

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**May 10, 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.

Superintendent Greene offered a statement to the Board regarding his appreciation of all the staff within the district. The District celebrated employee appreciation month with a small gift for each employee, and taking opportunities to recognize the tremendous effort given by school staff to successfully navigate this year.

**Approval of the April 19, 2021 Board Minutes**

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the April 19, 2021 Board Minutes. 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 the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Summer Learning Program - Ronette Dill (Information)**

Ronette Dill made remarks to the Board regarding the Summer Learning Program. She attached the Summer Learning Program approval letter from NCDPI. The only change in the plan since it was previously presented is the location of the High School and Early College students as they will be moved to the Early College. Ms. Dill stated that administration spoke with surrounding counties regarding pay for the Summer Learning Program (SLP) staff. Ms. Dill briefly went over the pay rates for SLP staff. The SLP will start immediately following the last day of school with a one week break before the fourth of July and a one week break following the fourth of July. The program will continue the next four weeks of the summer.

**Testing Update – Dave Scherping (Information)**

Dave Scherping provided a testing update to the Board. He explained the district applied for an extension of the testing window to allow for time to complete all testing. All schools have their schedule set, and the extension of the testing window will allow remote students to come in and be tested at different times. The second administration testing will be the last week of June. The state is still requiring districts to complete Roster Verification. This takes all teachers and requires them to list students that are in the classroom, the amount of time they were in the classroom, and the amount of instruction that the individual provided to the student. This process will be used to calculate growth for the child, teacher, school, and system. Initially districts were told teacher growth would not be calculated or used this year.

## 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. Ms. Bell made the motion, which Ms. Allen seconded. Chairman Covil 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 addressed the Board regarding the YMCA Agreement for use of facilities. Mr. Greene stated that after discussion with Attorney Feagan, Administration is asking for approval of the MOU contingent upon Superintendent Greene working with counsel to finalize the details of the lease portion of the terms and use agreements. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the MOU with the above mentioned caveat and it was seconded by Ms. Bell. The MOU for the YMCA Agreement for use of facilities was approved contingent upon Superintendent Greene working with counsel to finalize details of the lease portion of the terms and use agreements with a vote of 7-0.

### **SRO Incident Response - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding SRO Incident Response. There was discussion among the Board regarding this item. After the discussion, Ms. Jackson made a motion to table the SRO Incident Response item until Superintendent Greene can gather more information and it was seconded by Ms. Bell. The motion to table the SRO Incident Response item was approved on a vote of 7-0.

### **ESSER II and ESSER III - Ronette Dill (Action)**

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding ESSER II and ESSER III funds. Mr. Greene stated that the Budget Committee met prior to the meeting and discussed these funds in detail. Mr. Greene shared a general presentation with the Board that was attached to the electronic agenda. The presentation explained how much money the district is expected to receive, and where and what the district would like to do with the money. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the general plan for ESSER II and ESSER III funds. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the plan and it was seconded by Ms. Bell. The ESSER II and ESSER III funding plan was approved 7-0.

### **Food Service Update - Jennifer Peeler (Information)**

Jennifer Peeler, Director of Food and Nutrition, addressed the Board regarding the Food Service program during summer months. Ms. Peeler stated that Food Service will provide meals during the six-week summer learning program. Ms. Peeler also informed the Board that the YMCA would like the department to provide the meals for their eight-week program. She also gave information about Thursday meal “pick ups” at the Bus Garage and Sunny View Elementary. Ms. Peeler would like to continue the pick up at the Bus Garage throughout the summer. She stated that for the 2021-2022 school year all students would eat at no charge. She offered her appreciation of her staff for all the hard work that they have done this year. The Board offered their appreciation for all that has been by Mrs. Peeler and through the Food Service Department.

### **Early College Calendar - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping presented to the Board the draft Early College calendars for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. The Polk County Early College’s calendar coincides with Isothermal Community College’s schedule making it different from other schools within the district. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the

Polk County Early College calendars as presented. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the calendars and it was seconded by Ms. Allen and Ms. Page. The Polk County Early College calendars were approved as presented on a vote of 7-0.

**American Rescue Plan - Kathy Harding (Action)**

Kathy Harding addressed the Board regarding American Rescue Plan funds. Head Start is giving the District money as part of the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Harding sought approval for her to request the \$95,720 being offered to the district. There is flexibility with this funding. Ms. Harding explained to the Board how she is interested in spending the funds. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan request for additional funding. Ms. Jackson made motion to approve the American Rescue Plan and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The American Rescue Plan was approved on a vote of 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 28 to wrap up fiscal business and not having a meeting in July. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the June 28 meeting and no meeting in July. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the suggested meeting date and it was seconded by Ms. Bell. The June 28 Board meeting date was approved 7-0.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping expressed to the Board that they have closed on the PCHS/HVAC beginning project and are in the staging process.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding mandatory Pre-K training. The district has the option of sending Pre-K staff to NCCAT for this training. In order for this to be done, Pre-K students will finish their year on June 8. Staff will travel to NCCAT on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Ms. Bell asked if they would travel each day. Mr. Greene stated that this PD will have participants staying overnight. The Board agreed to allow for an early end to the Pre-K year to facilitate the Pre-K Staff training.

Superintendent Greene relayed to the Board Governor Cooper's latest order on face coverings. The Order states that if students are outdoors they do not have to wear face coverings. The Board agreed to change the district's protocol to match the new guidance about face coverings outdoors.

Superintendent Greene stated that there has been discussion with the local health department and a modified process for quarantining has been agreed upon. The district will now move to a proximity based quarantining process. This would be 15 minutes of six feet or closer to be quarantined, with some other circumstances that may impact those decisions.

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

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

**BOARD TRAINING**

**VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Dick Shaughnessy from Green Creek attended the meeting and offered several comments and questions during public input. Mr. Shaughnessy presented each member of the Board a letter.

Anita Koch invited the members of the Board to the Sarah Darnell Building on Thursday, May 13 to listen to speakers from Eastern Europe.

**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. 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 8:07 pm, Ms. Bell made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Allen 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. Superintendent Greene presented teacher contracts to the Board in which the names were presented by Superintendent Greene. 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. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**Information:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	
Katherine Glover	Teacher	PCEC	Resigning
Margo Jones	Clerical Assistant	PCHS	Resigned
Rylee McDowell	Afterschool Combination Position	PCES	Resigned
Andrea Hill	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Bobby Mercer	School Counselor	PCHS	Leave*
Brandy Alm	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Brian Taylor	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Carrie Baris	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Cindy Gilbert	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*

Cindy McAbee	Custodian	Sunny View	Leave*
DeShane Briscoe	Technology	Central Office	Leave*
Donna Brice	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Edie Harris	Afterschool	Saluda	Leave*
Hali McDaniel	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Heather Bailey	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Leave*
Jeff Cantrell	Custodian	PCMS	Leave*
Jerry Cox	Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Leave*
Jessie Spencer	Psychologist	Central Office	Leave*
Josh Trejo	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Larissa Ingle	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Leave*
Maria Burnett	Food Service	PCHS	Leave*
Rachael Haynes-Wood	Personnel Director	Central Office	Leave*
Rhonda Hill	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Ria Culbreth	Clerical	PCHS	Leave*
Rylee McDowell	Afterschool	Polk Central	Leave*
Stacey Harris	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Susie Kimbrell	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Leave*
Jamie Thompson	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
Zach Searcy	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*
JJ Waddell	Food Service	Polk Central	Leave*
Sylvia Avellaneda	ESL Specialist	Polk Central	Leave*
Shanna Pittman	Teacher	Polk Central	Leave*
Melanie Harris	Food Service	PCMS	Leave*
Matthew Russell	Teacher	PCMS	Leave*
Felicia Pegg	Food Service	Tryon	Leave*
Shannon Haynes	Teacher	PCHS	Leave*

**Action:**

Name	Position	School	College	Hometown	Licensure Area	Years Exp
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Tina Mace	Move from Part-Time Food Service Aide to Full-Time Food Service Assistant Manager	PCMS	N/A	Columbus	N/A	4
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**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

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Mr. Covil, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO