

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**August 10, 2020**  
**6:30 PM, Polk County High School Auditorium**

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

**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.

**Approval of the July 27 Board Minutes**

Ms. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the July 27, 2020 Board minutes. He asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Federal Program Plan Submission (Title I, II, & IV) - Ronette Dill (Action)**

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the Federal Program Plan Submission request. She went over the document that was attached to the electronic agenda. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the Federal Program Plan Submission. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve the Federal Program Plan Submission and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Federal Program Plan Submission was approved 7-0.

**Remote Learning Contingency Plans (IEP 7 504) - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding Remote Learning Contingency Plans. These plans are addendums to Individualized Education Plans and 504 Plans. There has been no flexibility given for service the exceptional children within the district. The state has advised the district to develop addendums for each IEP and 504 plan, if applicable, so that if the district goes remote it will document what services the district will be provided for students. Each family will meet with student case managers and the contingency plans will be discussed with them.

**School Reopening Plans: Working Drafts - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the School Reopening Plans. He explained to the Board that each school has their own individual plan that is in draft form and could still possibly change. All of the individual school plans are linked to the agenda for review. Superintendent Greene stated that the start date is currently August 24, 2020. Currently, under the Plan B hybrid, Pre-K through fifth grade will go in person daily, and sixth grade through twelfth grade will be alternating days each week. The district believes a better approach for educational and social emotional purposes is to have as little continuous time away from school as possible. Group A will go Monday and Thursday and Group B will come on Tuesday and Friday. Wednesdays will be a day for at risk tutoring and staff will be able to check on remote students. There will be a lot of meeting going on within the next couple of weeks for planning purposes and details. Superintendent Greene shared the local COVID numbers from the Health Department. Superintendent Greene stated that the School Reopening plans have consistent general areas across all plans. He spoke

briefly regarding these areas. Superintendent Greene stated that face coverings will be required and a very important part of reopening. Sports and extracurricular activities are currently canceled. Chorus and band have been limited to music appreciation for the present time. Facility use and rental by outside parties are currently suspended and will not be allowed for the immediate future. There will also be no outside programming and visitors will be limited. Superintendent Greene emphasized to the Board that at any time the district may have to close a specific classroom, school, or the entire district. There is still no set state budget for the upcoming school year. The District is proceeding with the same allocations as last year. Superintendent Greene asked for questions.

Ms. Allen requested for the Superintendent to give more detail regarding the Second Step Program for the social emotional learning that is listed in the Elementary Schools Plans. Ms. Dill explained that the Second Step Program based on CASELs, social and Emotional Framework. The program is for K-eighth grade. Ms. Dill went into more detail regarding the program. Ms. Bell asked what the numbers would have to reach before the district goes remote. Superintendent Greene stated that there is not one number that is considered. There are several pieces of information that are included in this decision. Ms. Bell asked what the logic behind have Group A going Monday/Thursday and Group B going Tuesday Friday? Superintendent Greene answered that the district was to have as little continuous time away from school as possible. Ms. Gibbs asked about how a certain COVID situation would be handled. Mr. Greene answered that the District would follow the proper protocol that is in place. Ms. Bell asked if the District would be using the larger areas within a school (gymnasium) for classrooms and be able to have a larger number of students within the classroom and still be able to social distance. Superintendent Greene answered that the district is planning on utilizing all areas to make sure distancing can be achieved. Ms. Gibbs asked about sanitizing between class changes at Polk County High School. Mr. Greene stated that staff will be sanitizing during class change to make sure surfaces are cleaned between groups. There will be additional supervision by administration while staff are cleaning and sanitizing. Ms. Gibbs asked how the teacher substitute situation. If a staff member and spouse are quarantined or a child tests positive and the parents have to stay home with the child, does the District have enough substitutes to handle the large amount. Mr. Greene said that he is very encouraged by the amount of substitutes that are willing to step into classrooms during this time. He also stated that this is one of the biggest challenges of the District at the moment. Ms. Bell asked about staff that is anxious about returning. She asked if there were teacher level positions to where they could work from home. Superintendent Greene stated that the District is currently talking to employees and the district is trying to work with possible accommodations. There will be some positions that the district will not be able to accommodate. Mr. Covil asked how the District will determine how long an employee will be out. Mr. Greene stated that the Health Department will give the district that information. Mr. Covil asked if the employee would be tested. Ms. Harding explained the protocol that she had at the current time.

The Public Input section of the agenda was moved to this this time to accommodate questions about reopening. The public asked questions of the Board and the Board answered. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via video and audio recording. Ms. Jackson asked if a parent chooses remote and then changes their mind will they be allowed to come in-person. Superintendent Greene said that it would depend on several factors such as class size, the reason for the request, etc. Ms. Jackson asked how many out-of-state students were enrolled for this year. Superintendent Greene and Assistant Superintendent Scherping both agreed that the only out-of-state students enrolled are children of employees, and it is likely under 10. Ms. Bell requested that Mr. Greene explain the financial risk for the District if families choose to un-enroll with Polk County Schools. If the Average Daily Membership (ADM) increases by 2% or more the state will adjust funding in the positive. If the ADM decreases by 2% or more the state will adjust funding in the negative. Ms. Bell asked if Mr. Greene could give an estimate of how much the district would lose. Mr. Greene stated an estimate amount would be about \$8,000 a student. Attorney Feagan advises the Board to adopt the draft version of the individual plans as presented with the understanding that changes can occur. Chairman Covil called for a motion to adopt the draft version of the individual plans as presented, with the understanding that changes can occur and the Board will be notified of any changes. Mr. Ashworth made a motion and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The draft reopening plans passed on a vote of 7-0.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

### **QZAB Lottery Payment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)**

Ms. Lovelace spoke to the Board regarding the QZAB Lottery Payment for the past Tryon Renovations. This allows the County to draw the money down for payment. Superintendent Greene stated that this should be the last payment on this loan. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the QZAB loan payment. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the QZAB loan payment and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The QZAB loan payment was approved 7-0.

### **Out of District Tuition - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Debbie Lovelace stated that the Out of District tuition is the same as last year, \$2,300 per student. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the Out of District Tuition. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve the tuition and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. The Out of District Tuition was approved 7-0.

### **Title IX Policy Changes - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the Title IX changes. Mr. Scherping stated that the District has always had one policy regarding all types of discrimination. With the new definition of Title IX, Sexual Discrimination, and the procedures that are dictated in the law, the North Carolina School Board Association is recommending the District to Break the Policy into two groups; a Title IX Discrimination Policy and all other discrimination in another policy. Mr. Scherping went over briefly each policy and the changes that needed to take place. Policies 1710/4021/7230 and 7120/4015/7225 are to be rescinded. Policies 1710/4020/7230, 1720/4030/7235, 1725/4035/7236, 1725/4035/7236-R, 1726/4036/7237, 4329/7311, and 7232 are to be added. Policies 1730/4022/7231, 4040/7310, 4331, and 4340 are to be updated. These policies are attached to the electronic agenda for review. Superintendent Greene asked Assistant Superintendent Scherping for clarification about the necessity of adopting these changes quickly to be in compliance with new laws. Mr. Scherping affirmed and stated that the policies needed to be in place by August 14. Therefore, the District recommends the Board suspend second reading on these policies and immediately adopt them as presented to be in place by August 14. Attorney Feagan stated that Assistant Superintendent Scherping had explained everything and reiterated the fact that these policies need to take effect on August 14. He went on to advise if the Board would suspend second reading on these policies and immediately adopt these policies as presented so they would be in place August 14. Chairman Covil asked if there needed to be one or two motions to approve these Policies. Attorney Feagan stated that there would only need to be one motion. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to adopt, change, or rescind policies on one reading foregoing the requirement of a second reading as listed in the electronic board agenda. Ms. Jackson the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion to adopt, change, or rescind policies on one reading foregoing the requirement of a second reading as listed in the electronic board agenda - Policies 1710/4021/7230 and 7120/4015/7225 are to be rescinded; Policies 1710/4020/7230, 1720/4030/7235, 1725/4035/7236, 1725/4035/7236-R, 1726/4036/7237, 4329/7311, and 7232 are to be added; and Policies 1730/4022/7231, 4040/7310, 4331, and 4340 are to be updated - was approved 7-0.

### **COVID19 Policy Flexibility - Attendance (4400), Graduation (3460), Athletic Participation (3620) - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene asked the Board for COVID 19 Policy Flexibility for Attendance Policy (4400), Graduation Policy (3460), and the Athletic Participation Policy (3620). Mr. Greene asked for flexibility for the Attendance Policy (4400) in regards to how truancy will be addressed, for the Graduation Policy (3460) as long as the student meets all NC requirements for graduation, and for the Athletic Participation Policy (3620) stating as long as the student is enrolled in Polk County Schools with no other limitations the student would be allowed to participate. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve the policy flexibility. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve COVID 19 policy flexibility

for Policies 4400, 3460, and 3620 and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. COVID 19 flexibility for Policies 4400, 3460, and 3620 was approved 7-0.

### **Polk Schools 2020-2021 Academic Calendar - Dave Schepring (Action)**

Assistant Superintendent Scherping went over the calendars that were attached to the electronic agenda. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve the Polk Schools 2020-2021 Academic Calendar as presented. Ms. Bell made a motion to approve the calendars as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The Polk Schools 2020-2021 Academic Calendar was approved 7-0.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the afterschool program. As the District begins the afterschool grant with 21<sup>st</sup> Century funding, the district will be very deliberate and start slowly to make sure that there is enough staff and appropriate protocols in place to ensure student and staff safety.

### **STUDENT TRANSFER REQUEST**

The Board agreed to discuss these request in closed session.

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

Monthly Financial Report

Credit Card Report

Head Start Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

### **BOARD TRAINING**

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

Core Training: Leadership - Online Course - Available through August 20, 2020

### **VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

Public input is listed under the Reopening Plan section of the minutes. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via recording.

### **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

#### **Closed Session**

At 8:00 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and student transfer requests. 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 9:20 pm, Ms. Bell 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. Gibbs made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

There was discussion regarding the student transfer request and a student request for entrance. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the student transfer request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The student transfer request was approved 7-0. Ms. Allen made a motion not to approve a second student request for entry and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. The motion not to approve the student requests for entry was passed 7-0.

The Board had a discussion regarding the Superintendent's contract.

### **Information:**

Susan McRostie	Art Teacher	Saluda	Resigned
Rebecca Rhodes	EC Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Resigned
Elisa Flynn	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Tracy Gray	Clerical	PCHS	FMLA*
Rhonda Rimer	Clerical	Central Office	FMLA*
Keith Rimer	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
DeWayne Sherman	Custodian	Sunny View	FMLA*
Tracy Gray	Clerical	PCHS	FMLA*
Elisa Flynn	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*

### **Action:**

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Kerri Troutman	3rd Grade Teacher	Tryon	Gastonia	Belmont Abbey	Elementary Education K-6	10
Mary Clare Dunaway	School Counselor	Tryon	Hendersonville	Western Carolina	School Counselor	Internship
Toni Haley	EC Compliance Coordinator	Central Office	Fletcher	Gardner-Webb	EC Areas	5
Johnna Searcy	Health Sciences Teacher	PCHS	Columbus	UNC Charlotte		
Jeff Cantrell	Custodian	PCMS	Mill Spring	Gardner-Webb		
Edward McEntyre	Custodian	PCEC	Forest City			
Wendy Berryhill	Transfer from TA to Teacher	Saluda	Mars Hill	Zirconia	Elementary Education K-6	Years
Darrell Elliott	Custodian	Tryon		Tryon		Years

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

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Mr. Covil, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
AG/TO