

Board of Education Meeting
March 16, 2020
5:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room

Members Present: Chairman Covil, Vice-Chairperson Page, Mr. Ashworth, Ms. Allen, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Gibbs, and Ms. Corley (via phone)

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ronette Dill, Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace and Attorney Phillip Feagan

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Covil called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the February 10, 2020 Board Minutes

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the February 10, 2020 Board minutes. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

2019-2020 Summer School - Ronette Dill (Action)

Ms. Dill presented to the Board regarding the attached summer school plan for remediation and the second administration of testing. Chairman Covil called for questions from the Board and there were none. He then called for a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Summer School plan. Ms. Jackson made a motion to adopt the 2019-2020 Summer School plan and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The plan was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Summer Testing Plan - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping addressed the Board regarding the plan for 2019-2020 summer testing that is included in the Summer School plan and requested approval of the plan. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the 2019-2020 Summer Testing Plan and it was seconded by Ms. Page. Chairman Covil called for questions and there was none. The motion was approved 7-0.

2018-2019 Head Start Annual Report - Kathy Harding (Information)

Ms. Harding presented the 2018-2019 Head Start Annual Report to the Board. The report was attached to the electronic agenda for the Board to review prior to the meeting. Ms. Harding stated that the one portion that needed explanation was access to dental services. By the end of the year only 83% of children had accessible dental care and 81% had preventative dental care. Head Start would like that figure to be 95%. There was a decrease in percentage largely due to transition with the local dental center during the past year. Mrs. Harding is hopeful the numbers will increase going forward.

Head Start Year 5 Continuation Grant and COLA Application - Kathy Harding (Action)

Chairman Covil gave the floor to Kathy Harding, Preschool Director. Ms. Harding reviewed the documents attached to the Board Agenda including the Head Start proposed budget, the Self-Assessment and Improvement Plan, the Training and Assistance Plan and the program goals. The grant budget total will be \$608,737 which includes \$12,827 of restricted money for technical assistance and training of staff. There is a \$155,396 non-federal match from the NC Pre-K program. Ms. Harding and Mr. Greene also spoke to the Board regarding Pre K Bus routes and how all children are being served as needed. Mr. Covil called for questions or comments. Mr.

Covil entertained a motion for the approval of year five of the continuation grant application. Mr. Ashworth made a motion and Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The continuation grant application was approved 7-0.

Pre K Construction Update - Kathy Harding (Information)

The ongoing Head Start capital funding request for \$1.5 million to build onto the annex at Tryon Elementary is still being considered. Ms. Harding received a letter indicating preliminary work had been completed and the District is at the next step. Chairman Covil asked Superintendent Greene to explain what will happen if this process is approved. Mr. Greene explained to the Board that in the facilities plan there has been discussion about placing an addition connected to the annex building at Tryon Elementary making an "L" shaped building of roughly twice the current size. This would allow the District to move the Forbes Center classrooms up to the Tryon Elementary campus. A local match of approximately \$500,000 would have to be provided as a stipulation of accepting the capital grant. The Forbes Foundation indicated being open to discussions with WCCA leadership about moving into the current Forbes location if this move takes place and frees up the current facility.

Overnight Field Trip - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding approving the National Land Judging overnight field trip. Superintendent Greene recommends the National Land Judging Field Trip be tabled until the April Board meeting. The Board agreed.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

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

2020-2021 Lottery Application for QZAB Payment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Ms. Lovelace stated that this should be the last payment on this QZAB loan. There will be a small amount still from the Early College and maybe a small amount on the QZAB from interest. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the QZAB payment and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion passed 7-0.

2019-2020 School Calendar Updates - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping went over the calendars that were attached to the electronic agenda. These calendars were approved over the phone and they now need to be approved at a formal meeting. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The three calendars were approved 7-0.

2020-2021 School Calendar Options - Dave Scherping (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the two options for the Polk County Schools 2020-2021 academic year calendar. A fair number of the Calendar Committee indicated a preference for Option 1 but the majority wanted Option 2. Option 1 has no workdays built in the calendar year as they are placed at the beginning and end of the year. Option 2 has more workdays during the year to help with professional development needs and possible weather issues. Local Commissioners have requested the District consider not being in session on Election Day since several school buildings are used as polling sites. Mr. Ashworth stated that he has had teachers speak to him personally wanting more workdays during the year than fewer. The down side of Option 2 is the last day of school is after FFA Camp and other potential events that students usually attend. The District normally tries to have school end on a Friday, but that is not a requirement. Ms. Jackson asked if it was possible to have seniors graduate prior to the last day of school so that graduation wouldn't be

hindered by camp or activity conflicts. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approved Option 2 as the 2020-2021 academic calendar for Polk County Schools and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. Option 2 was approved 7-0.

PCHS HVAC Project - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping updated the Board on the PCHS HVAC project. Building Clarity took the information they gathered and has given the District basically two options. Option one is to run cold water throughout the building and keep a consistent system throughout the entire building in which everything would work in the same fashion. Option two, which is a little less expensive, is to do everything up to the cafeteria with the cold water piping and then address the gym area a different way with more traditional heat pump systems. The District gave Building Clarity a preliminary go ahead to proceed with Option one. Superintendent Greene stated that the District wants a solution that is going to last a long time and that will not create more work for the maintenance staff in having to maintain several different types of systems. Mr. Scherping communicated that there is significant concern regarding tax revenue due to the current COVID19 situation. The District's current contract of \$24,000 was previously approved and will pay for the completion of design of the project. After that the district will own the plans for the HVAC upgrades. Maintenance has identified a concern regarding the current chiller at PCHS. They believe it may last through this summer and maybe into the fall, but if parts continue to fail there are no replacements available. Mr. Scherping asked the Board for approval to purchase a chiller that will function with the existing system and what it will be replaced with later, if the county is willing to provide funding. Mr. Covil asked for clarification that this would not be a loan and Mr. Scherping affirmed payment would come from existing county funds. Ms. Gibbs clarified that it would work with the new system as well. Mr. Covil asked who would be the company to do the installation of the chiller. Mr. Scherping stated that it would probably be MSS. Building Clarity has been very pleased with the pricing they have received from MSS. Superintendent Greene stated that the District is seeking approval for administration to partner with the county and giving the Superintendent permission to execute the purchase order contingent on the provision of county funds. Mr. Scherping told the Board that the price of the chiller would be between \$220,000 and \$280,000. Mr. Ashworth asked if this will be part of the overall loan from the county for the entire project. Mr. Greene stated that, hopefully, when the cost of the overall loan comes in the county will take off the cost of the chiller. Mr. Scherping stated that the County Commissioners have to put in the agreement that part of the funding will be used as a repayment for money already spent on the project. Ms. Allen made a motion for the Board to afford Superintendent Greene the authority to purchase the chiller contingent on the county providing funding and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

Student Transfer Requests - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Student Transfer Request. One request has been rescinded. Only the request dated 2/18/20 is being considered. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the one transfer request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Student Transfer Request was approved 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Spring Budget Workshop – Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Spring Budget Workshop. He explained to the Board that the school budget meetings had been completed and he had approximately 3/4 of the plan together when COVID-19 changed administrative operations significantly. Hopefully there will be more information to bring to the Board in April.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

COVID 19 Update - Aaron Greene (Information) – Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding information about school operations and the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Greene provided a handout with information on the areas of discussion. He went over a brief timeline of events. At the onset of school closings

the NC State Board of Education and NC Department of Public Instruction gave clear guidance on the priorities for school districts. The first directive is to make sure that students are fed. The second is to establish child care for medical, essential, and emergency workers. Directive three is the provision of instructional services as the district is able. The district will be focusing on one directive at a time. Superintendent Greene stated that there is still a significant amount of uncertainty. District administration is currently assessing employee status via an online survey linked to the District's internal website. Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding work being done on the nutrition directive. March 18 will be the first day of food distribution with children receiving lunch for the current day and breakfast for the following day. Every child in Polk County from 0-18 years old is eligible to receive meals. Thermal Belt Outreach is planning to provide extra Feed-a-Kid bags for the usual Friday take home distribution. Kathy Harding and Linley Foster will be working to establish an emergency Child Care center for essential staff in Polk County. Tryon Elementary will be the site for this function. At some point, teachers will be calling families to conduct wellness checks and make sure everyone is okay. If a student or family is in need the District can help find resources for them. Before any cleaning starts in facilities administration feels it will be good to have the buildings empty for several days. Superintendent Greene then covered the challenges of remote instruction. He stated that approximately 60% of students have poor or no internet. The District wants to have intentional, deliberate, and well-designed instructional activities. Ms. Dill spoke to the Board and provided information that she had put online for students. It includes things from websites and general activities that students can access and participate in without internet. Mr. Covil asked how information was being disseminated. Mr. Scherping spoke to the board about calls, messages, and postings that are available for students. All student and family messaging and media communications will be coming through Superintendent Greene. There may also be an outside chance schools may have to be used as medical shelters or clinics. Superintendent Greene requested permission from the Board to allow him flexibility in moving days on the current year calendar. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to allow Superintendent Greene to make March 16 - March 20 required annual leave days and if there need to be other changes he will contact the members of the Board by phone for approval. Ms. Page made the motion and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. It was approved 7-0. Mr. Covil asked a question about if a child goes out of NC for Spring Break will they have to wait two weeks before returning to school. Mr. Greene stated that the District is abiding by state guidelines.

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that all field trips have been canceled. He did approve those students that were trying to finish up drivers education, with the approval of the parents, be allowed to finish.

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

February Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
February Pre-K 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
Super Saturday Parade (Honoring Mr. Tennant) March 21 @ 12:15 - Canceled
Optional Work Day 4/10/2020
Spring Break 4/13/20-4/17/20
April Board Meeting 4/20/20

BOARD TRAINING

Boundary Invasions and Sexual Grooming (Webinar) March 24
Understanding Basic School Budget Issues (Webinar) March 31
Tobacco Vaping, CBD, and Substance Abuse: NC Law and School Policies (Webinar) April 21

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Superintendent Greene spoke appreciation for Robbie Price attending the meeting.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:14 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. 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 7:32 pm, Danielle Gibbs made a motion to return to open session. Sherry Page seconded the motion and it 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. Danielle Gibbs made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Cindy Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

INFORMATION:

Debra Fowler	Teacher	Polk Central	Retiring
Martha Halford	Teacher	Polk Central	Retiring
Carson Forward	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Resigned
Tonya Carson	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Resigned
Kathryn Morris	Afterschool Group Leader	SVES	Resigned
Deanna Durham	Teacher	PCMS	
Linda Sage	Counselor	PCMS	
Caroline Proctor	Teacher	PCMS	

ACTION:

Personnel Agenda 3/16/2020						
Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Nancy Kimsey	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Boiling Springs, SC	Gardner-Webb University		24
Karina Kinney	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Zirconia	Texas A&M		Years
Whitney Yelton	Food Service Aide	PCMS	Columbus			2

Nancy Johnson	Unpaid Medical Leave	Tryon Elementary/Forbes	Pre K Teacher Assistant
Lisa Brown	Unpaid Medical Leave	Tryon Elementary/Forbes	Pre K Teacher Assistant

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO