

**Board of Education Meeting
October 14, 2019
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ronette Dill, Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping 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 September 9, 2019 Board Minutes

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the September 9, 2019 Board minutes. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Swearing in of New Board Member: Danielle Gibbs

The Clerk of Court administered the oath of office to Danielle Gibbs. She took the oath of office and affirmed to fulfill the constitutional and statutory obligations contained in the oath of office.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Polk County Annual Report for Students with Disabilities - Mike Melton - Exceptional Children Director (Information)

Chairman Covil recognized Exceptional Children Director Mike Melton, who went over Polk County's Annual Report for Students with Disabilities (available to the public online). Mr. Melton pointed out areas in which Polk County met and did not meet the State required targets. Mr. Melton discussed all of the indicators, specifying whether or not the district had met the target. He also explained why the district did not meet a particular indicator and areas in which the district had made growth.

School Improvement Plans (Action)

All school improvement plans were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Each school principal and a selected Improvement Team representative briefly presented the goals and highlights of their school improvement plans. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments after each presentation. School Improvement Plans will be voted on after closed session once the safe school plans are discussed.

Overnight Field Trip Request - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene briefly went over the information provided regarding the basketball trip proposal and the FFA Land Judging field trip requests. There was an error on the basketball trip proposal and a corrected proposal was distributed to the Board. He also presented an FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event proposal for approval. The Board agreed to vote on all three trips together. Ms. Gibbs asked about the date on the title page of the Veterinary Science Event being August 15, 2018. It was determined that the date was left on the page in error and the date was removed. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the National FFA

Trip, the basketball trip, and the FFA Vet Science Career Event as corrected. Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0. Ms. Jackson wanted to stress that she believes if the field trip requests are not correct in the future they need to start being denied until corrected. Superintendent Greene took note of that comment and will speak to the principal regarding the issue.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Safe Schools/Crisis Plans - Aaron Greene (Action)

Details of the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans are discussed in closed session.

Voting Delegates - Aaron Greene (Information)

Chairman Covil nominated Mr. Ashworth as a voting delegate and Ms. Jackson nominated Chairman Covil as a voting delegate. Both nominees accepted the nomination. Superintendent Greene called for a motion to approve the two delegates. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve Mr. Ashworth and Chairman Covil as the voting delegates for the 2019 NCSBA Annual Conference. Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Covil and Mike Ashworth were approved 7-0, as the designated NCSBA voting delegates for the Polk County School District for the 2019 NCSBA Annual Conference.

District 8 NCSBA Meeting - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene conveyed his appreciation to the Board members that went to the District 8 meeting. The Board received a Silver Bell award for cumulative training hours. Ms. Corley stated that her workshop on STEM schools was very interesting and that it would be a great place for some schools to visit to get other information.

Meeting Date for November - Aaron Greene (Information)

The Board discussed moving the date of the November meeting due to the day falling on Veterans Day. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to move the November Board meeting to November 12 and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0 to move the meeting to Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:30.

Policy Updates - Dave Scherping (Action)

1. 4202/5029/7272-Service Animals in Schools (1st Reading)

Superintendent Greene began discussion of the Service Animal Policy and asked if this was first or second reading of the policy. Mr. Scherping stated that due to the substantive changes he believed it needed to be first reading. Attorney Feagan stated that the policy closely tracks what is in the Code of Federal Regulations which is what governs the presence and use of service animals. Attorney Feagan stated that there is an also state statute regarding service animals in public place that is more restrictive and provides for more proof of training and certifications that cannot be asked in the federal regulations. Attorney Feagan did recommend one change in the policy. In section B part 2A, change the word "minimum" to "minimal" and add "as school resources may allow" to the end of that sentence. Superintendent Greene stated that he wanted to make it clear that the form that is included with the policy is encouraged but not required. Superintendent Greene stated that he spoke with a parent about the exemption that reads "The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it". Superintendent Greene explained to the parent the Board's grievance policy in the case that this happens in an arbitrary or capricious way. Ms. Scruggs, parent of a child with a potential service dog, stated that she agrees with the other parent that there needs to be something in place in case of misjudgment or negative bias towards the service animal. Mr. Greene reiterated if that were to happen the parent would be informed of the grievance policy and procedures. He also stated, with agreement from Attorney Feagan that if a service animal is to be excluded there would have to be very clear evidence in that case. Attorney Feagan stated that the

exclusions that are in the policy are exactly from the Federal Code of Regulations. Attorney Feagan repeated the list of exclusions from the policy. Chairman Covil asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board and there were none. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve 4202/5029/7272-Service Animals in Schools on first reading and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth and Ms. Page. Policy 4202/5029/7272-Service Animals in Schools was approved on first reading on a vote of 7-0.

Consolidated Monitoring Visit - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board about the upcoming Consolidated Monitoring Visit. Ms. Dill went over in detail the information included in the electronic agenda including the schedule of events. There is a change in the schedule of events. The Central office and Principals are switching time slots on the schedule to facilitate the afternoon release of students.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board about rescheduling the Policy Committee meeting. The committee decided to meet on November 5 at 6:00.

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board about the HVAC Renovation Project Design Build Delivery Method. Mr. Scherping handed out some information to the Board that explained the Delivery Method timeline for the project, the Board of Education criteria, and the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. He went over and explained each of the handouts with the Board. Attorney Feagan asked if the criteria would be presented at the next meeting for Board approval. Mr. Scherping stated that it would be. Attorney Feagan asked if when the design is approved and the design contract is signed will there be a deposit due. Mr. Scherping stated that there will be a cost involved at that time depending on the partner and the financing options. Mr. Feagan asked when the local government commission reviews the contract are they just looking at the construction financing part of it. Mr. Scherping stated that they will look at the financing and also does the make since for the District in general. Superintendent Greene stated that the Local Government Commission will want to know that the District has sought advice from a DPI engineer like the current contact Mr. Perry, and that the engineer supports the project. Attorney Feagan asked how this is competitive in regards to the cost of the design, because the district hopes to have more than one proposal. Mr. Scherping agreed. Mr. Covil asked if this process is the less expensive option. Mr. Scherping answered that it was possibly less expensive but would be the shorter process than other options. Ms. Corley asked if we are able to use the data that the other companies have gathered already. Mr. Scherping stated that the district is hoping that one of those companies will bid on the project. Mr. Covil asked if once the fee is paid the district gets the data. Mr. Scherping agreed. Mr. Covil asked when the committee would meet. It was determined that the Facilities Committee needed another member. It was agreed that Ms. Gibbs would take the vacant spot on the Facilities Committee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding a PCHS Carpentry Sidewalk proposal from Mr. Rimer and the Carpentry class. Mr. Greene handed out a drawing produced by the Carpentry class and the proposal. This proposal doesn't require Board approval, but Mr. Greene wanted to Board to see how involved the class and students are. The Board agreed that this was a great project and to proceed.

Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Proposal – Superintendent Greene brought a proposal to the Board from Maria Mason-Freeman, the OCS Instructor at PCHS. Ms. Mason-Freeman owns a bed and breakfast/wedding venue and would like use this business as an opportunity for her OCS students. There was discussion among the Board as to if this process would be a conflict of interest or not. The Board agreed to let Mr. Greene and Attorney Feagan look at and discuss this proposal and bring it back to the Board at a future meeting.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Personnel Committee about a meeting regarding a teacher supplements. Mr. Greene will email the committee members with a date for the meeting.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board about the District's bus transportation. Ridership has decreased from about 1000 riders to about 700 riders. The state is recommending that the District park six buses. The District will likely recommend parking four buses. This would create the presence of high school students on the same bus as elementary students. Ms. Jackson asked what the ratio would be of high school students to elementary school students. This would be based on the routes and is currently unknown. Mr. Covil asked how this would affect personnel. Mr. Green, Lambert, Debbie, and Rachael will be meeting and discussing this further and Mr. Greene will get the information to the Board for review. Mr. Covil also asked how many buses the district had running currently, and the answer of about 24 buses on a daily basis was given. Ms. Page asked if it would be efficient to use smaller buses. Mr. Greene said that fuel and other costs of the bus is not that much different for smaller buses.

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

September Head Start Policy Council Minutes
Pre-K Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Year to Date Credit Card Report

BOARD TRAINING

October 16-18, 2019, 2019 Fall Law Conference - Asheville - Attorney Feagan to attend
November 17, 2019, NCSBA Core Training – Greensboro – Ms. Gibbs to attend
November 18-20, 2019, NCSBA Annual Conference – Greensboro – Ms. Gibbs to attend

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:55 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, a student matter, and safe schools/crisis plans. Ms. Page 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 9:52 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. 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. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans that require Board approval and confirmed that details regarding the safe schools and crisis plans for the district and schools had

been detailed and discussed in closed session. The Chairman asked the Board's pleasure regarding a motion. Ms. Corley made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans and Ms. Page seconded. It was approved 7-0.

There was discussion among the Board regarding a Student Matter.

INFORMATION:

Name		School	
Hannah Rimer	Add PEAK Assistant Director to duties	Tryon	
Kayla Edwards	School Nurse	Polk Central / Sunny View	Resigned
Sandra Thiede	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Resigned
Myra Bowyer	Food Service Aide	PCMS	Resigned
Brandon Moore	Teacher Assistant	Tryon/Polk Central	FMLA
Caroline Lee	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA/Parental Leave
Jennifer Allbrook	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Stacy Evans	Teacher	Tryon	Workers Comp
Jennifer Painter	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Workers Comp
Jacob Gibson	Groundskeeper	Maintenance	Resigned

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Elizabeth Taylor	Part-Time Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Saluda			
Rachel Childers	PEAK Club Leader	All Schools	Columbus			4
Courtney Smith	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	NC State University		
Leon LaFay	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda	Saluda			
Barbara Hunt	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Penn State	English 9-12	6
Deanna Bancroft	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Rider University	Elementary	26
Termaine Jackson	Substitute Custodian Substitute Food Service	All Schools	Tryon			
Wanda Reid	Food Service Aide	Polk Central		Mill Spring		

Leslie Meeks	Temporary Custodian/Bus Driver	Tryon		Tryon		9
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VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO