summer meeting, a special meeting, on 6/30/26 at 5:30 pm.

### **Property Proposal – Todd Murphy (Information)**

Superintendent Murphy presented a property proposal to the Board. Attorney John Hennings, Jr. will review the proposal and inform the Board of the next steps that must be taken.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on Administrative Training – Todd Murphy (Information)**

Superintendent Murphy provided an update regarding the FranklinCovey Professional training that took place on April 20, 2026. Mr. Murphy stated that the training was very successful and expressed that it is a great opportunity for Polk County. He added that the opportunity comes at no cost to the district and will include two additional days of training next year.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Distribution Request - Brandon Schweitzer – (Action)**

Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer informed the Board that the district experienced three HVAC system failures during the past week—two at TES and one at SVE. Local funds have already been allocated for the replacement of these units to ensure the systems are replaced as quickly as possible.

Dr. Schweitzer requested Board approval to submit applications through the Repair and Renovations Lottery Fund. If approved by the Board tonight, the request will be presented to the Commissioners next week. Upon their approval, the application will then be submitted to the state, and the district anticipates reimbursement of those funds before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any questions, and there were none. Mr. Ashworth then entertained a motion to approve the Distribution Request. Mr. Stich made the motion to approve the Distribution Request and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## V. INFORMATION

Head Start Policy Council Minutes

Preschool Monthly Report

Pre-K Financial Report

Monthly Financial Report

Month to Date Credit Card Report

## NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

Summer Leadership Conference – June 15-19, 2026, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Wrightsville Beach

Core Training – July 16, 2026, 9:00 am, July 17, 2026, 12:00 pm

Fall Law Conference – October 15, 2026, 12:00 pm – October 16, 2026, 12:00 pm, Asheville, NC

2026 NCSBA Annual Conference, November 9, 2026, 8:00 am – November 11, 2026, 11:00 am, Greensboro, NC

NCSBA Video Training Library

## VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

Board Member Ms. Allen requested that the security at Stearns be addressed. She stated that the locks at all schools have been updated and that she wants to ensure that everyone at Stearns is safe as well. Dr. Schweitzer stated that he will have the Facilities Subcommittee look into the matter.

## VII. CLOSED SESSION

### Closed Session

At 7:09 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and preserving Attorney-Client Privilege. Mr. Stich made the motion to go into closed session, and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion carried 7-0.

### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:49 pm, Mr. Stich made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Ashworth called the Board's attention to those matters on the personnel agenda and the contract renewals presented that required Board approval. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0

### Information:

Preston Allen	Principal	SVE	Retiring
Sydney Cash	Teacher	TES	Retiring
Kelly Harmon	Teacher	PCES	Resigning

JJ Waddell	Teacher	TES	Resigning
Kendal Stoney	Teacher	TES	Resigning
Jennifer Marques-Patterson	Temporary Teacher	PCMS	Not Returning
Amanda Caputo	Teacher Assistant	TES	Resigning
Carolyn Baughman	BOLT Mentors' Coordinator	PCCF	Resigning
Miranda Hoots	Receptionist	TES	Transferring to Teacher Assistant
Chasity Faltraco	Teacher	TES	Transferring from Pre-K to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade
Jessica Searcy	Clerical	Stearns	Transferring from Bus Garage to Stearns
Logan Luckadoo	EC Inclusion Teacher	PCMS	Transferring from Saluda to PCMS
Sarah Fisher	Cheer Coach	PCHS	Additional Coaching Duty
Christina Mintz	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	TES	Resigning
Josh Money	Basketball Coach	PCHS	Resigning
Julie Burke	Teacher	PCMS	Leaving
Kennedy Edwards	Teacher	Saluda	Requesting 1-Year Parental Leave

**Action:**

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Lacey Gosnell	Pre-K Teacher	Forbes	Rutherfordton, NC	NC State	Education	0
Kelly Ambraz	Teacher	Saluda	Hendersonville, NC	University of S. Florida	Early Childhood	8
Julia Ridings	EC Teacher	Saluda	Columbus, NC	Anderson University	Early Childhood	1
Sherry Boggs	Teacher	PCMS	Greer, SC	Southern Wesleyan University	Education	22
Jamie Graber	Teacher	PCMS	Mill Spring, NC	Brevard	Education	8
Maxwell Butterfield	PEAK Group Leader	TES	Tryon, NC	N/A	N/A	N/A

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Chairperson

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Todd Murphy, Board Secretary  
TM/RC