

**Board of Education Meeting
December 14, 2020
6:30 PM, at Polk County High School Media Center**

Members Present: Chairman Covil, Vice-Chairperson Ms. Page, Mr. Ashworth, 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.

Recognition of the 2020 Christmas Card Artists

Chairman Covil recognized the five system-wide student Christmas card artists whose artwork was chosen for the 2020 Polk County Schools' Christmas cards. They included: Austin Mace, Maggie McCammon, Alexandra Walker, Alana Ballew, and Madison Haggard. Mr. Covil presented each artist with a Christmas ornament gift and a box of their own Christmas cards. Mr. Thomas spoke to the Board regarding the Christmas card program and his appreciation to the students for participating during the time of COVID and remote learning. Superintendent Greene thanked the group and their families for attending the meeting and for the contribution of their artwork.

Approval of the November 9, 2020 Board Minutes

Ms. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the November 9, 2020 Board Minutes. Superintendent Greene stated a correction that needed to be made. The word "administrative" is to be added to the raises that were approved. Mr. Covil asked if there were any other additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Swearing in of the Elected and Re-Elected Board Members: Richard Covil, Lucinda Allen, Danielle Gibbs, and Sara Bell (Action)

The Clerk of Court administered the oath of office to Mr. Richard Covil, Ms. Lucinda Allen, Ms. Danielle Gibbs, and Ms. Sara Bell. Each of the elected members took the oath of office individually and all affirmed to fulfill the constitutional and statutory obligations contained in their oath of office.

Annual Election of Board Chairman & Vice-Chair (Action)

Chairman Covil turned the gavel over to Superintendent Greene for the annual election of the Board Chairman. Mr. Greene asked for nominations. Ms. Allen made a recommendation to re-elect Mr. Covil as the Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried 7-0. Ms. Page made a motion to elect Mr. Ashworth as the Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Greene turned the meeting back over to Chairman Covil.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Fall 2020-2021 Testing Schedule - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the fall 2020-2021 testing schedule. He went over in more detail the schedule that was attached to the electronic agenda. Ms. Bell asked what would happen if something happened and the test were not able to be administered at the scheduled time. Mr. Scherping stated that he would file for an extension to administer later.

Continued School Improvement Update - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Ronette Dill spoke with the Board regarding the schedule for the continued school improvement data visits for each school. She informed the board of what these meetings would look like due to COVID.

Remote Instruction Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene gave the floor to Ms. Dill to update the Board of remote instruction. Ms. Dill stated that the majority of the update will be on K-5. Currently there are 449 students remote in Pre-K-12th grade and 76 first grade through twelfth grade participating in Wolverine Academy. The District has approximately 76% of the student population are participating in in-person learning. As of November 30, all remote students have been transferred to the remote only teachers. There are still students moving in and out of in-person learning. There are a lot of pieces that has to be done from different departments when these transfers are done. Mr. Ashworth asked why there are students going from in-person to remote. Ms. Dill stated that in these cases the parents were worried about the rise in the number of cases. Mr. Covil asked if Ms. Dill felt that everyone was happy with the decision. Ms. Dill stated that after the first week of transitions, she believes that students are getting more one on one time with the teacher than before. The District has 90% of K-5 students doing in-person learning. Superintendent Greene stated that he has gotten some negative feedback but overall it is working out well.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Attendance Remediation - Linley Foster (Information)

Linley Foster spoke to the Board regarding the past and present attendance procedures. She explained to the Board how things differ now with COVID than they were before. She went over in detail the presentation that was shared on the electronic agenda.

2019-2020 Audit Presentation - Anderson, Smith, & Wike PLLC (Action)

The Chairman turned the floor over to Mr. Mike Wike, of Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, to go over the 2017-2018 Audit findings for Polk County Schools. Mr. Owen Poole, a manager with Anderson, Smith, & Wike PLLC, began by letting the Board know that in regards to all aspects of the audit, Polk County Schools had received an unmodified report, meaning that there were no findings, and that the audit was a “clean” one. Mr. Poole briefly went over the audit report with the Board, and went over the audit report in more detail with the audit committee prior to the Board Meeting. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Audit. Ms. Bell made the motion to approve the audit as presented. Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. There was a question regarding a discrepancy of \$1 within the budget amendment. Ms. Lovelace stated that the system that is used for the budget amendments rounds and the discrepancy came from rounding. Chairman Covil asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Bell made the motion, which Mr. Ashworth seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

2020-2021 School Calendar Updates

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding a change on the 2021-2021 calendar. There has been some confusion with the “Remote Learning Day” scheduled for January 4, 2021. It was originally scheduled an In-person/Remote day to be used as a refresher on remote learning. The “remote learning day” has been moved the Remote day to another date. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the calendar changes as presented. Ms. Gibbs made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The Calendars were approved 7-0.

Policy Updates-Second Reading - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping brought forward the following Policies for second reading,; 2302, 1510/4200/7270, 1710/4020/7230, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 2120, 2121, 3000, 3102, 3410, 3460, 4001, 4040/7310, 4400, 4600, 5030, 5070/7350, 7232, 7335, 1320,3560, 1610/7800, 2127, 4110, 4120, 4230, 4270/6145, 4325, 5050, 6325, 7240, 7241, 7503, 7560, 7620, 7900. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve policies 2302, 1510/4200/7270, 1710/4020/7230, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 2120, 2121, 3000, 3102, 3410, 3460, 4001, 4040/7310, 4400, 4600, 5030, 5070/7350, 7232, 7335, 1320,3560, 1610/7800, 2127, 4110, 4120, 4230, 4270/6145, 4325, 5050, 6325, 7240, 7241, 7503, 7560, 7620, 7900 on second reading. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the aforementioned policies on second reading and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. Policies 2302, 1510/4200/7270, 1710/4020/7230, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 2120, 2121, 3000, 3102, 3410, 3460, 4001, 4040/7310, 4400, 4600, 5030, 5070/7350, 7232, 7335, 1320,3560, 1610/7800, 2127, 4110, 4120, 4230, 4270/6145, 4325, 5050, 6325, 7240, 7241, 7503, 7560, 7620, 7900 were approved on second reading with a vote of 7-0.

Policy Updates-First Reading - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding policy 6305 – Safety and Student Transportation Services. Policy 6305 was discussed at the November Board meeting and it was requested for additional changes to be made. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve Policy 6305 on first reading. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve Policy 6305 on first reading and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. Policy 6305 was approved 7-0.

Policy Updates-Minor Revisions - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding a list of policies with minor revisions that can be voted on second reading due to the minor change. The following policies have minor changes. 1310, 1725, 2500, 4328, 4333, 7130, 8510. The District attorney, Mr. Feagan and the Schools Boards attorney, Campbell & Shatley, recommend removing section 1 of section E from the policy. This is more than a minor change therefore it needs to be approved on first reading, due to the change, and brought back in January for the second reading. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve 1310, 1725, 2500, 4328, 4333, 7130, 8510 on second reading. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve 1310, 1725, 2500, 4328, 4333, 7130, 8510 on second reading and it was seconded by Ms. Page. Policies 1310, 1725, 2500, 4328, 4333, 7130, 8510 were approved on a vote 7-0. Chairman Covil called for motion to approve Policy 1726 on first reading. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve Policy 1726 on first reading and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. Policy 1726 was approved on first reading on a vote of 7-0.

COVID Update - Kathy Harding (Information)

Kathy Harding spoke to the Board regarding an update on COVID-19. The District has been in school for 15 weeks. Pre-K will now be requiring students who have reached the age of five, and are developmentally appropriate, to wear a face covering. The preschool nurse has been doing extra education in the pre-k classes and other things are being done to prepare the students and parents for this time. Ms. Harding briefly went over the new guidelines with the Board. Ms. Bell asked if the data presented was current. Ms. Harding stated that it is the total since tracking began. Mr. Greene asked for clarification on data for the exclusion of students and staff that were part of a quarantine incident. Mr. Scherping stated that a quarantine incident would be a closure of a classroom or school to help prevent a spread that could be a large number of students and staff. Superintendent Greene stated that at the beginning it was said that things would be unpopular and inconvenient, but it does seem that what the district is doing is working.

Holiday Break Meal Distribution - Dave Scherping (Information)

Assistant Superintendent Scherping spoke to the Board regarding a meal distribution. On Thursday, December 17, all student Pre-K through eighth grade will take home five days of food. This will be breakfast and lunch for five days. There has been a phone message and other messages sent out to inform parents that this will be happening. Mr.

Scherping also spoke about the normal Thursday meal distribution and how the distribution has increased since the start up.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene expressed his appreciation to the Members of the Board for participating in the NCSBA Board training.

Superintendent Greene informed the Board of a school safety meeting that was held on December 10. He wanted to let the Board know that those meetings are still being conducted even with COVID.

Superintendent Greene stated that he will be sending out surveys to the Board regarding committee assignments.

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

November Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

November Pre-School Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Month to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

Christmas Break for Students: December 21, 2020- January 1, 2021 - students return to school on January 4, 2020

BOARD TRAINING

Core Training - November 30, 2020 - January 31, 2021 - Online Training (All Board Members are participating)

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via recording.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:20 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. Page. 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 8:45 pm, Ms. Bell made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Ashworth 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.

There was discussion among the Board regarding Supplement Pay. Ms. Bell made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

Information:

Marci Cannon	Food Service Aide	Saluda	Resigning
Lisa Kirby	Health Occupations Teacher	PCHS	Resigning
Terry Bishop	Clerical	Stearns/Bus Garage	FMLA
Jamie Kilgore	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA
Andrea Kemp	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA
Nancy Johnson	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA
Susan Kimbrell	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA
Tammy McIntyre	Clerical	Stearns	FMLA
Bobby Mercer	School Counselor	PCHS	FMLA*
Leslie Rhinehart	Teache	PCHS	FMLA*
Sophie Hebbard	Food Service Aide	PCMS	FMLA*
Megan Ward	Afterschool Combination	Saluda	FMLA*
Shanna Pittman	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Deanna Durham	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Andrea Hill	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Rex Wells	Athletic Director	PCHS	FMLA*
Beth Blanton	Teachers Assistant/Afterschool Director	Polk Central/Sunny View	FMLA*
Tracy Wells	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Matt Guffey	Teacher	PCMS/PCHS	FMLA*
Casey McCall	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Eilene Corcoran	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Rita Booth	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Shannon Hopper	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Tonya Odel	Clerical	Stearns	FMLA*
Lori Johnson	Substitute	Substitute	FMLA*
Lisa Kirby	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Lyla Johnson	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Lauren Hamilton	Teacher	Saluda	FMLA*
Heather Bailey	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	FMLA*
Ashley Bell	School Counselor	Polk Central	FMLA*
Felicia Pegg	Food Service Aide	Tryon	FMLA*
Hannah Rimer	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*
Robert Brock	Bus Driver	PCHS	FMLA*

Mary Wood	Bus Driver	Bus Driver	FMLA*
Zach Searcy	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Bruce Ollis	Teacher/Coach	PCHS	FMLA*
Hunter Allen	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Jamie Thompson	Teacher/Coach	PCHS	FMLA*
Jennifer Allsbrook	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Tara McDonald	Teacher	Saluda	FMLA*
Beverly Monroe	Substitute	Substitute	FMLA*
Annette Ireland	Substitute	Substitute	FMLA*
Linda Sage	School Counselor	PCMS	FMLA*
Stacey Evans	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Brently Harris	Custodian	Saluda	FMLA*
Edie Harris	Afterschool Site Director	Saluda	FMLA*
Jerry Harris	Custodian	Saluda	FMLA*
Parker Mullinax	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Leon LaFay	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda	FMLA*
April Crowder	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	FMLA*
Joanna Figart	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Brooke Benfield	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Kristy Cox	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Ashley Bell	School Counselor	Polk Central	FMLA*
Nicole Travieso	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Chip Cash	Teacher	Sunny View	FMLA*
Erin Aldrich	Custodian	Tryon	FMLA*
Barbara Gilbert	Clerical	Saluda	FMLA*
Linda Hines	Clerical	Stearns	FMLA*
Joe "Larry" Laughter	Custodian	Polk County High School	FMLA*
JJ Wadelll	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Kelleigh Powell	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Lori Byars	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Amanda Ruff	Clerical	Stearns	FMLA*
Jaime Jackson	Food Service Manager	PCMS	FMLA*
Kellie Bradley	Teacher	Sunny View	FMLA*
Stacy Stafford	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*
Rita Culbreth	Clerical	PCHS	FMLA*
Adam Giles	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*

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Adam Giles	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Angie McCammon	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Katie Elliott	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Lemont Jones	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Cindy Dusenbury	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Jennifer Taylor	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Josh Trejo	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Julie Miller	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Michelle Fagan	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Polly Kennedy	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Christen Smith	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Jennifer Morton	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Jon Ezell	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Molly Hill	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Rex Wells	Athletic Director	PCHS	FMLA*
Caitlin Williams	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Carrie Barris	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Brandy Alm	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Jennifer Huskey	School Nurse	PCHS	FMLA*
April Crowder	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	FMLA*
Shelly Upton	Teacher	Sunny View	FMLA*
Megan McDaniel	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
James Westcott	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	FMLA*
Amanda Ruff	Clerical	Stearns	FMLA*
Deena Durham	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Jaime Jackson	Food Service	PCMS	FMLA*
JJ Wadell	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Joe "Larry" Laughter	Custodian	PCHS	FMLA*
Kelleigh Powell	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Kellie Bradley	Teacher	Sunny View	FMLA*
Lori Byars	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Robert Mercer	School Counselor	PCHS	FMLA*
Stacy Stafford	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*

Action:

Felicia Pegg	Transfer from Temporary Part-Time Food Service Aide to Permanent Part-Time Food Service Aide	PCMS	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	
Elizabeth Dial	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Melanie Harris	Part-Time Food Service Aide	PCMS	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	3
Blair Birenbaum	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	Western Carolina	N/A	-
Terri Willm	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years
Cindy Close	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	University of Nebraska	N/A	7
Haley Robinson	Add Substitute Teacher to her assignments	All Schools	Mill Spring	Western Carolina	N/A	3
Jason Morgan	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Rutherfordton		N/A	
Rylee McDowell	Afterschool Combination Position	Polk Central	Mill Spring		N/A	1

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