

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**August 9, 2021**  
**6:30 PM, at Polk County Middle School Auditorium**

**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 read a Statement of Decorum and Expectations to the public and gave each member of the public attending a copy of the statement. He explained that the meeting would remain orderly.

**PCHS Fishing Team**

Chan Barber, a member of the PCHS Fishing Team, spoke to the Board. He shared a presentation regarding the Fishing Team's schedule, accomplishments, and sponsors. He stated how the team has a couple of goals. They want to have two to three teams, sponsor a tournament at Lake Adger and qualify for The Classic Tournament. He explained how hard the members of the fishing team have worked to get where they are, and that is not all fun and games. It took a lot of work. Ms. Bell asked Chan if the Board could support them in any way how would that be. Chan responded that the team is always needing sponsors and to get their name out to the community. Ms. Jackson asked how much it cost per year to have the fishing team. Chan stated that there is a one-time fee around \$100. Superintendent Greene asked Chan what he wanted to do in the future. Chan stated that he wants to be an Ag Teacher.

**Approval of June 14, 2021 Board Minutes and Approval of June 28, 2021 Board Minutes (Action)**

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the June 14, 2021 and June 28, 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. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Pre K Half Days - Jan Crump (Information)**

Jan Crump spoke to the Board regarding Pre K half days. Ms. Crump stated that the Pre K schedule to attached on the electronic agenda. She stated that not only will this give the students extra time to get accustomed to the setting this will also give Pre K staff the time for the extra required training. All members of the Board were in agreement to allow the Pre K half days for the first week of school.

**COVID Procedures - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene gave a presentation regarding opening of schools COVID procedures. Mr. Greene discussed the current COVID statistics, 2021-2022 opening of schools, the latest guidance and requirements, the Strong Schools toolkit, virtual academy, and some school specific details. Superintendent Greene asked if there were any questions

regarding quarantining. Ms. Jackson asked for clarification of the six feet verses three feet distancing. Superintendent Greene stated that close contacts use the six feet guidelines and the three feet guidelines are for the classrooms. Ms. Jackson stated that according to the presentation, students that are vaccinated or masked may not have to quarantine. She asked if this means that students who do not wear a mask or are not vaccinated will be singled out. Mr. Greene responded that the health department has given the information to the District that if there is an exposure in the classroom this is the standard that will be used. Ms. Jackson requested for Superintendent Greene to have the Health Director, Josh Kennedy, come to a Board Meeting and discuss this information with the Board. Ms. Jackson feels this is going against the vote to make masks optional and singling out students that choose not to wear masks. Mr. Greene stated that he would be glad to speak with Mr. Kennedy about coming to a Board meeting to speak with the Board. Ms. Allen asked about sports and the three feet guidelines. Mr. Greene responded that being outdoors changes the guidelines, and there have been discussions regarding changing up practices and drills and being careful. Ms. Jackson asked if fans are allowed at sporting events. Mr. Greene stated that currently there are no restrictions on spectators. Mr. Covil asked what would happen if a student gets on a bus without a mask. Mr. Greene stated that the child would still be allowed to travel on the bus to school and it would be discussed with the student and family and there will be a mask supplied to the student. Ms. Jackson wanted clarification that the district would not be testing any student without permission from the parent. Mr. Greene confirmed that students would not be tested without permission from the parent. Mr. Greene reiterated that the District will still be working closely with the Health Department on guidelines, contacts, and quarantines. Superintendent Greene went over information regarding a virtual academy option. This will be by application and done on a semester commitment. This virtual academy will have limited immediate instructional support and will be self-paced. Staff will not be required to have in-person and remote students at the same time per the Board's intent. Superintendent Greene stated he needed approval for administration to create a virtual academy option and to have the flexibility hire staff if needed to provide that option. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Bell made a motion allow administration to create a virtual academy option for the upcoming school year and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion was approved on a vote of 7-0

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

### **Out of District Tuition Approval - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Debbie Lovelace stated that the Out of District tuition is the same as last year, \$2,300 per student. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the Out of District Tuition. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the tuition and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The Out of District Tuition was approved 7-0.

### **Administrative Retreat - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene stated that he was excited about the upcoming Administrative Retreat on August 10- and August 11. The theme for the upcoming year is "Onward and Upward." Mr. Greene invited the members of the Board to stop by the retreat if they are available.

### **Construction Update - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke with the Board regarding a construction update for the PCHS HVAC project. Mr. Scherping gave information about what has been completed and what has yet to be done. There will certainly be disruptions in classrooms throughout the year. While construction is going on within a classroom that teacher will be moved to another room until that room is completed. The cafeteria work will not be completed until next summer. Mr. Scherping stated that there is currently a rental chiller until the new equipment is here and can be installed.

**Micropurchasing Resolution - Debbie Lovelace (Action)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Micropurchasing Resolution. This resolution was discussed at the previous meeting and is being brought back today for approval. This resolution affords the CFO and the Superintendent the ability to make purchases up to \$50,000 with federal funding. Superintendent Greene asked Attorney Feagan if he had anything that he need to say regarding the resolution and he did not. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the Micropurchasing Resolution. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the Micropurchasing Resolution and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Micropurchasing Resolution was approved on a vote of 7-0.

**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. Jackson made the motion, which Mr. Ashworth seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

**Board of Education Access - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding information on Board of Education Access. Mr. Greene showed the Board a form that is linked to the polkschools.org website under the Board of Education tab, where public can submit questions and emails to the Board of Education. There is also a paper listing of Board of Education members email addresses and phone numbers that can be requested at the District office.

**Student Transfer Request - Aaron Greene (Action)**

The members of the Board agreed to consdier both student transfer requests at the same time without taking them into closed session for discussion. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve both Student Transfer Requests and they were seconded by Ms. Gibbs. Both Student Transfer Requests were approved 7-0.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the 2021-2022 Afterschool program. Due to a large portion of existing personnel being high school students that have graduated and moved on, there is a decreased number of staff. Administration has made the decision to wait two weeks to restaff the afterschool program so that ratios are correct.

**V. INFORMATION**

2021-2022 School Year: First Student Day for All Polk County Schools (Except Early College) will be August 23, 2021.

2021-2022 School Year: First Student Day for Polk County Early College: August 9, 2021.

Head Start Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report

July 2021 Credit Card Report

**BOARD TRAINING**

NCSBA Annual Conference 11/11/21-11/13/21 - Greensboro, NC

**VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

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 7:50 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. 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 8:48 pm, Mr. Ashworth 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. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**Information:**

Zachary Searcy	History Teacher	PCHS	Resigned
Melisa Ruff	EC Teaching Assistant	PCHS	Resigned
Latisha Miller	Teaching Assistant/Afterschool Site Director	Tryon	Resigned
Kerry Ford	Maintenance Worker	Maintenance	FMLA

**Action:**

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Rachael Karpinski	Science Teacher	PCMS	Hendersonville	UNCA	El Ed	0
Kathleen Abraham	Science Teacher	PCEC	Hendersonville	University of Nebraska	Science: 9-12	19
Charlotte Grabman	ELA Teacher	PCMS	Tryon	College of Charleston	Pending	Years

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Jamie Weathers	EC Resource Teacher	PCMS	Tryon	Western Carolina	Pending	0
Thomas Hensley	English Teacher	PCHS	Rutherfordton	Appalachian	Eng 9-12	2
Elizabeth Hart	School Psychologist	Central Office	Mills River	Western Carolina	School Psychologist	13
Kimberly Lawter	Teaching Assistant	Tryon	Hendersonville	N/A	N/A	Years
Lori Campbell	Transfer from Full-Time Food Service Manager to Full-Time Teaching Assistant	Tryon	Forest City	N/A	N/A	
Leah Hudgens-Bey	Receptionist	PCHS	Boiling Springs, SC	N/A	N/A	2
Virgina Bowyer	Part-Time Food Service Aide/Afterschool Group Leader	PCHS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	Years
Amanda Doornbos	Part-Time Food Service Aide	PCHS	Campobello, SC	N/A	N/A	6
Sandra Trottier	Transfer from Part-Time Food Service Aide to Temporary Full-Time Food Service Manager	Tryon	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	Years
Beverly Logan	School Nurse	PCMS	Winstom-Salem State University	Ellenboro	Nursing	Years
Kimberly Money	School Nurse	Sunny View /Saluda	East Carolina University	Campobello, SC	Nursing	Years
Gina Burnett	2nd Grade Teacher	Saluda	East Carolina University	Saluda	El Ed, Media Coordinator, Eng as second language	Years
David Minnich	History Teacher	PCHS	College at Fredonia	Rutherfordton	SS 9-12	20
Markiesha Jackson	CTE- Early Childhood Teacher	PCHS	Western Carolina	Forest City	Pending	N/A
Jennifer O'Rear	Full-Time Teaching Assistant	Saluda	N/A	Hendersonville	N/A	N/A
Jennifer Doten	Full-Time Teaching Assistant/Bus Driver	Saluda	College of Charleston	Cayce, SC	N/A	N/A
Leslie Meeks	EC Teaching Assistant	PCMS	N/A	Tryon	N/A	N/A

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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Mr. Covil, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
AG/TO