

Board of Education Meeting
December 13, 2021
6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Auditorium

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

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 the 2021 Christmas Card Artists

Chairman Ashworth recognized the five system-wide student Christmas card artists whose artwork was chosen for the 2021 Polk County Schools' Christmas cards. They included: Jordy Rojas-Argote, Victoria Thompson, Brooklyn Hannon, Michelle Hernandez-Gonzalez, and Vinca Hebbard. Mr. Ashworth presented each artist with a Christmas ornament gift and a box of their own Christmas cards. Superintendent Greene thanked Mr. Thomas and the group and their families for attending the meeting and for the contribution of their artwork.

Approval of November 8, 2021 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the November 8, 2021 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. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Election of Board Chairman & Vice-Chair (Action)

Chairman Ashworth turned the gavel over to Superintendent Greene for the annual election of the Board Chairman. Mr. Greene asked for nominations. Ms. Allen made a recommendation to re-elect Mr. Ashworth as the Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 6-1. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to re-elect Mr. Covil as the Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Greene turned the meeting back over to Chairman Ashworth.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Fall 2021-2022 Testing Schedule - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping made a presentation to the Board regarding the fall 2021-2022 testing schedule. He went over in detail the schedule that was attached to the electronic agenda. Mr. Scherping stated that testing will take place the last five days of the school year.

Continued School Improvement Update - Jan Crump (Information)

Jan Crump, Curriculum and Instruction Director spoke with the Board regarding the Continued School Improvement Update. She shared the schedule for the school improvement meetings with the Board and asked if any members of the Board had any questions. There were none.

EC Annual Report - Toni Haley (Information)

Chairman Ashworth recognized Exceptional Children Director Toni Haley, who covered Polk County's Annual Report for Students with Disabilities (available to the public online). Ms. Haley pointed out areas in which Polk County met and did not meet the State required targets. Ms. Haley discussed all of the indicators, specifying whether or not the district had met each target. She also explained why the district did not meet a particular indicator and areas in which the district had made growth. Ms. Haley spoke regarding surveys that are sent out to parents and the responses from those surveys. Ms. Jackson asked when the surveys went out to parents. Ms. Haley responded that she was unsure of when those were sent out and that she would find the answer for Ms. Jackson.

Forbes Foundation Grant - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping discussed the recent receipt of a Forbes Foundation Grant with the Board. He stated that the District was notified a grant of \$80,000 was being awarded to the District from the Forbes Foundation. The Forbes Foundation makes a significant educational impact by helping our students with college applications and scholarships, and by supporting exemplary instructional programs in the District. Mr. Scherping shared a letter from the Forbes Foundation with details of the grant. The letter explained what the monies are allotted to cover: \$15,000 to support robotics programming, \$15,000 to support the Muddy Sneakers outdoor learning program, and \$50,000 to fund a new outdoor learning center for Pre-K through second grade students at Polk Central Elementary School and an outdoor learning center at Polk County Middle School. In addition, the Foundation will award \$88,000 in four-year scholarships to two seniors at Polk County High School and two seniors at Polk County Early College. The Forbes Foundation expressed their gratitude for the hard work for all staff of Polk County Schools. Superintendent Greene express his gratitude to the Forbes Foundation and everything that they do for the students and community.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2020-2021 Audit Presentation - Anderson, Smith, & Wike PLLC (Action)

Chairman Ashworth turned the floor over to Mr. Owen Poole of Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, to go over the 2020-2021 Audit findings for Polk County Schools. Mr. Poole began by letting the Board know that in regards to all aspects of the audit, Polk County Schools had received an unmodified report, meaning that there were no findings, and that the audit was a "clean" audit in all areas. Mr. Poole briefly went over the audit report with the Board, and presented a more detailed report with the audit committee prior to the Board Meeting. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to accept the 2020-2021 Audit report. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the audit as presented. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Budget Resolution - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace, Finance Officer, presented the attached 2021-2022 budget resolutions to the Board. The 2021-2022 Budget Resolution was included in the electronic agenda for review prior to the Board meeting. There will likely be future changes in the resolution as DPI releases more information regarding the 2020-2021 budget. Chairman Ashworth requested a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Budget Resolution as presented. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Budget Resolution and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The 2021-2022 Budget Resolution was approved 7-0.

Surplus Property List - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping presented a list of items that the district would like to declare surplus. He went over the items with the Board. Chairman Ashworth called for questions from the Board and there were none. He then entertained a motion to approve the listed items as surplus property. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the surplus property list and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Policy Update (Second Reading) - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the second reading of Policy 6304, “Use of School Bus Safety Belts.” He explained to the Board that the policy was as submitted at the last meeting for first reading. Chairman Ashworth entertained a motion to approve Policy 6304-Use of School Bus Safety Belts. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve Policy 6304-Use of School Bus Safety Belts on second reading and it was seconded by Ms. Bell. Policy 6304-Use of School Bus Safety Belts, second reading, was approved 7-0.

Board Meeting Material ~ New Website - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding Board Meeting Material. The site that the District currently uses for Board Agenda information will no longer be available in 2022. The District will move to a new website and program at that time. Ms. Jackson asked if there would be access to the old material. Mr. Scherping stated that the old site would not be available but Ms. Odel has all past materials on file if there is a need for it.

Public Information Requests - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding Public Information Requests. Mr. Greene stated that all requests received have been forwarded to Board Members for their information. Mr. Greene went over the requests that have been made and whether the request has been completed or not and why. Mr. Greene expressed to the Board that the District will work to comply with legitimate public information request and will do so expeditiously. Mr. Greene made a request to the Board to make some comments regarding the requests. Mr. Greene read comments regarding public schools and the types of requests being made. Ms. Bell asked if there would have to be a new position to be able to complete the requests that are being made. Mr. Greene responded that there was Administrative discussion about an additional administrator position using ESSER funds to help out with MTSS, Remediation, etc. That would have been a part-time position. With the amount and complexity of the recent information requests he feels the District will need to increase this position to full time to help with the work that must be done. Attorney Feagan requested to make and comment and The Board had no opposition. Attorney Feagan stated that the District is allowed to collect fees according to state law and Board policy for the information requests.

School Update - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene gave a School Update to the Board. He stated that currently the District has a temporary mask mandate and the county still has high community spread. The positivity rate was at 7.3% in Polk County. School positivity rates have declined since the increase over Thanksgiving. Mr. Greene stated that 76 out of 115 districts still have a mask requirement. The previous quarantine rules and obligations are still in place. Superintendent Greene presented information from the CDC, DHHS and the local health department to the Board. Administration recommended that the temporary mask mandate stay in place for now through the Holidays. Ms. Jackson made a motion to keep the mask mandate until the county positivity rate falls below 5 % for two consecutive weeks and then move to mask optional. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion and it was approved 4-3.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None

V. INFORMATION

November Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

November Pre-School 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

Christmas Break for Students: December 20, 2021- December 31, 2021 - students return to school on January 3, 2022

BOARD TRAINING

Board Officers Academy - Virtual Event - February 28

Spring Law Conference - Virtual Event - March 3 - March 4

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Jackson made a motion to hear from all public that signed up to speak and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The motion passed on a vote of 7-0. Several Polk County residents attended the meeting and offered public input to the Board. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via digital audio recording.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:28 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, and a student matter. Mr. Covil made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. 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 8:57 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. Jackson 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:

Name	Position	School	
Lindsey Burnett	Pre K Teacher	PC	FMLA
Deanna Durham	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA
Jessica Searcy	Teacher Assistant	SAL	FMLA
Rhonda Hill	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Brooke Laughter	Teacher	TES	C Leave

Kendal Stoney	Teacher	TES	C Leave
Stefanie Tyler	TA	TES	C Leave
Beth Blanton	TA	TES	C Leave
Lindsey Burnett	Teacher	PC	C Leave
Lindsey Lewis	TA	TES	C Leave
Reagan Edwards	TA	TES	C Leave
April Crowder	TA	SVE	C Leave
Larissa Ingle	TA	SAL	C Leave
Stacy Harris	Sub	Sub	C Leave
Ashley Thompson	Teacher	SAL	C Leave
Judy Banks	Speech Path	TES	C Leave
Jessie Roush	Teacher	TES	C Leave
Reed Hoerner	TA	TES	C Leave
Jennifer Lynch	TA	PC	C Leave
Jessica Marrow	TA	PCMS	C Leave
Shrilla HoneyCutt	TA	TES	C Leave
Shanea Tingling	TA	TES	C Leave
Melanie Harris	Food Service	TES	C Leave

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Kyerra Thomas	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	Floater	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	4
Angela Lawter	Part-Time Custodian	Sunny View	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	Years
Victoria Garcia	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	N/A	Columbus	N/A	N/A

Breeanna Powell	Substitute Teacher	Tryon	Columbus	Art Institute of Pittsburgh	EC Adapted	N/A
Jennifer Dean	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	State University of New York	Landrum, SC	N/A	N/A
Clowie Upton	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	N/A	Lake Lure	N/A	N/A
Sonya Twitty	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Gardner-Webb University	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A

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