

## Board of Education Meeting

May 9, 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**

### **Tryon Elementary School Military Purple Star Recognition**

Ms. Mandy Wolfe, EC Teacher at Tryon Elementary School, made a presentation to the Board regarding the Purple Star Award. Ms. Wolfe relayed how honored she is to be a part of the Purple Star Program. Ms. Wolfe explained the processes and requirements of the school to be considered a Purple Star School. She explained how the program helps and benefits students from military families through the Purple Star Program. She showed a video clip of the virtual ceremony where Tryon Elementary School received the Purple Star Award and school designation. Ms. Wolfe offered to assist other schools who might be interested in exploring the designation.

### **Approval of April 11, 2022 Board Minutes (Action)**

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the April 11, 2022 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## I. INSTRUCTIONAL

### **AIG Plan - Kimberly Granville (Action)**

Kimberly Granville, the academically and intellectually gifted coordinator, presented the AIG plan to the Board. Ms. Granville covered the highlights of the plan along with showing and discussing student projects throughout the year. Ms. Granville explained that the plan is very similar to past plans. Chairman Ashworth explained that the AIG Plan was an action item and a motion was needed to approve the plan. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the presented AIG plan and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The AIG plan was approved 7-0.

### **Summer Learning Program - Jan Crump (Action)**

Curriculum and Instruction Director, Ms. Jan Crump gave information to the Board regarding the summer learning program. Ms. Crump went over, briefly, the information regarding what would be offered at each level, Elementary, Middle, and High School. These programs are by invitation only for at-risk students. She commented that this year's Summer Learning Program is a 2-week program instead of a 6-week program as it was last year. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Summer Learning Program as presented. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Summer Learning Program and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Summer Learning Program was approved 7-0.

**Summer Feeding Program - Jennifer Peeler (Info)**

Jennifer Peeler updated the Board on Child Nutrition's Summer Feeding Program. Ms. Peeler briefly went over the information attached to the electronic agenda. She stated that there would be mobile sites, open sites at three different elementary schools, YMCA camps, and some area Bible Schools. She gave detail about what would happen at each site, and mentioned they would try to expand next year if this summer's programs went well.

**Tryon Elementary Preschool Update - Dave Scherping (Info)**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping offered an update to the Board on the Tryon Elementary Preschool project. The Head Start program awarded Polk County Schools \$1.5 million to start the construction and \$1.3 million has been given from the Need Based Assessment Capital Program. The project will cost approximately \$3.5 million. Administration has met with the contractor and is making progress on plans for the construction. The plans are to have the construction completed and be ready for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Assistant Superintendent Scherping updated the Board on the PCHS HVAC Project. Mr. Scherping went over the work that has been completed. He explained the next areas to be addressed. The project is still on track to be completed in time for the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

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.

**YMCA Agreement for use of Facilities - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the YMCA Agreement for use of Facilities. Mr. Greene explained that the YMCA summer camp program is expanding and they are requesting the use of Polk Central Elementary and Tryon Elementary School this summer. The Memorandum of Understanding that was attached to the electronic agenda is incorrect in that the district needs a "lease" instead. Administration is requesting approval of the YMCA Agreement for use of facilities pending Superintendent Greene and Attorney Feagan completing a lease agreement. Mr. Covil asked if the YMCA will only be using the gym and what the end date of the YMCA camps are. Superintendent Greene stated that the YMCA will use the gym as well as classrooms and they will be finished the week before teachers return for the school year. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the YMCA Agreement pending the lease agreement and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The YMCA Agreement for use of Facilities was approved pending the lease agreement 7-0.

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

Kathy Harding presented to the Board regarding the Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), Quality Improvement, and the One-Time Supplemental Construction Funding. The COLA request is \$15,599. COLA funds will be used to offset the rising costs of employee fringe benefits. Quality Improvement funds of \$10,000 can be used for varied projects that include employee compensation, staff training, ensure physical environments are accessible to children with disabilities, transportation, and reduce staff to child ratios. The Office of Head Start granted 1.5 million dollars to support the Tryon preschool annex project. The original estimate of the costs when this request was submitted in 2018 was \$247 per square foot. The current estimate is \$325 per square foot. The Office of Head Start, at times, has unused funds available and programs can apply for one-time needs. Applications are considered as unused funds are available from all programs in the US. In addition to the COLA and Quality Improvement application, the Polk County Board of Education will apply for a one-time supplemental grant of \$400,000. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the applications for COLA funds, Quality Improvement Funds, and the one-time supplemental

construction funding. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the submission of applications for COLA funds, Quality Improvement Funds, and the one-time supplemental construction funding and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The motion was approved 7-0.

### **Establish Dates for Summer Board Meetings - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board about dates for summer Board meetings. Mr. Greene suggested having a second Board meeting on June 27 to wrap up fiscal business and not having a meeting in July. Several members of the Board would not be able to attend on June 27. Superintendent Greene asked if June 23 would be an option for the Board. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the June 23 meeting and then no meeting in July. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the suggested meeting date and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The June 23 Board meeting date was approved 7-0.

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

Superintendent Greene gave a brief status update to the Board. Currently the district is “mask optional”. By law the Board must vote on this policy each month. Mr. Greene recommended 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**

**State Local Supplement Funding** – Superintendent Greene made a presentation to the Board regarding State Local Supplement Funding. This money is now available for use, and when distributed across staff will be approximately \$1,300 for licensed staff members. Pre-K staff are not included so the district will have to use local funds to pay the Pre-K teacher portion. The district would like approval from the Board to use this one-time additional local supplement funding to pay the indicated additional local supplement. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the use of these funds and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The use this one-time additional local supplement was approved 7-0.

**Book Challenges** – Dr. Brandon Schweitzer was present and provided an update on the progress of recent library book challenges made by members of the community. Superintendent Greene asked Dr. Schweitzer questions about the committee and process. At this time, no final decisions have been made on any of the original list of books submitted for challenge. Since that time more books have been added to the challenged list, and they will be added to the process. Dr. Schweitzer anticipated the process will go into the fall. It was made clear that any parent or guardian who wishes for their student not to have access to specific books or materials can contact their Principal to restrict access. Superintendent Greene added that each school would be auditing and evaluating library collections over the summer.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Educator Appreciation Month** – Superintendent Greene stated that May is Educator Appreciation Month. There are prizes and incentives sent out to employees all month. On May 24 from 3:30-6:30 there will be an Educator Appreciation Event held here at Stearns. The event will provide free food and games for staff and their families.

## **V. INFORMATION**

April Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board

April Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

Memorial Day Holiday - May 30, 2022

PCEC Graduation - May 21, 2022 @ 10:00am at Polk County High School Auditorium

### **OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING**

Summer Leadership Conference - June 20-24, 2022 - Carolina Beach

Core Training - July 18-19, 2022 - Raleigh

November 14-16, 2022 at the Sheraton Greensboro/Koury Convention Center

### **VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Several members of the community spoke during public input. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via digital audio recording.

### **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

#### **Closed Session**

At 8:17 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a property matter. Mr. Covil 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 9:13 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Gibbs 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. The Board agreed vote on the personnel agenda in two parts, the normal personnel agenda and the contract renewals. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion for the first section. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer for the normal personnel agenda. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to the contract renewal portion. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer for the contract renewal portion. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

#### **Information:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	
Sharon Johnston	EC Teacher	PCMS	Retiring
Karen Rhodes	Teacher	PCEC	Resigning
Matthew Russell	SS Teacher	PCMS	Resigning
Katie Elliott	Spanish/ESL Teacher	PCMS/PCHS	Resigning
Brittany Gilbert	Spanish/ESL Teacher	PCHS	Resigning
Larissa Ingle	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Resigning
Melanie Harris	Food Service Aide/Bus Driver	Tryon	Terminated

#### **Action:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Licensure Area</b>	<b>Years Exp</b>
Deborah Crist	EC Teacher Assistant	PCHS	Hendersonville	N/A	N/A	Years
Talea Heatherly	Food Service Aide	PCHS	Saluda	N/A	N/A	3

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

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Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
AG/TO