

Board of Education Meeting
October 10, 2022
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom

Members Present: Chairman Mr. Ashworth, Vice-Chairman Mr. Covil, Ms. Page, Ms. Allen, Ms. Gibbs (via zoom), 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

Special Work Session

A special work session was held prior to the regular scheduled board meeting that included 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. Superintendent Greene reminded the Board that School Improvement Plans are voted on after closed session once the safe school portion of the plans are discussed.

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

Two fifth grade students from Sunny View Elementary School led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Student Presentation

Mr. Allen, Principal of Sunny View Elementary School introduced two fifth grade students, Pressley Bradley and Lyndsey Hall. Miss. Hall and Miss Bradley made a brief presentation to the Board about a Native American project that they had recently completed.

Approval of September 12, 2022 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the September 12, 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 September 12, 2022 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

Superintendent Greene asked permission from the Board to recognize Mr. Chauncy Barber. Mr. Barber is a finalist in the State of NC for the Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year. Mr. Barber is one of 24 finalists out of 6,000 CTE Teachers in the state. Mr. Greene expressed his gratitude to Mr. Barber for his service here at Polk County Schools. Mr. Barber gave the Board more details regarding the award and that he was honored to be selected as a finalist. Mr. Barber also offered appreciation to his family for their support over the years. Finally, he talked about how fortunate we all are to be in Polk County and that it was a team effort to be where he is now.

Principal Appreciation Month – Aaron Greene

Chairman Ashworth turned the floor over to Superintendent Greene to speak regarding Principal appreciation month. Superintendent Greene commended the principals and school administrators for their selfless dedication to the students and staff of Polk County Schools. Mr. Greene said it was important for us all to give a big "thank you" to all principals and school administrators within Polk County Schools.

INSTRUCTIONAL

School Improvement Plans - Jan Crump (Action)

There was a special work session prior to the regular scheduled board meeting that included 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.

Overnight Field Trip Request-FFA Land Judging and Vet Sciences- Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the FFA Land Judging and Vet Sciences overnight field trip requests to the Board. He briefly went over these requests. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve both field trip requests as presented and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons and Ms. Gibbs. The FFA Land Judging and Vet Sciences overnight field trip requests was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Safe Schools/Crisis Plans - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greened stated that the details of the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans are discussed in closed session due to the required confidentiality of the plans. Approval of the plans will take place after being reviewed in closed session.

PCHS Construction Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented an update to the Board regarding the final pieces of the PCHS HVAC project. Tests and balances are being performed and final punch lists are being addressed. \$6,105,885 has been paid to date and the current balance remaining to be paid is \$247,362. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none.

PCHS Floor Project - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board regarding the PCHS Floor Project. During the construction project some damage to the flooring at PCHS occurred. The contractor has agreed to contribute \$45,000 to the project, which leaves a balance of approximately \$37,000. This work involves taking all floors down to polished concrete, replacement of baseboards, and a final polish. Ms. Jackson asked what the time frame looks like on the completion of the project. Dr. Schweitzer stated that the floor project can be completed in approximately 2-3 weeks, night work only. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the presented PCHS Floor Project and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The PCHS Floor Project was approved 7-0.

Tryon Elementary Construction- Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer gave a project update to the Board regarding the Tryon Elementary School Pre-K addition. Dr. Schweitzer presented the contract between Polk County Schools and the architect. There was one change made. The District moved away from a percentage-based contract and went with a fixed rate contract of \$225,000. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments. Mr. Covil asked if Attorney Feagan had reviewed the contract. Attorney Feagan stated that he has reviewed it and the contract is fine and meets requirements. Mr. Scherping stated that this is a contract that the Board is signing for Polk County Schools. Mr. Scherping stated that it is the architect's job to make sure the job is done but not necessarily done correctly. It will be the responsibility of the assignee of Polk County Schools to make sure the job is done correctly. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Contract between Polk County Schools and Pinnacle Architecture, P.A. for the architecture portion of the Tryon Elementary Pre-K Construction Project. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the contract as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The contract between Polk County Schools and Pinnacle Architecture, P.A. was approved 7-0.

Attendance Policy 4400 - Aaron Greene (Action-2nd Reading)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board on second reading for Policy 4400. Changes discussed during first reading were made. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve Policy 4400 on second reading and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. Attendance Policy 4400 was approved on second reading on a vote of 7-0.

Bus Driver Pay - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding bus driver pay and the difficulty of finding bus drivers. He informed the Board that any amount above \$17.89 is not reimbursable by the state. Any driver pay “overages” will have to come from local funds. The District is requesting to increase bus driver pay by \$3.50 an hour. Mr. Parsons asked how many drivers the district needs to have a complete staff. Mr. Greene stated the district needs approximately five more drivers to be able to cover shortages. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the \$3.50 per hour bus driver pay increase and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion to increase bus driver pay by \$3.50 per hour was approved on a vote of 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Dr Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the redesign of the Polk Central Elementary main entrance. The District has partnered with Seven Oaks for this project. However, the materials needed for this project are on a 6-7-month delay. Once the materials come in the project will be underway. He added that all elementary playground surfaces are being evaluated. Tryon Elementary was deemed a high risk/high priority area, and work by a local landscaper has been completed to “dig out” all high impact areas and replaced with 12-inch mulch. The District’s other elementary playgrounds will be evaluated and updated as needed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene took a moment to share his appreciation for Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping and his years of experience and service to Polk County Schools and education. Mr. Scherping commented on his years with Polk County Schools and offered appreciation for the support of his superiors currently and years past. Mr. Scherping will be officially honored at the next Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Greene acknowledged Billy Alm from PCHS for performing the Heimlich maneuver on a student that could have possibly saved his life.

V. INFORMATION

September Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board
Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board
Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board
Year to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

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 7:29 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, safe schools plans, and Attorney Client Privilege. Mr. Parsons 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 9:03 pm, Mr. Covil made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Allen 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.

Chairman Ashworth called the Board’s attention to the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans that require Board approval and confirmed that details regarding the safe schools and crisis plans for the district and schools had been detailed and discussed in closed session. The Chairman asked the Board’s pleasure regarding a motion. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans and Ms. Jackson seconded. It was approved 7-0.

Chairman Ashworth called the Board’s attention to the Superintendents Contract that was discussed and required Board approval. Mr. Covil made a motion to approved the renewal of the Superintendents contract and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. It was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Megan Williams	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Leah Foster	Transfer from Teacher Assistant at PCES to Secretary/Data Manager at SVES	Sunny View	Columbus	Appalachian	N/A	6
Stacy Harris	Career and College Promise Teacher Assistant	PCHS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
MayLeigh Chapman	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Campobello, SC	N/A	N/A	Years
Sharon Jackson	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Tryon	N/A	N/A	Years
Marsha Cunningham	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0
Arrianna Chavez	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Columbus	N/A	N/A	4
Dominic Painter	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years
Melissa Brown	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	1

Phoenix Roush	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Columbus	ICC	N/A	0
Wanda Russell	Bus Driver	Bus Garage	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	20
Tiffane Robinson	EC Teacher	Tryon	Inman, SC	Webster University	Pending	12
Shelly Bolt	Food Service Aide	PCHS	Unpaid Medical Leave			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO