

Board of Education Meeting
April 19, 2021
6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Media Center

Members Present: Chairman Covil, Vice-Chairman 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.

Afterschool Sign Language Club

Linley Foster, Afterschool Director, introduced Polk Central Elementary Schools Afterschool Sign Language Club. The club participants signed two songs and stated and signed their names for the Board. The Board and Superintendent Greene expressed their appreciation and commended the group on their effort and learning.

Approval of the March 8, 2021 and March 18, 2021 Board Minutes

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the March 8, 2021 and March 18, 2021 Board Minutes. The Board agreed to vote on both sets of minutes together. Mr. Covil asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

COVID Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene presented a COVID update to the Board. Superintendent Greene stated that the District has exceeded 90% of student population in-person at Polk County High School and Polk County Middle School. For the Elementary level the district has consistently been above 95% in person attendance. Upon moving to "Plan A" the district is required to report to DPI and the state health department that the district has moved to "Plan A", and also participate in a Duke University data collection process. The first weekly report is due this week. Kathy Harding spoke with the Board regarding the decrease in the amount of COVID cases that involve students or staff. She stated that there have been several additional symptoms that have been added to the list of symptoms that exclude students from school. Ms. Harding also stated that household contacts to students or staff do not have to be sent home unless they are having symptoms. If the person with symptoms does not choose to have a test or alternative diagnoses, they are presumed positive and the household contacts are contacts to the presumed positive. Nurses within the district are now able to provide a rapid antigen test. If the rapid antigen test is positive the staff continues with a positive diagnosis. If the rapid antigen test is negative, the staff member must proceed with a PCR test. Ms. Bell asked what the added symptoms were. Ms. Harding stated that sore throat, vomiting and severe headaches are now symptoms for exclusion. Superintendent Greene state that the District is discussing graduation and end of year celebrations.

Spring Testing Update - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping updated the Board regarding spring testing. Beginning in May end-of-the-year testing will begin. All students within the district in grades 3-8 are required to test "in-person" for reading and math. Fifth and eighth grade will test "in-person" in science, high school test in Math 1, Math 3, Biology, and English II. Normally a schedule is given for testing, and this year the testing window has been extended. North Carolina

requested a waiver from the US Department of Education for annual accountability measures for this year due to COVID. Anything that would rank schools or measure the effectiveness of the instruction there is a waiver. However, there is no waiver for testing students. Ms. Allen asked if the tests will be modified at all due to missed time. Mr. Scherping stated that the tests will be the same as they have always been. Ms. Allen asked if the District is expecting lower scores on these tests. Mr. Scherping stated that he anticipated Polk Schools would likely see a decline in student performance but would remain in its relatively high position when compared to other districts.

Summer Learning Program - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ronette Dill provided information to the Board about the state-mandated Summer Learning Program. Session Law 2021-7 now requires that all districts to provide 150 hours or 30 days of instruction this summer. Ms. Dill covered the Board brief that was attached to the agenda. Ms. Dill is currently working on securing personnel for the Summer Learning Program. Ms. Bell asked if the District is limited to only Polk County Schools teachers or if the District can contract with other districts for personnel. Superintendent Greene stated that there would be additional guidance coming in the near future, but teachers will need to be licensed in the state of NC so they are familiar with the state learning standards. The Summer Learning Program will be located at Polk County Middle School with elementary on one hall, middle school on one hall and high school on another hall.

Space Sharing for WCCA - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene briefly shared with the Board a request by Western Carolina Community Action (WCCA) to use space at Sunny View Elementary School for early childhood programming. Superintendent Greene covered likely conditions for sharing, such as District priority if the space is needed due to increased enrollment, and that WCCA would be responsible for any work that is needed to modify the space. Superintendent Greene asked for permission from the Board to communicate with WCCA and prepare an agreement that he will bring to the Board for approval in May. MS. Gibbs asked what the schedule for WCCA is. Superintendent Greene stated that it is very similar to the District. Ms. Gibbs asked if they would be using the facilities during the summer, and Mr. Greene stated that that is a possibility. Ms. Jackson asked who would be liable for injuries. Superintendent Greene stated that WCCA would be completely liable for their staff and students. The Board reached consensus to allow Mr. Greene to proceed with negotiations.

School Calendars - Dave Scherping (Action)

Dave Scherping offered proposals for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school calendars. He briefly went over the different calendars that were discussed by the calendar committee and input from staff and parent representatives. The attached recommendation is the version the calendar committee is recommending for approval. Mr. Scherping also spoke to the Board regarding the attached 2022-2023 calendar. Due to the existing constraints in NC's calendar law, the 2022-2023 school calendar doesn't have much flexibility, and the committee offered no recommended changes to the proposed version. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve both the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school calendars. Ms. Allen made a motion to adopt the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 calendar recommendations and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Calendar recommendations were approved as presented on a vote of 7-0.

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. Allen seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Proposed 2021-2022 Budget- Debbie Lovelace (Action)

2020-2021 Proposed Budget and the Capital Outlay for Commissioners were attached to the electronic agenda with the total expenditures at \$5,405,055 and the Capital at \$312,000. Superintendent Greene stated that due to not having a budget for the previous school year the proposed budget for 2021-2022 is the same with the understanding that there will likely be changes in the future. Chairman Covil called for any questions or comments from the Board and there were none. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 proposed budget and capital outlay as presented and with the understanding that there will be changes in the future to the budget. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The 2021-2022 proposed local budget and capital outlay budget were approved 7-0.

Student Device Purchase - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding a student device purchase. The District has a policy that states if the district has a purchase of \$50,000 or more the more must approve the purchase. Mr. Scherping presented a purchase order for Student Devices for a total of \$55,883.62. Superintendent Greene stated that these devices will replace some of the lost or damaged devices from the school year. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the proposed purchase order for student device purchases. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve the purchase order and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The purchase order for student device purchases was approved 7-0.

PCHS HVAC Project Documents - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS HVAC Project documents that were attached to the electronic agenda. Mr. Scherping spoke in detail regarding the Financing Resolution - BOE, the Financing Resolution - BOC, the Installment Financing Agreement, the Security Agreement, and the Escrow Agreement. There was discussion among the board regarding each of these documents, and Mr. Scherping indicated Board Attorney Feagan and the Board had access to these documents prior to this meeting, and they were being included to remind the Board about the process.

PCHS HVAC Project Documents - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the Construction Contract. There was detailed discussion with the Board and explanation of the construction contract. Mr. Scherping indicated approval of the contract was the next necessary step in securing funding for and proceeding with the project. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the Construction Contract. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the contract and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The Construction Contract was approved on a vote of 7-0.

PowerSchool: Preferred First Name - Dave Scherping (Information)

Superintendent Greene stated that the district should be receiving more information regarding the Preferred First Name and would like to table this item until a later time.

FFCRA Extension - Rachael Haynes-Wood (Action)

Rachael Haynes-Wood discussed with the Board a need to consider an FFCRA extension. She informed the Board that approval would extend the FFCRA leave that the Board approved earlier through September 30, 2021. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the FFCRA Extension. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the FFCRA extension and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs and it was approved on a vote of 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene informed the Board about the District speaking to municipalities about the discretionary admission process if they desire for their "out-of-county" employees desired to have their children attend Polk County Schools.

Superintendent Greene asked the Board to participate in mandatory Title IX training. Mr. Greene will be sending links via email for the Board to participate in.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding a partnership with the YMCA to use school facilities during the summer for camps and activities. The Board granted Mr. Greene permission, with an MOU coming, allowing the YMCA to use Tryon Elementary for summer camps. Mr. Greene will bring the MOU for approval at a later date.

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

March Policy Council Meeting Minutes Presented to the Board

March Pre-K Monthly Report 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

Head Start Annual Report - 2019-2020

BOARD TRAINING

Fall Law Conference – Attorney Feagan to attend virtual

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Dick Shaughnessy from Green Creek attended the meeting and offered several comments and questions during public input. Chairman Covil informed Mr. Shaughnessy that the Board would issue a response to him in the coming days.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:14 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. Bell. 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 8:50 pm, Ms. Jackson 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. 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:

Rita Culbreth	Clerical	PCHS	Retiring
Dawn Forward	Teacher	PCHS	Retiring
Jayne Hoerner	Teacher	PCMS	Retiring
Jane Ollis	EC Teacher	Tryon	Retiring
Matthew Putnam	Band Teacher	PCMS	Retiring

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Mike Melton	EC Director	Stearns	Retiring
Beth Packer	Teacher	Polk Central/Sunny View	FMLA
Kalie McCrain	Speech Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA
Shannon Hopper	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA
Ashley Bell	School Counselor	Polk Central	FMLA
DeShane Briscoe	IT	Central Office	Leave*
Jessie Spencer	Psychologist	Central Office	Leave*
Rachael Haynes-Wood	Human Resources Director	Central Office	Leave*
Jamie Reeves	Bus Garage	Bus Garage	Leave*
Melanie Harris	Food Service Aide	PCMS	Leave*
Morgan Hodge	Food Service Aide	Sunny View	Leave*
Maria Burnett	Food Service Aide	PCHS	Leave*
Angie Kelly	Teacher Assistant	PCHS	Leave*
Billy Alm	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Bobby Mercer	School Counselor	PCHS	CLeave
Brandy Alm	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Brian Taylor	Teacher	PCHS	CLeave
Brittany Gilbert	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Cindy Gilbert	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Dawn Forward	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Hunter Allen	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Jennifer Allsbrook	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Molly Hill	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Natalie Heatherly	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Rachel Hall	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Rhonda Hill	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Rita Culbreth	Clerical	PCHS	Leave*
Tina Muse	Teacher Assistant	PCHS	Leave*
Tracy Gray	Clerical	PCHS	Leave*
Andrea Hill	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Ethan Edwards	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Hali McDaniel	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Jeff Cantrell	Custodian	PCMS	Leave*
Josh Trejo	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Jerry Cox	Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Leave*
Ashley Bell	School Counselor	Polk Central	Leave*
Donna Brice	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Susie Kimbrell	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*

Rylee McDowell	Afterschool Group Leader Combination	Polk Central	Leave*
Jennifer Young	Speech	Saluda/Sunny View	Leave*
Jessica Searcy	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Saluda	Leave*
Larissa Ingle	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Leave*
Edie Harris	Afterschool Site Director	Saluda	CLeave
Stacy Harris	Afterschool Group Leader Combination	Saluda	CLeave
Heather Bailey	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Parker Mullinax	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Shae White	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*
Ty Stott	Teacher	Tryon	Leave*

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Margo Jones	Temporary Full-Time Clerical Assistant	PCHS	Spindale	College of Southern Idaho	N/A	30+
Tiffany Fowler	Part-Time HI Teacher/Transliterator	Polk Central	Hendersonville	Vanderbilt University	El Ed/Deaf and Hard of Hearing	1
Eric Riberdy	Full-Time Teacher Assistant/Food Service Aide/Bus Driver	Sunny View	Forest City	N/A	N/A	8
Anastasia Ballard	Additional Duty/Part- Time Teacher Aide	Sunny View	Columbus	N/A	N/A	1
Mollie LeBude	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda	Saluda	NC State	N/A	Years
Clinton Deyton	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO