

**Board of Education Meeting  
January 11, 2021  
6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Media Center**

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

**Members Absent:** None

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

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Mr. Covil called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

**Approval of the December 14, 2020 Board Minutes**

Ms. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the December 14, 2020 Board Minutes. Mr. Covil asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Board Appreciation Month: Recognition of Polk County Board of Education - Superintendent Greene**

Mr. Greene read a statement to the Board expressing his appreciation of the Board's valuable service and dedication to excellence. The Superintendent thanked the Board for what they do for Polk County Schools and Polk County's students. A copy of the statement has been included in a press release and is available upon request.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

**K-3 Updates (Information) - Ronette Dill**

Ronette Dill provided the Board with updates on K-3 student learning from the first semester. Ms. Dill shared a presentation covering Read to Achieve performance and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts, including statistics and data regarding each of the topics. Ms. Allen asked what the district is doing for students that are behind that need to catch up on subjects. Teachers are going back and filling in the gaps of instruction to the best of their ability. Other students are receiving remediation through going to Title I services. Ms. Dill asked if there were any other questions and there were none.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

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

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

**2021-2022 Budget Calendar (Action) – Debbie Lovelace**

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace presented the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar to the Board for approval. Superintendent Greene noted that it was odd to be recommending a budget planning calendar when the NC Legislature has yet to approve a budget for this fiscal year, or for the last fiscal year. Chairman Covil called for a motion regarding the 2021-2022 Budget Calendar. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the calendar as presented by the Financer Officer. Ms. Gibbs and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

### **Policy Updates-First Reading - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding policy 6305 – Safety and Student Transportation Services for second reading. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve Policy 6305 on second reading. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve Policy 6305 on second reading and it was seconded by Ms. Page. Policy 6305 was approved 7-0 on second reading.

### **2020-2021 School Calendar Updates**

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping addressed the Board with recommendations for changes to the 2021-2021 calendars. Mr. Scherping went over the purposed changes with the Board. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the calendar changes as presented. Ms. Gibbs made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The Calendars were approved 7-0.

### **PCHS Testing Schedule Update (Information) – Dave Scherping**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping covered changes to the PCHS Testing Schedule. The District applied for and received a waiver stating that the testing window can be extended throughout the school year. So any student that are not able to take the test on the scheduled day they can be brought in and tested on another day.

### **PCHS HVAC Project Update (Information) – Dave Scherping**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping presented to the Board regarding the ongoing PCHS HVAC project. The hope is to have a proposal at the next Board meeting for the Board to approve so the financing can be worked out. The entire main building up to the cafeteria will be phase one, phase two will be replacing fluorescent lights with LED lights, and the cafeteria and the gymnasium will be in phase 3. Mr. Ashworth asked if the district is expecting an increase in the cost of the project with the increase in materials. Mr. Scherping stated that a price increase is likely. Ms. Gibbs asked if the material will still be available and Mr. Scherping stated that it should still be available. Ms. Bell asked if this project would be completed over the summer. Mr. Scherping stated that the project would begin over the summer but would last through the Fall of the following school year.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene recognized Personnel Director Rachael Haynes-Wood to speak to the Board regarding Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Leave. Ms. Haynes-Wood explained to the Board that there are six instances which qualify for FFCRA. Through December 31, 2020 this leave was required to be offered by employers. Starting In January of 2021 employers have the option of extending the FFCRA paid leave until March 31, 2021. The District also has a Contagious Disease Leave policy that is available to address some COVID situations. There are three options the Board can employ to address COVID events moving forward: Use Contagious Disease Leave, Extend the FFCRA with limits, or extend the FFCRA with no limits. The Contagious Disease Leave only applies to the employee themselves and not to care for others like children or immediate family. Ms. Gibbs asked if the 80 hours of FFCRA leave resets each year. Ms. Haynes-Wood stated that it does not reset. The employee only has 80 hours of FFCRA total. Superintendent Greene explained the three options for a vote:

Option 1 – Not extend FFCRA and use the Contagious Leave Policy

Option 2 – Extend FFCRA, under ESPLA, limited to only the employee leave up to 80 hours and no more through March 31, 2021

Option 3 – Extend FFCRA in its entirety

District administration is recommending Option 2. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve Option 2. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve Option 2 to extend FFCRA limited to only the employee leave up to 80 hours and no more through March 31, 2021 and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Greene stated that the surveys for Board committee assignments are coming soon.

Superintendent Greene stated that in regard to athletics Polk County Schools is going to be in a 2A classification for the next NCHSAA athletic realignment. Mr. Greene would like for the Board to consider adding Polk County Early College students eligible for sports at Polk County High School. Doing so can potentially help with recruiting and enrollment at Polk Early College. Mr. Greene will bring this issue back to the Board for a vote at the February meeting.

#### **V. INFORMATION** – Mr. Covil went over these items with the Board:

December Preschool 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

January 18, 2021 - Optional Teacher Workday

January 19, 2021 - Required Teacher Workday

#### **BOARD TRAINING**

Core Training - November 30, 2020 - January 31, 2021 - Online Training (All Board Members are participating)

#### **VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

#### **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Closed Session**

At 7:40 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an attorney client matter. 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. Covil called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:10 pm, Ms. Gibbs made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Mr. Covil 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.

There was also discussion among the Board regarding an attorney client matter.

**Information:**

Gwendolyn Cantrell	Full-Time Food Service Aide	Sunny View	Retiring
Janice Bradley	Part-Time Custodian	Sunny View	Retiring
Meghan Mauldin	School Counselor	PCHS	FMLA
Hannah Rimer	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA
Jeanette Miller	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Amanda McComas	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Megan Ward	Afterschool Combination Position	Saluda	Leave*
Lindsay Lewis	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Kalie McCrain	Speech Pathologist	Polk Central	Leave*
Megan Ward	Afterschool Combination Position	Saluda	Leave*
Stefanie Tyler	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Lisa Flynn	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Mike Melton	EC Director	Stearns	Leave*
Stephanie Luedi	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Toni Haley	EC Compliance Officer	Stearns	Leave*
Jacque Medford	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Alishea Scroggs	Behavior Liaison	Stearns	Leave*
Annette Ireland	Substitute	All Schools	Leave*
Jessica Wilkins	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Linda Jackson	Custodian	PCHS	Leave*
Shanna Pittman	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Stephanie Tyler	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Billy Transou	School Counselor	PCHS	Leave*
Katy Montgomery	School Counselor	PCHS/Saluda	Leave*
Kim Wilson	Clerical	PCHS	Leave*
Mary Greene	Director	PCEC	Leave*
Meghan Mauldin	School Counselor	PCHS	Leave*
Rob Livingston	Teacher	PCEC	Leave*
Stefanie Tyler	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Rhonda Rimer	Clerical	Stearns	Leave*

Toni Haley	EC Compliance Coordinator	Stearns	Leave*
Lisa Flynn	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Mike Melton	EC Director	Stearns	Leave*
April Crowder	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Shelly Upton	Teacher	Sunny View	Leave*

**Action:**

Lisa Briere	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Mill Spring	Keene State College	N/A	10
Katherine Geisler	Bus Combination Position	Saluda	Columbus	Metropolitan State College of Denver	N/A	12
Ansley Lynch	Substitute Teacher		Mill Spring	UNCA	N/A	
Amy Scott	Substitute Teacher		Columbus	University of AZ	N/A	
Mary Hogg	Substitute Teacher		Columbus	NC State	N/A	

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

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Mr. Covil, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
 AG/TO