Board of Education Meeting

October 12, 2026
6:30 PM, in the Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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, and Attorney Chris Campbell.

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Ashworth called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Special Work Session
A special work session was held prior to the regular scheduled board meeting to hear school improvement plan presentations. All school improvement plans were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Each school principal and a selected Improvement Team representative briefly presented the goals and highlights of their school improvement plans. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments after each presentation.

Approval of September 14, 2026 Board Minutes (Action)
Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the September 14, 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. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

School Improvement Plans - Jan Crump (Action)
Ms. Crump addressed the Board regarding the School Improvement Plans that had been presented during the special work session held prior to the regular board meeting, confirming that there were no outstanding questions or concerns. Hearing none, Mr. Ashworth requested a motion to adopt the plans. Ms. Gibbs moved to approve the School Improvement Plans, and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Overnight Field Trip Request –Todd Murphy (Action)
Superintendent Murphy requested approval from the Board to approve the overnight PCHS FFA Field Trip – The 72nd Annual Land Judging Career Development Event. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the presented overnight field trip request. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the request, and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The overnight field trip request for the PCHS FFA Land Judging Career Development Event Field Trip was approved 7-0.

Head Start Annual Report – Lori Byars (Information)
Lori Byars, Preschool Director, presented the 2025–2026 Head Start Annual Report to the Board.
She reviewed key information from the report, including budget summaries and child outcome data. The program maintained an average monthly enrollment of 80 students. Notably, 30% of the children served had special needs or an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

In the area of Health Compliance, the Preschool Program achieved near-perfect compliance. Additionally, under the School Readiness domain, the program met or exceeded all state benchmarks. The 2025-2026 Preschool funding sources totaled $1,774,671. The 2025-2026 Head Start expenditures totaled $803,117 and the 2025-2026 Head Start budget is $808,135. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2026-2027 Budget Resolution- Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace, Finance Officer, presented the attached 2026-2027 Budget Resolution to the Board. The 2026-2027 Budget Resolution was included in the electronic agenda for review prior to the Board meeting. She stated that the resolution may be amended as the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) releases additional information regarding the 2026-2027 budget. Chairman Ashworth requested a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Budget Resolution as presented. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Page. The 2026-2027 Budget Resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0.

2026-2027 Teacher Supplement Proposal – Todd Murphy (Action)

Superintendent Murphy presented the 2026-2027 Teacher Supplement Proposal to the Board and submitted a recommended scale for approval. The amount of state funding provided to the district to supplement local teacher salaries varies from year to year. Mr. Murphy explained the proposed scale to the Board members and requested approval. Chairman Ashworth called for questions, and none were raised. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the Teacher Supplement scale, seconded by Ms. Page. The Teacher Supplement scale was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Safe Schools/Crisis Plans – Todd Murphy (Action)

Superintendent Murphy informed the Board that the details of the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans had been distributed electronically. He noted that due to the confidential nature of the plans, any questions or discussion should take place during closed session. After discussion during closed session, Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans, which was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

Policy Updates – 1st Reading – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board the first reading, either adopting new or changing the current policy of, Policies 1310/4002 Parental Involvement, 2330 Board Meeting Agenda, 2340 Parliamentary Procedures, 3200 Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials, 3200R Regulation Code: 3200-R Selection of Supplementary Materials and Parent Involvement Procedure, 3210 Inspection of and Objection to Instructional and Supplementary Materials, 3220 Technology in the Educational Program, 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use, 3510 Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs, 3565/8307 Title I Program Comparability of Services, 4318 Use of Wireless Communication Devices, 4342 Student Searches, 5071/7351 Electronically Stored Information Retention, 5150/7313 Reporting to External Agencies, 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services, 6420 Contracts with the Board, 6442 Vendor Lists, 7130 Licensure, 7325 (NEW) Video and Audio Recordings by Employees, 9115 Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects, 9120 Bidding for Construction Work, 1510/4200/7270 School Safety, 3430 School Improvement Plan, 4001 Equal Educational Opportunities and 7530 Military Leave. Dr. Schweitzer reported that the policies were reviewed and discussed during the Policy Subcommittee meeting, and the committee has endorsed them for approval.

Chairman Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the aforementioned policies on first reading. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the policies as presented on first reading and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The Board Policy Updates first reading was approved by a vote of 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Needs-Based Grant – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Schweitzer presented to the Board an overview of the slideshow that was electronically attached to the meeting agenda. He provided a summary of the proposed plans should the district be awarded the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant. The district anticipates receiving notification regarding the grant award by the end of November. If awarded, the district plans to solicit bids in April.

NCSSA-Franklin Covey Partnership – Todd Murphy (Information)

Superintendent Murphy reported that the on-site professional development has been extremely beneficial. The district received one day of professional development during the previous school year and will receive two additional days this school year. The next session is scheduled for October 14, 2026, with the final session planned for the spring semester. Superintendent Murphy noted that these services are provided at no cost to the district and expressed appreciation for this valuable opportunity.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None

V. INFORMATION

Head Start Policy Council Minutes
Preschool Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Month-to-Date Credit Card Report
November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day
November 25, 2026 - Optional Teacher Workday
November 26-27, 2026 - Holiday

NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING
2026/2027 NCSBA Video Library
Fall Law Conference – October 14-16, 2026, Asheville, NC
Ethics and Conflicts of Interest for School Board Members – November 8, 2026 – Greensboro, NC
2026 NCSBA Annual Conference – November 9-11, 2026, Greensboro, NC

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:05 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session, and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. 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 7:35 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Stich seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

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

Action:

10/12/2026						
Name	**Position**	**School**	**Hometown**	**College**	**Licensure Area**	**Years Exp**
Timothy Bradley	Transferring from PT Food Service Aide - PCMS to FT Custodian – PCES					N/A
Joseph Downey	Substitute	All	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kelly Sparks	Teacher Assistant – Self Contained	PCHS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	N/A

Information:

Name	**Position**	**School**				
Stephanie Champion	8th Grade ELA Teacher	PCMS	Resigning			
Lindsay Cooper	Cafeteria Assistant	PCHS	Transferred from Sub Cafeteria Asst. to PT Cafe Asst.			
Halie Greer	Cafeteria Assistant	PCHS	Resigned			
Elizabeth Lawson	Elementary Teacher	PCES	Transferring from PCES Teacher to PCMS Teacher			
Julie Miller	6th Grade ELA Teacher	PCMS	Retiring			
Juanita Parnell	Cafeteria Assistant	PCHS	Resigned			
Krista Wagner	Occupational Therapist	All	FMLA			
Kathryn Patterson	7th Grade ELA Teacher	PCMS	FMLA			
Krista Wagner	Occupational Therapist	All	Resigning			

VII. ADJOURNMENT
With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

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Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

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Todd Murphy, Board Secretary
TM/RC