

Board of Education Meeting
February 8, 2021
6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Media Center

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

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Recognition of Mr. James Cowan

Superintendent Greene read a statement in appreciation of Mr. James Cowan and there was a moment of silence in his honor.

Approval of the January 11, 2021 Board Minutes

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the January 11, 2021 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. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

2020-2021 Fall Semester Update (Information) - Ronette Dill/Dave Scherping

Ronette Dill gave a presentation to the Board on the Completion of mCLASS assessments. Ms. Dill offered her appreciation to all the teachers involved for their work on the assessments. Mr. Scherping also updated the Board on EOC testing. He went over the attached information with the Board regarding the number of students tested. He reminded the Board that these tests had to be done in-person, not remotely. He stated that in some school districts no students have been tested. Mr. Scherping informed the Board that Polk County High School was selected for a testing accommodations audit. The final report stated that the audit was clean and there was no corrective action required.

Early Learning Inventory Completion (Information) - Ronette Dill

Ronette Dill presented to the Board regarding the Early Inventory Completion. Ms. Dill briefly went over the report that was attached to the electronic agenda. This report included various details about the inventory. Ms. Dill shared that NC DPI coordinator Ms. Carrie Allen stated that Polk County was always doing the right thing for children.

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. Superintendent Greene stated that the Green River Foundation donated funds to purchase the Second Step program for Polk County Middle School. Ms. Harding informed the Board

of the NC Pre K Bonus that will be awarded to Pre-K teachers. This bonus is based on attendance for in-person learning during the months of November and December. Ms. Gibbs made the motion, which Ms. Page seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Spring Budget Workshop (Information) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Spring Budget Workshop. Mr. Greene proposed the workshop begin at 4:00 on March 8, 2020 with the Board meeting following at 6:00PM. The Board agreed to have the Spring Budget Workshop on March 8, 2020 at 4:00PM with the Board Meeting to follow at 6:00PM.

PCHS/HVAC Project (Action) - Dave Scherping

Assistant Superintendent Scherping shared a presentation regarding the PCHS/HVAC project process and pricing. This presentation included the step by step process of the project, a rough timeline, cost, etc. There was discussion among the Board regarding the process. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve this step in the PCHS/HVAC Project. District Administration and the Facilities Committee both endorsed the project and recommended approval by the Board. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve this step in the PCHS/HVAC Project and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

Calendar Updates (Action) - Dave Scherping

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping addressed the Board with recommendations for changes to the 2020-2021 calendars. Mr. Scherping went over the purposed changes with the Board. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the calendar changes as presented. Mr. Ashworth made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Calendars were approved 7-0.

Policy Updates - Dave Scherping

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding Policy 1725 - TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT – PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND REPORTING PROCESS. Mr. Scherping spoke regarding the change in the policy. The change in this policy was not substantial enough to warrant an action and was brought to the Board for information purposes only. Mr. Scherping also brought to the Board Policy 1726 - TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT - GRIEVANCE PROCESS for approval on second reading. Mr. Scherping briefly covered the change that was discussed at the January Board meeting. Superintendent Greene stated that the number of steps would need to be changed as well. Chairman Covil called for questions and there were none. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve Policy 1726 - TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT - GRIEVANCE PROCESS on second reading with the additional correction to the step numbers and it was seconded by Ms. Page. Policy 1726 - TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT - GRIEVANCE PROCESS was approved on second reading with a vote of 7-0.

Early College Athletics (Action) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding Early College Athletics. The issue was previously brought to the Board and Early College students were not allowed to participate in High School athletics due to very few students wanting that option and the negative impact the additional enrollment had on the athletic classification for Polk County High School. The latest realignment process by the High School Athletic Association has changed and now Polk County Schools is considered a 2A classification school. Because the classification would not be impacted by the addition of Early College students and a growing number have expressed a desire to participate in athletics, Mr. Greene would like to add Polk County Early College to the ADM to allow Polk County Early College students access to High School Athletics. This will also be used as a recruitment tool for administration to recruit students to the Polk County Early College. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to add Polk County Early College back to the ADM for the NC High School Athletic Association and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

Discretionary Admission Process (Information) Dave Scherping

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the administrative process that is used when explaining discretionary admission. He explained that he tells those seeking discretionary admission that the Polk County Board of Education has a responsibility to educate the students of Polk County. He explains the tuition for out-of-county students and that it is the choice of the Board to allow out-of-county students into Polk County Schools. Attorney Feagan asked if the tuition is prorated. Assistant Superintendent Scherping stated that tuition is prorated. If a student comes in half-way through the school year they would only pay half of the years tuition. Ms. Bell ask if the tuition calculator was a mandated calculator from the state. Mr. Scherping stated it is a mandated calculation.

Discretionary Admission Application (Action) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene reminded Members that any Discretionary Admission application will always be included in the Closed Session Folder due to the confidential nature of student admission requests. The Board agreed to discuss the current application in closed session.

Mental Health Support Personnel Report (Information) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene shared the report on Mental Health Support Personnel with the Board that is shared with the state on a regular basis. Mr. Greene asked if there were any questions and there were none.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene reminded the Board that he would be sending out committee assignments to the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke briefly regarding the Governor's most recent announcement about the reopening of schools. He clarified that the announcement was for districts that were not going in-person at all. Mr. Greene clarified some miscommunication regarding quarantined students and CDC guidelines.

Superintendent Greene passed out some information to the Board and called upon Kathy Harding to discuss the information. The information included a chart of the number of incidents, quarantines, exposures, etc. Ms. Harding discussed the information with the Board

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board about the issue of employing bus drivers. The district would like to attach a bus driving duty to Teacher Assistant job postings. Teacher Assistants that are currently driving a bus would get a \$200 a month stipend for as long as they drive a bus. If the teacher assistant decides not to drive a bus the \$200 a month stipend will stop. Mr. Greene asked if anyone had any objection to this change and there were none.

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

- January Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
- January 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

BOARD TRAINING

February 10, 2021 - NSBA Equity Online Symposium - Virtual

February 26, 2021 - Board Officers Academy - Virtual

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:11 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a student matter. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. 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 8:38 pm, Ms. Gibbs made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page 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. Gibbs made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Covil called the Board’s attention to discretionary admission request that required Board approval. Mr. Covil 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. Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

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

Information:

Vera Kurzynski	Substitute	Resigned	
Amy Fox	Food Service Aide	Transferring from Polk Central to Sunny View	
Morgan Hodge	Transferring Food Service 3 hours to Sunny View 3 hours-Still Combo Teacher’s Aide/Food Service		
Cassidy Page	Occupational Therapist	All Schools	Unpaid Parental Leave
Monica Metcalf	Custodian	PCHS	FMLA
Amy Fox	Food Service Aide	Sunny View	Leave*
Andrea Hill	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Anita Bowyer	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Leave*

Anna Hodge	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View	Leave*
April Crowder	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Ashlyn Searcy	Teacher	Polk Central	Leave*
Belinda Painter	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Leave*
Blake Rackley	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda	Leave*
Brian Rudi	Bus Maintenance	Bus Garage	Leave*
Bridget Franklin	Clerical	Sunny View	Leave*
Caroline Edwards	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Caroline Smith	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Christen Smith	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
David Moore	Bus Driver	PCMS	Leave*
Debbie Bailey	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Dennis Owensby	Bus Maintenance	Bus Garage	Leave*
Donna Brice	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Elyse Petoia	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Leave*
Eric Walker	Custodian	Tryon	Leave*
Felicia Pegg	Food Service Aide	Tryon	Leave*
Ginger Turner	Teacher	Sunny View	Leave*
Holly Jolly	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Leave*
Jay Garner	Bus Driver	PCHS	Leave*
Jeff Cantrell	Custodian	PCMS	Leave*
Jennifer Carney	Teacher	Tryon/Sunny View	Leave*
Jennifer Lynch	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Jennifer Morton	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Jerry Cox	Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Leave*
Jim Mulderig	Custodian	PCMS	Leave*
John Ruth	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Josh Money	Teacher Assistant	PCEC	Leave*

Josh Trejo	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Kellie Bradley	Teacher	Sunny View	Leave*
Kenny Blackburn	Custodian	Polk Central	Leave*
Lindsay Lewis	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Leave*
Maria Burnett	Food Service Aide	PCHS	Leave*
Marti Hardin	Food Service Manager	Polk Central	Leave*
Melanie Harris	Food Service Aide	PCMS	Leave*
Morgan Hodge	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Rhonda Hill	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Rita Culbreth	Clerical	PCHS	Leave*
Robert Gilbert	Maintenance Director	Stearns	Leave*
Rylee McDowell	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Leave*
Sylvia Avellaneda	ESL Specialist	Tryon	Leave*
Terry Bishop	Clerical	Bus Garage/Stearns	Leave*
Trina Burnett	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Leave*
Wanda Reid	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Leave*
Wendi Owens	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Whitney Yelton	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Leave*
Yvonne Bruce	Clerical	Tryon	Leave*
Jamie Reeves	Bus Maintenance	Bus Garage	Leave*

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Emily Pereira	Transfer from School Nurse to Health Occupations Teacher	PCHS	Tryon			
Anna Nelon	School Nurse	Polk Central	Mill Spring	ICC		Years
Madison Osteen	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Zirconia	North Greenville		

Jaine Nelson	Substitute Teacher	Saluda	Saluda	University of Michigan		Years
Amy Pittman	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Saluda			1
Christina Barker	Substitute Teacher	Polk Central	Tryon			
Anastasia Ballard	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus			
Brandon Burnett	Bus Driver	All Schools	Mill Spring			
Melanie Harris	Food Service Aide	Make Full-Time with Bus Driver Duties				
Jerry Freeman	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Return from Leave of Absence			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO