

**Board of Education Meeting
May 11, 2020
6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting**

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

Members Absent: None

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

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Covil called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the April 20, 2020 Board Minutes

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the April 20, 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. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Updates - Ronette Dill and Dave Scherping (Information)

Remaining Instructional Days - Ronette Dill addressed the Board regarding remaining instructional days. Ms. Dill went over the attached brief included on the electronic agenda and provided more detail about instruction. She also specified that the links on the attached brief contains more specific information for the Board to review if they wish.

Grading for Students - Ronette Dill and Dave Scherping updated the Board on grading for students. Ms. Dill went over the attached brief included on the electronic agenda regarding grading for K-8 students and Mr. Scherping addressed grading for grades 9 and up. Ms. Dill and Mr. Scherping both went over the information on the attached brief. They also specified that the links on the attached brief contain more specific information for the Board to review if they wish. Superintendent Greene stated how confusing the information is and that teachers and principals are speaking with high school students on an individual basis to explain the rules and choices to students. Mr. Greene agreed with Ms. Dill that students will be held harmless and will not be negatively impacted by the circumstances. Mr. Covil asked if the course is a yearlong course will the entire course have to be started over. Mr. Scherping stated that the only students this would impact would be middle school students and when they get to the high school the course will only be one semester. Ms. Allen asked what would happen with the AP courses. Mr. Greene stated that AP classes continued and they will take a modified AP exam.

Teacher Evaluations - Ronette Dill spoke to the Board regarding teacher evaluations. Ms. Dill went over the attached brief included on the electronic agenda and spoke gave the Board more detail about teacher evaluation. Teachers will not be evaluated during remote instruction, and any teachers with incomplete cycles will not receive a summative evaluation this year. Teachers are being held harmless like students.

Head Start Summer Program - Kathy Harding (Action)

Kathy Harding presented the proposed head start summer program to the Board. This program is still in the planning stages and is not guaranteed to happen this summer. The district would like to serve 63 of the eligible Head Start children. The program is designed to support the child and family and get them ready for Kindergarten. The proposed budget is \$109,560. Mr. Greene stated that if the District could get the money and the state allows the school to open back up this would be a great opportunity for students. Attorney Feagan asked when they anticipated getting safety guidelines. Ms. Harding stated that they didn't know when that information would be available. They are getting hints occasionally and are ordering supplies once they hear information. Ms. Corley made the motion to approve the Head Start Summer Program and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The motion passed on a vote of 7-0.

2020-2021 Virtual Instruction - Dave Scherping (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board and stated that Polk County Schools has always believed face-to-face live instruction is vital to the overall success of the District's students. However, this particular situation has amplified the difficulty in serving students when live instruction is not possible. The idea of a virtual or online school has been discussed in the past to try to retrieve some of the market share that the district has lost. Mr. Greene stated there may be parents that do not want to send their children back to school in the fall. Dave Scherping expanded the discussion with the Board regarding 2020-2021 Virtual Instruction. Mr. Scherping went over the brief that was attached to the agenda. Ms. Corley stated that this is something that the District will almost have to do but said there needs to be a hook that explains why in-school instruction is better. Mr. Covil asked where the money will come from to pay the teachers for the virtual instruction. Mr. Greene stated that the money would have to come from instructional funds. Mr. Feagan asked about specific rules or requirements from DPI. He added if this is something that the district will not be able to offer it doesn't need to be promoted. Mr. Scherping stated that there are a lot of questions and there is some language in the calendar law that must be clarified in order to proceed. Mr. Greene stated that the District will look at other districts for examples of successful programs. Ms. Corley asked if there would be option of multi-grade classes, and the response was unknown at the time. Mr. Covil stated that he believed this would be good to consider. All Board members agreed to allow the district to further research the option of providing 2020-2021 virtual instruction.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment #6- Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed budget amendment 6 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. Allen seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The motion was approved 7-0.

Food Service Rollover Bids – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Food Service Rollover Bids that were attached to the electronic agenda. Due to the current situation the state is recommending districts "rollover" all bids. Mr. Greene read out each bid to the Board and noted that all terms and conditions will remain the same as they were last year. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve all rollover bids attached and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The motion was approved 7-0.

2019-2020 Calendar Update - Dave Scherping (Action)

Dave Scherping went over the 2019-2020 School Calendars. With the information that had been provided, Mr. Scherping shared with the Board that remote learning would continue through the end of the school year for all schools. Polk County Early College is scheduled to finish on May 15. Superintendent Greene asked for questions and there were none. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve all calendars and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

2020-2021 Calendar Update – Dave Scherping (Information)

Dave Scherping went over the documents that were attached to the electronic agenda. Currently guidelines say that the earliest day schools can begin is August 17 and the last day for attendance will be June 11. The guidelines also state there can be no remote learning days prior to August 24. There will be five additional “in-person” instructional days so students will now be in school 185 days in Polk County. There is also an expectation that five remote learning days be scheduled in the calendar. Teacher work calendars have not been modified and they will only get paid for 215 days. If there are more days required to be with students that means there are less work days. In the past there has been 180 days with students and 35 days without students. This calendar has 185 days with students and 30 days without students. The Polk County Early College will start a little earlier, on August 6th, they will have the extra five days as well. Their additional five days will be added to the end of the year. There will be a new calendar brought to the Board in June with any updates.

Superintendents COVID-19 Update – Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding operations during COVID-19. He addressed Personnel & Pay - who is working and how, and that leave / pay continues through May 31 (end of year), bonuses for food prep & distribution and child care continue for May also, and indicated next year’s contract renewal will take place at the June meeting. He added comments about the uncertainty of next year’s budget, that he was revisiting budget conversations with Principals and Directors, and focusing capital projects on roofs, security, and larger repair items. Superintendent Greene also discussed the district’s efforts to monitor the health, safety, and wellbeing of students. He ended his update with a summary of efforts to honor the Class of 2020 Seniors, activities during educator appreciation month, and work that will have to take place during the summer months. Superintendent Greene thanked the Board for their support and flexibility and freedom to operate during COVID19.

Employee Appreciation Resolution – Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board the Employee Appreciation Resolution for adoption. Mr. Greene read the resolution aloud to the Board. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The Employee Appreciation Resolution was approved on a vote of 7-0. Ms. Corley stated that she would like to have the resolution published for the public to see. Mr. Greene stated that he would have it published in the paper and online.

Establish Dates for Summer Board Meetings – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene recommended to the Board that the June Board meeting be moved to June 15. Ms. Allen made a motion to change the June Board meeting to June 15 and Ms. Page seconded the motion. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. The motion passed on a vote of 7-0. Ms. Corley asked if there would be two meetings in June. Mr. Greene stated that the District is waiting on an answer from auditors regarding financial reporting and deadlines and that he would like to wait and have a meeting at the end of July since there may be additional decisions that will need to be made.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There will be a CEP conversation at the June Board meeting.

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

April Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

BOARD TRAINING

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke and wanted to express his gratitude for the leadership and support of the Board to everyone during this time.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:10 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a student matter. Ms. Page made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone. 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 8:22 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. All members of the Board stated their vote individually over the phone and it carried 7-0.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO