

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**November 14, 2022**  
**6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace and Attorney Phillip Feagan

**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**

**Student Presentation**

Mrs. Mary Greene, director of Polk County Early College, introduced Ms. Kathleen Abraham and several students from PCEC to speak to the Board regarding their bird study program. The students, Jack Hayes, John Denton, Nelly Medina-Ramirez, and Eden Gardner spoke in detail about the different species, habitats, and lives of the different birds.

**Service Recognition - Dave Scherping**

Superintendent Aaron Greene requested the Board consider adopting a service commendation for former Assistant Superintendent Mr. David Scherping. Mr. Greene read a proposed Resolution that outlining the service of former Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping. Mr. Covil made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The adoption of the Resolution was approved 7-0.

**Recognition of the 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Ashworth recognized each of the 2022-2023 Teachers of the Year and presented them with a plaque. Chairman Ashworth presented plaques to Kellie Bradley (SVE), Nikki Gilreath (PCES), Stephanie Fletcher (SES), Lori Connet (PCHS), Kelly Welch (TES – not in attendance) and Jamie Graber (PCMS). Kelly Welch was issued an additional plaque recognizing her selection as District Teacher of the Year.

**Recognition of the NCCTM & NCDPI Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher Award**

Ms. Jan Crump spoke to the Board regarding PCMS math teacher Ms. Jamie Graber and her achievement of the award of NCCTM & NCDPI Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation of Ms. Graber's devotion and caring for her students and the district.

**Approval of October 10, 2022 Board Minutes (Action)**

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the October 10, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections to either set of minutes and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The October 10, 2022 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

INSTRUCTIONAL

**Niche Recognition - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding the Niche Recognition website. Polk County is ranked #1 out of 115 for safe school districts, #1 out of 115 for best places to teach in NC, and #1 out of 115 for the District with the best teachers in NC, #2 out of 115 for the best school district in NC and #93 out of 115 for the most diverse school district in NC on the Niche website. Mr. Greene stated that this recognition reflects not only the efforts of the school district but the community as a whole. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation to the community for their support.

**Head Start Annual Report- Kathy Harding (Information)**

Kathy Harding presented to the Board regarding the Head Start Annual Report. She shared information from the 2021-2022 annual report. This information contained the budget summaries and the child outcome data. The 2021-2022 Preschool funding sources totaled \$1,612,025. The 2021-2022 Head Start expenditures totaled \$738,582 and the 2022-2023 Head Start budget is \$800,775. Ms. Harding went on to explain how some of the indicators are already improving this year. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Parsons asked about the difference in children in the last couple of years. There was a discussion regarding the differences and how students are continuing to grow relative to prior years.

**Head Start Grant Carry Over Request - Kathy Harding (Action)**

Ms. Harding presented the Board a request to carry over the Head Start Grant from the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Ms. Harding stated that in order for the grant money to carry over into the next year, the Board must approve doing so. Mr. Ashworth asked for a motion to approve this action. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the request to carry over the Head Start grant and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The carry over request for the Head Start grant was approved 7-0.

**Overnight Field Trip Request: Wrestling- Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board for an overnight field trip request for Wrestling. Mr. Greene explained that these events would be held in Asheville and Lincolnton, NC but the team must report to the school at 5:00 AM after a late night. Having to travel back and forth impacts the athletes negatively from a competition standpoint. This request has met all guidelines and has the appropriate endorsements. Mr. Greene stated that there is not a submitted by date on the request and the ratio of students to chaperones was not listed either. He informed the Board that they would be in ratio and he would get the numbers added. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve this overnight trip request. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the overnight field trip request for Wrestling with the two corrections mentioned and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. Mr. Ashworth asked for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

**Chocolate Drop Project- Robert Williamson (Information)**

Robert Williamson gave a presentation to the Board regarding a proposal for the Chocolate Drop Project. He explained plans for using property aligning with the District's property at the PCHS Soccer Field. There was discussion regarding the use of the property, the times it would be used, and to what extent. Chairman Ashworth stated that the Board would discuss and consider this proposal and get back to Mr. Williamson for further discussion.

**2022-2023 Budget Resolution- Debbie Lovelace (Action)**

Debbie Lovelace, Finance Officer, presented the attached 2022-2023 budget resolutions to the Board. The 2022-2023 Budget Resolution was included in the electronic agenda for review prior to the Board meeting. There will be future changes in the resolution as DPI releases more information regarding the 2022-2023 budget. Chairman Ashworth requested a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Resolution as presented. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Resolution, seconded by Ms. Allen. The 2022-2023 Budget Resolution was approved 7-0.

**PCHS Construction Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer provided an update to the Board on the PCHS HVAC Construction project. The District is down to the final payment on the project. There are some minor punch list items still in progress and “commissioning” work is being done to verify functionality. There was discussion regarding the different specific issues.

**Tryon Elementary School Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke with the Board regarding the Tryon Elementary School preschool addition update. The architect has presented final drawings and they are scheduled to meet to discuss moving forward with the project. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none.

**Policy Updates (First Reading) - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer went over the following Policies for first reading, either adopting new or changing the current policy; 1310/4002 Parental Involvement, 1510/4200/7270 School Safety, 1710 Discrimination and harassment Prohibited by Federal Law, 1720/4030/7235 Title IX nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, 2121 Board Member Conflict of Interest, 2125/7315 Confidential Information, 2210 Duties of Officers, 2302 Remote Participation in Board Meetings, 2310 Public Participation in Board Meetings, 2400 Board Policies, 2410 Policy Development, 2430 Dissemination and Preservation of Policies, 2600 Consultants to the Board, 3100 Curriculum Development, 3102 Online Instruction, 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use, 3410 Testing and Assessment Program, 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability, 3430 School Improvement Plan, 3460 Graduation Requirements, 4050 Children of Military Families, 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements, 4150 School Assignment, 4152 Unsafe School Choice Transfer, 4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety, 4260 Student Sex Offenders, 4300 Student Behaviors Policies, 4302-R Rules for Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools, 4316 Student Dress Code, 4334/5035/7345 Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones), 4700 Student Records, 4720 Surveys of Students, 5022 Registered Sex Offenders, 5030 Community Use of Facilities, 5071/7351 Electronically Stored Information Retention, 5210 Distribution and Display of Non-School Material, 5210 Distribution and Display of Non-School Material, 5240 Advertising in the Schools, 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services, 6320 Use of Student Transportation Services, 6340 Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts, 6560 Disposal of Surplus Property, 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel, 7130 Licensure, 7262 Communicable Diseases-Employees, 7340 Employee Dress and Appearance, 7510 Leave, 7520 Family and Medical Leave, 7530 Military Leave, 7540 Voluntary Shared Leave, 7541 Sick Leave Bank, 7550 Absences Due to Inclement Weather, 7620 Payroll Deductions, 7810 Evaluation of Licensed Employees, 7815 Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees, 7820 Personnel Files, 8305 Federal Grant Administration, 8310 Annual Independent Audit, Depositories, 9000 Planning to Address Facility Needs, 9400 Sale, Disposal, and Leave of Board-Owned Real Property, 1200 Governing Principle-Student Success, 1300 Governing Principle-Parental Involvement, Governing Principle-School Initiatives, 1500 Governing Principle-Safe, Orderly, and Inviting Environment, 1600 Governing Principle-Professional Development, 1700Governing Principle-Removal of Barriers, 1725/4035/7236 Title IX Sexual Harassment-Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process, 1726/4036/7237 Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process, 1800 Governing Principle-Stewardship of Resources, 4329/7311 Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited, 5070/7350 Public Records-Retention, Release, and Disposition, 7110 Information Provided by Applicant or Employee, 7400 Job Descriptions, 7430 Substitute Teachers, 9020 Facility Design. Dr Schweitzer stated that some of the policies have significant changes and some have only minor changes in wording or references. He went over in more detail those policies that had significant changes. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the aforementioned policies. Ms. Jackson made a motion to postpone the first reading until the Board is able to read over the policies and make an informed decision. There was no second for the motion. Attorney Feagan stated that the Board could approved the policies on first reading and make minor changes before final adoption on second reading. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve

the aforementioned policies on first reading and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The aforementioned policies were approved on first reading with a vote of 7-0.

**NC School Capital Lottery Fund Release Request- Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer discussed with the Board the NC School Capitol lottery Funder Release Request included in the Board packet. This funding is what the District is using to pay for the track resurfacing project. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the NC School Capitol lottery Funder Release Request. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

**VW Transportation Grant - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding the VW Transportation Grant. Mr. Greene informed the Board that there has to be action to accept the grant. This grant is for \$111,173 to buy an activity bus. Since this grant was written the quoted cost has increased, so the District will likely have to use local capital to make up the difference. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve and accept this grant and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion was approved 7-0.

**Safe Schools Grant - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the District's awarding of a Safe Schools Grant. The District received \$324,580 in total, with the bulk of the funding applied to SRO employment. Some of the grant will go to fund an additional School Social Worker and various safety equipment. Chairman Ashworth ask if there were any questions from the Board. Mr. Parsons asked how the safety equipment is chosen. Mr. Greene stated that the District meets with local security "Task Force" members to assess areas of need and set priorities for the purchase and installation of safety equipment and resources.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding a shared position with Polk County Transportation. The agreement would create a position in which the employee would drive a morning route with the district, drive for PC Transportation during the day, and potentially drive an afternoon route for Polk Schools as well. Mr. Greene is seeking permission to proceed in approving this agreement with the PCTA.

Mr. Greene stated that the district is monitoring the weather and see if there is any frozen precipitation potential for later in the week.

Mr. Covil asked that the Board consider moving the beginning of school up a couple of weeks to better align the District with the community college calendar, and to finish the first semester of classes and high school exams before the holiday break in December. He argued this would be better for students and staff. There was discussion amongst the Board regarding the calendar, dates, exams, the calendar law, etc. The Board asked Mr. Greene and administration to bring back to the Board a calendar for consideration on moving school to begin earlier.

**V. INFORMATION**

Veterans Day Holiday - 11/11/22  
Thanksgiving Break - 11/23/22-11/25/22  
October Head Start Policy Council Minutes  
October Pre-K Monthly Report  
Pre-K Financial Report  
Monthly Financial Report  
Monthly Credit Card Report

**VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Several members of the community spoke during public input. A vote to amend the time limit for Public Input was not needed for the number of speakers requesting to speak. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via digital audio recording.

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

**Closed Session**

At 8:16 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, safe schools, and Attorney Client Privilege. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. 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 9:51 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Covil 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. Mr. Parsons 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.

There was discussion regarding an attorney client matter.

There was a discussion regarding Safe Schools.

**Information:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	
Lambert Ridings	Transportation Director	Bus Garage	Retiring
Brooke Benfield	Library Teacher	Polk Central	Resigned

**Action:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Licensure Area</b>	<b>Years Exp</b>
Jaleeca Davis	EC Teacher Assistant Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	Forest City	Western University	N/A	Years
Elyse Noland	Transfer from Food Service Aide to Pre K Teacher Assistant Floater	Tryon/Saluda	Columbus	ICC	N/A	Years

Alexis McCraw	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Danae Roos	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View	Lake Lure	N/A	N/A	0
Layla Paulsen	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda	Saluda	N/A	N/A	Years
Linda Skillett	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Landrum, SC	University of PA	EC	21
Vicki Richardson	Food Service Substitute	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alan Roman Roman	Computer Lab Teacher Assistant Afterschool Site Director	Polk Central/PCMS	Leave without Pay			
April Crowder	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave without Pay			

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.

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Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
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