

**Board of Education Meeting
February 10, 2020
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

Members Present: Vice-Chairperson Page, Mr. Ashworth, Ms. Allen, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Gibbs, Ms. Corley

Members Absent: Chairman Covil

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping and Attorney Phillip Feagan

Call to Order and Welcome

Ms. Page called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Superintendent Greene welcomed Shannon Marlowe and Jennifer Shelton from Henderson County. Ms. Marlowe and Ms. Shelton were visiting as a requirement for an educational leadership course.

Saluda Elementary Lego Robotics Championship Team Presentation

Dr. Maneen, Principal of Saluda Elementary School, students that are part of the Saluda Elementary Lego Robotics Championship Team, and team Coach Kevin Burnett spoke to the Board regarding their experience with Lego Robotics. This team beat 50 teams in the region in the winter Carolina Isobots Lego Robotics competition. They won several trophies and \$100. Mr. Burnett stated that there was tremendous support for the team and lots of effort from the students throughout the season. There are several components of the competition - a research project, the building and coding of the robot, a skit to present their team's approach to the problem to be solved, and teamwork. Teams had to perform and were scored on these tasks. The team showed a video of them completing different challenges, talking about the competition itself, and telling some of the things that they learned during the process. The Board congratulated the team and thanked them for coming and presenting. Superintendent Greene congratulated Mr. Burnett and thanked the students and parents for their hard work.

Approval of the January 13, 2020 Board Minutes

Ms. Page called the Board's attention to a copy of the January 13, 2020 Board minutes. Ms. Page entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Fall 2019 - 1st Semester Testing (Information) - Dave Scherping

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding 1st Semester Testing. He briefly went over the report that was attached to the electronic agenda. The district tested 100% students in all assessments except for the NC Final Exams which had 98.5% participation. This is reportedly the last semester for NC Final Exams; however the legal requirement to assess teachers is still required. There are some suggestions coming from NCDPI and other state education organizations on what could be used in place of the final exams. Superintendent Greene stated that he was able to be involved in a discussion at the state level on effectiveness measures for teachers when there is no test. Mr. Greene spoke his appreciation of Mr. Scherping for all of his hard work.

Say Something-Anonymous Reporting System Grades 6-12 (Information) - Dave Scherping

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the “Say Something-Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS)”. Mr. Scherping went over the brief that was attached to the electronic agenda. The SS-ARS system is being implemented for students in grades 6-12 to use for anonymous reporting. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction purchased this system for all schools with students in grades 6-12. The goal for the system is to train students to identify threats to their school and provide them with an easy way to report these threats. The SS-ARS was developed by the Sandy Hook Foundation. Attorney Feagan stated that there was a presentation at the School Attorneys Conference. They spoke regarding several issues that could possibly arise. Mr. Scherping communicated to the Board that any tip that comes in involving a life-threatening situation or immediate crisis is screened and sent straight to local “911” call centers. All other tips are routed to principals and school teams to be handled at the site level. Superintendent Greene stated that work has been done to develop local protocol and prepare principals for handling tips from these reports.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Vice Chairperson Page entertained a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Corley made the motion, which Ms. Allen seconded. Vice Chairperson Page called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 6-0.

Spring Budget Workshop (Information) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Spring Budget Workshop. Mr. Greene proposed the workshop begin at 3:00 on March 16, 2020 with the Board meeting following at 5:30PM. The Board agreed to have the Spring Budget Workshop on March 16, 2020 at 3:00PM with the Board Meeting to follow at 5:30PM.

PCHS/HVAC Update (Information) - Dave Scherping

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS/HVAC update. The process is on track to bring the contract to the Board. There is three, possibly four task that the district is asking to be done through this project. They are the main building HVAC, the gym HVAC, lighting upgrade, and possibly outside lighting. The district would also like to consider do a bathroom update. The project is currently on time to have the contract at the April Board meeting.

Surplus Sale (Action) - Dave Scherping

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 February 21, 2020 and the items must be removed by February 26, 2020. Ms. Page asked the Board’s pleasure in declaring the items on the list as surplus and to provide for the receiving of bids. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the surplus sale plan and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The plan was approved 6-0.

2020 NCSBA Legislative Committee Service (Action) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene explained the NCSBA “voting delegate” process to the Board and asked for their recommendations on which Board member(s) should be designated to serve as the Board’s voting representative. Danielle Gibbs made a motion to nominate Chairman Covil to apply to serve on the 2020 NCSBA Legislative Committee with the option of him declining the nomination and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PC4K Update (Information) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene expressed his gratitude for everyone coming out and supporting the PC4K event. A brief discussion was held regarding the success of the event and comments made by the participants. The total amount raised at PC4K was \$36,000.

Policy 4240 - Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety Second Reading (Action) - Dave Scherping

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding Policy 4240 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety for second reading. He stated that it was the same policy that was presented at the January meeting. Ms. Corley made a motion to approved Policy 4240 – *Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety* on second reading and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. Policy 4240 – *Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety* was approved on a vote of 6-0.

Leandro Update (Information) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Leandro lawsuit decision made by Judge David Lee. The document that was attached to the electronic agenda has a list of recommendations that the State Board has adopted. Superintendents from the Western Region met with Jan Webster at WRESA and came up with collective responses to fulfill the NCSBOE’s request for local input. Superintendent Greene stated that he feels strongly regarding the merit of the responses. Mr. Greene indicated the real question is if a judge can force the legislature to allocate money for anything. Attorney Feagan stated that the Leandro case is 21 years old and this has been a continuing question. Ms. Allen asked about number three on the recommendations, a finance system that provides adequate, equitable, and predictable funding to school districts and, importantly, adequate resources to address the needs of all North Carolina schools and students, especially at-risk-students as defined by the *Leandro* decisions. Superintendent Greene stated that this item speaks to the question should districts receive the same funding for every child given the significant differences in cost for educating students with varying needs. For example, a child that requires a one-on-one, medical staff because of a feeding tube, or special assistive devices needs more funding than other students. Thus, a one-size-fits-all approach is not working and causes districts to expend local resources to meet student needs as required by law.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Fund Balance Transfer (Action) - Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene recommended to the Board that Finance Officer Lovelace be permitted to request funds from the County per their recently approved emergency fund balance infusion to absolve accrued foodservice debt negatively impacting the District’s fund balance. Mr. Greene wants to ask the County for \$250,000 and pay off the \$240,000 of accrued debt. This would make the fund balance total more accurate so it doesn’t look like there is more money in fund balance than there actually is. Mr. Ashworth asked what is going to keep the food service debt from building back up again. Mr. Greene said that there are two things. There is already a turnaround in revenue from cafeteria operations, and the foodservice enterprise has been given a window of time to improve their financial position with the understanding that if things are not trending positively in two years the district may have to go a different direction. Vice Chairperson Page called for a motion for the \$250,000 Fund Balance Transfer to dissolve the food service debt. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the fund balance transfer request and it was seconded by Ms. Corley. The motion was approved 6-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Substitute Hiring Process (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the current substitute hiring process. Currently there is a requirement for substitute teachers to have a four-year degree. The district would like to change the process to take away the four-year degree requirement and move to quarterly interviews for potential substitutes. Attorney Feagan stated that the Policy only stated that licensed teachers as substitutes will be given priority. The Board agreed that the change in process is a good idea.

Mental Health and Health Professionals Report (Information)

Superintendent Greene stated that the district had to submit a report to the legislature and DPI regarding the number of mental health and health professionals employed in the district. Mr. Greene passed out a copy of this report and reviewed the report with the Board.

Overnight Field Trip Polk County Early College (Action)

The Polk County Early College Science Club has been offered a free three night stay at a condo at Carolina Beach. The trip would be March 12-March 15. This trip does not meet the six week time frame because the free lodging was just offered to them. Ms. Page asked who offered the condo to the club. Superintendent Greene isn't exactly sure who offered the condo but he would check. Ms. Greene will complete the overnight field trip request for submission and Mr. Greene will get the information to the Board for approval.

Weather (Information)

Superintendent Greene expressed his appreciation to the Board for their patience over the last couple weeks with the snow and rain, decisions, and timing of calls. Many districts were caught off guard or had to make quick decisions due to the unpredictable weather recently occurring in the area.

V. INFORMATION – Ms. Page went over these items with the Board:

January Head Start Policy Council & Polk County NC Pre K Minutes Presented to the Board
January 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
March Board Meeting: March 16, 2020
April Board Meeting: April 20, 2020

BOARD TRAINING

February 18, 2020 - Political Speech and Campaigning on Campus - Webinar
February 20, 2020 - Board Officers Academy - NCSBA Assembly Hall
February 21, 2020 - Equity Event - NCSBA Assembly Hall
March 19, 2020 - Spring Law Conference - NCSBA Assembly Hall
March 24, 2020 - Boundary Invasions and Sexual Grooming - Webinar

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:46 PM Ms. Page entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and student matters. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion carried 6-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Ms. Page called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:20 pm, Ms. Allen made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

Ms. Page called the Board's attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Ms. Page asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

INFORMATION:

Linda Sutton	Science Teacher	PCEC	Retiring
Mary Meyland	SUMMIT Coordinator	Central Office	Resigned
Marchetta Spurlin	Food Service Aide	Tryon	Resigned
Scott Harding	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA
Amy Crowder	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Karen Killough	SUMMIT Coordinator	Central Office	Tryon	Converse College		
Hali Barnard	Substitute Teacher	PCMS	Rutherfordton	Appalachian		
Leslie Meeks	Transfer from Temporary to Permanent Full-Time Custodian/Bus Driver	Tryon	Tryon			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Ms. Page declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO