

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 14, 2022**  
**6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Auditorium**

**Members Present:** Chairman 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**

**Recognition of National Board Certified Teachers**

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding the District's National Board Certified Teachers. Polk County Schools has a significant number of National Board teachers, much higher than the state average. Mr. Greene recognized Ms. Evans, Mr. Eaton, Ms. Corcoran, Ms. Walter, and Ms. Johnston for the renewal of their National Board Certification.

**Approval of February 21, 2022 Board Minutes (Action)**

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the February 21, 2022 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Career and Technical Education Update - Lindsey Edwards (Information)**

Superintendent Greene provided an introduction for the District's CTE Department presentation. He referenced Mr. Josh Hill as the current CTE Director but who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Greene stated that Mr. Hill has done an outstanding job since taking over this roll. Mr. Greene then introduced Ms. Lindsey Edwards, CTE Career Development Coordinator, and turned the floor over to her. Ms. Edwards gave a presentation regarding the CTE Program for Polk County Schools. She shared projects that are being completed for each grade level, credentials that can be earned during coursework, and community outreach to establish partnerships with local businesses and organizations. Ms. Edwards stated that some CTE courses articulate to college courses if the students request. She shared a video that students within the program produced during one of the CTE Classes. Chairman Ashworth called for questions and there were none.

**Summer 2022 - NCDPI Testing Plan - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping updated the Board regarding the Summer 2022 NCDPI Testing plan that requires Board approval. This allows the District to perform a second administration of testing for students. Second administrations can't be administered until the student has had remediation and school is out for the year. Chairman Ashworth called for questions. Ms. Jackson asked if the fifth grade would be testing because it was not listed on the document. Mr. Scherping stated that that was an error and that fifth grade is eligible and he would make the correction.

Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Summer 2022- NCDPI Testing Plan as presented with the correction noted and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The Summer 2022-NCDPI Testing Plan was approved 7-0.

**Head Start Continuation Grant - Kathy Harding (Action)**

Chairman Ashworth recognized Kathy Harding, Preschool Director, for the Head Start Grant continuation application. Ms. Harding reviewed the documents attached to the Board Agenda including the Head Start proposed budget, the Self-Assessment Summary, the Training and Assistance Plan and program goals. The Head Start grant budget total will be \$696,985 which includes \$12,827 of restricted money for technical assistance and training of staff. Mr. Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Head Start Continuation Grant and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The Head Start Continuation Grant was approved on a vote of 7-0.

**Trip Proposals - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board on two overnight trip proposals, Wrestling and FFA. Mr. Greene went over the attached details of the proposals. Ms. Jackson asked how many wrestlers would be attending. Mr. Greene stated that it was not mentioned because they are waiting for confirmation. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve both field trip proposals as presented and Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Mr. Parsons made the motion, which Ms. Allen seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

**Employee Travel Reimbursement - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene addressed Employee Travel Reimbursement with the Board. The NC Office of State Budget and Management has updated their IRS mileage rate. Administration recommends raising the District's mileage rate from \$0.52 per mile to \$0.585 per mile. Chairman Ashworth ask for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approved the increase is mileage reimbursement and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

**PCHS HVAC Project - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping updated the Board on the PCHS HVAC Project. Mr. Scherping went over the work that has been completed. He explained that the finished portion of the project is ready for Spring weather, with the ability to start putting cold water into the chiller. Approximately 50-60% of the project is complete so far. Ms. Gibbs asked when the project should be complete. Mr. Scherping stated that hopefully, when students return in August 2023 the building will be completed.

**Forbes/TES PreSchool Addition (Information) Dave Scherping**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping provide a status update to the Board regarding the Forbes/TES PreSchool Addition. There is a Board Policy that states the District must take bids for architects if they intend to use them for project planning. The facilities committee will meet and work through an RFQ to find an architect for this project. Once an architect is chosen, they will work on the design and the bid projects. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Superintendent Greene stated that there is \$1.5 million grant from Head Start for this project. There is a Needs Based Capital Fund through NC that was originally only for "Tier I" counties. This grant has been expanded to include all counties. Another previous stipulation of grant recipients was the District had to give up its lottery capital funds for 5 years. Both of those provisions have been changed. The District will be requesting to put in an application for the additional funding.

**Additional State Funding - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene discussed Additional State Funding coming from an NC Athletics Facilities Grant. This money is awarded to the vast majority of NC districts and has to be used for athletics capital projects. The PCHS track needs to be resurfaced. It has been estimated the project will cost somewhere between \$250,000-\$320,000. The state is willing to give \$104,625 for Polk County to address athletic facility needs. Administration has to outline a plan for use of the funds, and the Board has to approve acceptance of the \$104,625. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Covil made a motion to accept the \$104,625 from the state through the Athletics Facilities Grant and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0. A member of the Board asked what the total cost of the track resurfacing would be. Mr. Greene stated approximately \$300,000. He stated that if the track was not corrected the district would not be able to hold specific track events.

**Superintendents Update - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene gave a brief status update to the Board. Currently the district is “mask optional”, and by law the Board must vote on this each month. Mr. Greene states that he recommends continuing the current mask optional plan. Ms. Jackson made a motion to continue mask optional and Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. It was approved 7-0.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Needs Based Public School Capital Fund. At the beginning this grant was only for Tier 1 counties. This has changed and is now open to Tier 2 and Tier 3 Counties. Also, districts no longer have to forfeit their lottery capital money for 5 years as previously with this grant. Superintendent Greene would like to apply for \$1.3 million through this process to help fund the Preschool addition at Tryon Elementary. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to allow the district to submit the grant application and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The submission of the grant application was approved 7-0.

**V. INFORMATION**

February Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

February Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Month to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

Required Teacher Workday 4/15/2022

Holiday 4/18/2022

Spring Break 4/19/22-4/22/22

**NCSBA OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING**

Student Search and Seizure Webinar - March 24 @7:00am - 11:59pm

**VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Chairman Ashworth stated that there were only three members of the community to speak so there is no action needed at this time. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via digital audio recording.

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

**Closed Session**

At 7:33 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. 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 7:51 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page 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. Allen made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**Information:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	
Richard Davis	PE Teacher	Polk Central/Sunny View	Retiring
Robin Foster	Resource Teacher	Polk Central	Retiring
Angie Lawter	Part-Time Custodian	Sunny View	Resigned
Virginia Bowyer	Food Service Aide/Afterschool Group Leader	PCHS	Resigned Food Service Position Only
Dennis Owensby	Bus Garage Mechanic	Bus Garage	FMLA
Kim Wilson	Clerical	PCHS	FMLA
Jamie Kilgore	Teacher	Tryon	C Leave
Cindy McAbee	Custodian	Sunny View	C Leave

**Action:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Licensure Area</b>	<b>Years Exp</b>
Tina Muse	Transfer from Full-Time EC Teacher Assistant to Full-Time Transportation Office Support	Bus Garage	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alan Roman	Transfer from Part-Time Afterschool Group Leader & Substitute Teacher	Polk Central/PCMS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years

	to Full-Time Teacher Assistant & Afterschool Site Director					
Clowie Upton	Transfer from Substitute Teacher to Full-Time Pre-K Teachers Assistant	Floater	Lake Lure	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nicole Frantz	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Tryon	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cloey Shelton	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sydney Cash	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Rutherfordton	Liberty University	N/A	N/A
Sallyanne McCue	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Brigham Young University	N/a	N/A
Valerie Frey	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Melissa Holland	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	Blue Ridge Community College	N/A	N/A
Laura Fry	Substitute Teacher	All Elementary Schools	Tryon	University of SC	N/A	N/A
Meghan Eadus	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	University of Vermont	N/A	N/A
Virginia Bowyer	Add Substitute Teacher duty to assignments	All Schools	N/A	Tryon	N/A	N/A
Aaron Searcy	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Gardner-Webb University	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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 Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

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 Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
 AG/TO