

**Board of Education Meeting  
October 12, 2020  
6:30 PM, at Stearns Education Center**

**Members Present:** Chairman Covil, Vice-Chairperson Page, Mr. Ashworth, Ms. Allen, Ms. Gibbs, Ms. Bell, Ms. Jackson (Via Phone)

**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.

**Principal Appreciation Month – Aaron Greene**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding principal appreciation month. He offered his appreciation to all principals for their ongoing commitment to students and their tremendous efforts in serving them. During the pandemic Polk County's principals have been working extremely hard since March and during school closure. He thanked them on behalf of the Board of Education, Polk County Schools, and the families and students of Polk County.

**Approval of the September 14, 2020 Board Minutes, the September 21, 2020 Board Minutes, and the September 28, 2020 Board Minutes**

Ms. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the September 14, 2020 Board Minutes, the September 21, 2020 Board Minutes, and the September 28, 2020 Board Minutes. The Board agreed to take all sets of minutes into consideration at one time. Mr. Covil asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**School Improvement Plans (Action)**

All school improvement plans were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Each school principal and a selected Improvement Team representative briefly presented the goals and highlights of their school improvement plans. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments after each presentation. School Improvement Plans will be voted on after closed session once the safe school plans are discussed.

**Remote Learning Plan - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene presented the requested Remote Learning Plan to the Board. He went over the current enrollment for in person and remote students for each elementary school and grade. Mr. Greene read the entire Elementary Remote Learning Plan and included changes. There was discussion among the Board regarding the Remote Learning Plan. Each member of the Board gave their thoughts regarding this plan. Ms. Bell made the motion to approve the Remote Learning Plan as presented by Superintendent Greene and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The presented Remote Learning Plan was approved on a vote of 4-3.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Safe Schools/Crisis Plans - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Details of the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans are discussed in closed session.

### **Surplus Sale - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Mr. Scherping presented a list of items and related information to the Board regarding the District's next surplus property sale. The bid opening will be October 30, 2020 and the items must be removed by November 13, 2020. Mr. Covil asked the Board's pleasure in declaring the items on the list as surplus and to provide for the receiving of bids. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the surplus sale plan and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The surplus plan was approved 7-0.

### **Child Nutrition Update - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding an update on the Child Nutrition program. He explained to the Board that currently, any student enrolled in Polk County Schools is eligible for free breakfast and lunch. There is now an evening meal pickup on Thursdays from 4:00-6:00pm to help feed students on the weekends. Anyone with children 18 years old and under can pick up meals during this time. The children will get breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday. If the child is not going to be in school on that Friday they will also get breakfast and lunch for Friday. Mr. Scherping and Food Service Director Peeler are assessing the pickups to see if there needs to be an alternate pickup location. Mr. Scherping also spoke to the Board briefly regarding the Fall P-EBT program. He informed the Board that this program did not apply to Polk County Schools. In order to receive this, the school system had to have the majority of students attending more than five consecutive days remotely.

Assistant Superintendent Scherping wanted to make sure the Board was aware of the NC's Extra Credit Grant. This grant program is for anyone who claimed a dependent under the age of 16 on their 2019 taxes, and those households should receive \$335 if they qualify.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Kathy Harding provided an update on School Health to the Board. She began by discussing recent information from NC DHHS. Ms. Harding went over the key points on new guidance received on October 8. Ms. Harding went over the flow chart that was handed out to the Board for review. All children are screened upon arrival. If a child fails one of the screening items the child is sent home. They either have to have an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider, a negative COVID test, or remain out of school for 10 days. Ms. Harding went over statistics for the school year thus far. When there is a positive case the Health Department contacts the district and gives guidance on the following steps. When a child has one of the five symptoms; cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, or new loss of taste or smell, it is not only the child that is affected. Household members of this child are also affected. If someone tests positive for COVID they isolate for 10 days. A household member of this person does not start their 14 day quarantine until the end of the positive case's isolation. The new guidance states that the district can only accept Polymerases Chain Reaction (PCR) rapid COVID tests. If it is a rapid antigen test the district is not allowed to accept it.

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

September Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Year to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

## BOARD TRAINING

2020 NCSBA Annual Conference - November 5-7, 2020 (Still monitoring COVID)

## VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

## VII. CLOSED SESSION

### Closed Session

At 9:05 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. 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 8:44 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. Allen made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans that require Board approval and confirmed that details regarding the safe schools and crisis plans for the district and schools had been detailed and discussed in closed session. The Chairman asked the Board's pleasure regarding a motion. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans and Mr. Ashworth seconded. It was approved 7-0.

### Information:

Brandon Burnett	Bus Driver	Polk Central	Resigned
Jerry Freeman	Teacher Assistant/Bus Monitor	PCHS	FMLA*
Carson Forward	Afterschool	Tryon	FMLA*
Jamie Kilgore	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Carey Upton	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Angie Upton	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Jennifer Huskey	School Nurse	PCHS	FMLA*
Sophie Hebbard	Food Service Aide	PCMS	FMLA*
Gail Spitznogle	EC Compliance Coordinator	Central Office	FMLA*
Rebekah Morse	Teacher	Sunny View	FMLA*
Lauren Hamilton	Teacher	Saluda	FMLA*
Jennifer Peeler	Food and Nutrition Director	Central Office	FMLA*
Karen Twitty	Food Service Manager	PCHS	FMLA*
Jaime Jackson	Food Service Manager	PCMS	FMLA*
Tammy McIntyre	Clerical	Central Office	FMLA*
Stefanie Tyler	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*

Amanda Huddleston	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	FMLA*
Rita Booth	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Rachael Haynes-Wood	Personnel Director	Central Office	FMLA*
Adam Giles	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Toni Haley	EC Compliance Coordinator	Central Office	FMLA*
Nicole Travieso	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Yvonne Bruce	Clerical	Tryon	FMLA*
Monica Metcalf	Custodian	PCHS	FMLA*
Brooklyn Dyer	Afterschool	Tryon	FMLA*
Stacy Harris	Food Sevice Aide	Saluda	FMLA*
Sherrie Huffman	School Counselor	Saluda/PCMS	FMLA*
Hunter Allen	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Robert Twiggs	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Barbara Gilbert	Clerical	Saluda	FMLA*
Megan McDaniel	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Michelle Fagan	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Tracy Gray	Clerical	PCHS	FMLA*
Jennifer Allsbrook	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Kenny Hall	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Donna Hall	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Donna Brice	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Beth Packer	Teacher	PCES/SVES	FMLA*
Christen Smith	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Stacy Stafford	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*
Tina Muse	Teacher Assistant	PCHS	FMLA*

**Action:**

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Amanda McComas	Transfer from Part-Time TA to Full-Time TA	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	3
Eric Riberdy	Part-Time Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Forest City	N/A	N/A	
Stephanie Jarvis	Part-Time Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	
Megan Ward	Afterschool Combination Position	Saluda	Saluda	N/A	N/A	
Elyse Petoia	Afterschool Combination Position	Tryon/PCMS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	Years
Jennifer Yoder	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	25

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm.

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Mr. Covil, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
AG/TO