

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

Members Present: Chairman Covil, Vice-Chairman Mr. Ashworth, Ms. Page, Ms. Allen, Ms. Bell (Via phone), 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. Covil called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of August 2, 2021 and August 9, 2021 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the August 2, 2021 and August 9, 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. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Federal Programs: Title I, Title II and Title IV Plans for 2021-2022- Jan Crump (Action)

Jan Crump, Curriculum and Instruction Director spoke to the Board regarding Title I, Title II, and Title IV plans for 2021-2022. Ms. Crump went over the attached brief that included detailed information about the Title I, Title II, and Title IV plans. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments from the board and there were none. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the Title I, Title II, and Title IV plans and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The Title I, Title II, and Title IV plans were approved 7-0.

2020-2021 Testing Update - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping presented a 2020-2021 testing update to the Board. Mr. Scherping went over the student performance reports that were attached to the electronic agenda. He went over the 21 indicators that were listed and discussed how Polk County Schools performed on those indicators. Mr. Scherping asked the Board if there were any questions and there were none.

Child Nutrition Update - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping updated the Board on food service. The Child Nutrition department is providing all students free breakfast and lunch. There are currently significant challenges for the department, such as ongoing food shortages and the increases in pricing for food and supplies. At times food service staff members are having to go to local and regional stores to purchase supplemental food and supplies that are needed. Staffing continues to be an issue for operations with ongoing vacancies that have not been filled. The current pay for a food service aide is \$11.99 per hour. If the current proposed state budget passes there is a possibility of an increase that may help with recruitment. Ms. Gibbs asked if when the budget passes, will current food service employees get back pay. Mr. Scherping stated that it depends on how the budget is written.

2021-2022 School Year Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene offered a summary to the Board regarding the 2021-2022 school year enrollment. When the year began approximately 2240 students were slated for enrollment. Historically, the District experiences a certain number of students moving to other settings or not reporting at the beginning of the year. The district started off the school year with a verified enrollment of 2200. There were 60 students who chose the virtual academy setting prior to the temporary mask mandate. Since the temporary mask mandate the district now has 74 enrolled in the virtual academy and 6 students have unenrolled. Superintendent Greene asked the Board if there were any questions regarding enrollment and there were none.

Cross Country Team Overnight Trip - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene addressed the Board regarding the Cross-Country Overnight Trip request. This request has been retracted due to logistical changes that enabled the team to make the event a one-day trip.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2021-2022 School Calendar Updates - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping provided updates to the Board regarding 2021 school calendar changes. Mr. Scherping went over briefly the changes that had been made to each of the attached calendars. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the attached 2021-2022 school calendar updates and Ms. Page seconded. The recommended 2021-2022 school calendars were approved 7-0.

Payroll Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene informed the Board of a delay on payroll increases due to the lack of an adopted state budget. He explained that since the 2021-2022 budget has not passed, the pay level for teachers has not yet increased by the usual annual “steps” forcing current employees to remain on the same level as they were last year. Once a budget is adopted, pay level steps will be implemented and employees will receive their step increases effective back to the start of the year.

Summer Construction Update - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping gave an update to the Board on summer construction projects. He spoke about the work completed at each location. Polk County Middle School did not have much work slated for the summer due to District’s summer leaning program being offered at the site. Polk Central’s septic system was upgraded, and the site received an air conditioner replacement, boiler room work, and bathroom improvements. Saluda received new railing, flooring, and wall work. Sunny View had some of their classrooms modified for a partnership with the WCCA early learning program, and also benefitted from painting, playground steps, cafeteria ramp, and the removal of an outdoor classroom. Tryon Elementary received some painting, door locks, railings and guardrails for the bus parking area in front of the site. Polk County Early College has some drainage correction and parking lot improvements. Polk County High School is in the middle of a significant HVAC replacement. Each school had new water bottle stations installed at existing water fountain sites. Improvements for Stearns are postponed until improvement at the school levels are complete. Chairman Covil asked if there were questions or comments and there were none.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the small, triangular piece of property across from Saluda Elementary. The City of Saluda, in the past, has asked to make use of that property. This conversation has come up again and Mr. Greene wanted to make sure the Board is staying informed about these conversations.

Superintendent Greene talked with the Board about a COVID dashboard that is being developed. He wants the Board to look at the dashboard and make sure it is displaying the data in the manner the Board wishes. Ms. Jackson asked about have a breakdown of grade-level impacts and Mr. Greene stated that he would get that information to the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene stated that a Board Member would like to reschedule the regular October Board meeting due to a conflict. Ms. Jackson made a motion to move the October Board of Education meeting to October 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. The Board decided to reschedule the meeting to October 18, 2021 at 6:30 by a vote of 7-0.

V. INFORMATION

Preschool Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Year to Date Credit Card Report

BOARD TRAINING

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

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Superintendent Greene stated that the Board requested him to make the public aware of the Policy 2310, The Public Participation and Board Meetings Policy. In adherence to the policy, the Public Comment session will be 30 minutes and each speaker will be allowed three minutes for comments. Chairman Covil confirmed the statement. 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.

Following public input, a motion was made by Ms. Jackson to hold a special meeting later in the month to discuss COVID metrics and when the District might return to masking being optional. The motion was later clarified as having no set date and being contingent upon fielding a quorum of Members. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion, and it passed 6-1.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:39 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an attorney-client matter. Ms. Jackson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. 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 8:16 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. Mr. Covil asked the Board’s pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Bell 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:

Name	Position	School	
Kathryn Jenkins	EC Teaching Assistant	PCMS	Resigned
Marsha Greene	Food Service Aide	PCMS	Resigned
Sarah Reid	EC Teacher	Tryon	FMLA

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Renee Souther	School Nurse	Tryon	Rutherfordton	Gardner-Webb University	Nursing	Years
Eric Walker	Maintenance	Maintenance	Tryon	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shanae Tingling	Teaching Assistant	Tryon	Tryon	N/A	N/A	N/A
Melvin James	Part-Time Pre KTeaching Assistant/Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Ellenboro	UNC-Chapel Hill	N/A	N/A
Lauren Harris	Food Service Aide	Sunny View	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Donyell Walker	Food Service Aide/Custodian/Bus Monitor	Tryon	Asheville	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emma Bradley	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lily Earny	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	years
Jazmine Kasprzyk	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Tryon	N/A	N/A	years

Anna Alley	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Ellenboro	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wesley Curry	Add Bus Driver to assigned duties	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO