

**Board of Education Meeting
December 9, 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, 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.

Sign Language Club

The Sign Language Club from the Polk Central Afterschool program and their instructor, Anita Bowyer, performed the “Pledge of Allegiance” and “Thank God for Kids” in sign language. Superintendent Greene thanked the group for performing and explained that the Sign Language Club is done with SUMMIT funding generously donated by the Polk County Community Foundation. The students and instructor met in the hallway for a group photo.

Recognition of the 2019 Christmas Card Artists

Chairman Covil recognized the five system-wide student Christmas card artists whose artwork was chosen for the 2019 Polk County Schools’ Christmas cards. They included: Katelyn Hudson, Will Campbell, Stella Tallon, Mari Towne, and Lily Bishop. Mr. Covil presented each artist with a Christmas ornament gift and a box of their own Christmas cards. Mr. Thomas spoke to the Board regarding the Christmas card program and said that this was the 20th year doing this activity. After Chairman Covil presented these items to the students, Ms. Dill took a group picture of them. Superintendent Greene thanked the group and their families for attending the meeting and for the contribution of their artwork.

Water Stewardship

Elisa Flynn and Stephanie Luedi instructed the Water Stewardship AIG summer seminar. Maggie McCammon, Mia Freeman, and Riley Ballentine spoke to the Board about things they learned during the seminar. They had visited the Pacolet River, Harmon Field, Green River, and the Davidson River during the seminar. They shared how great the experience was and how they are using things they learned in the seminar in their own lives. Superintendent Greene asked Ms. Luedi and Ms. Flynn if they had seen participation in this seminar grow over the years as it has a maximum of 10 students per session and the seminar last two weeks. Ms. Flynn stated that they are always at maximum capacity for this seminar. Superintendent Greene recognized Ms. Elisa Flynn as the NSTA District 8 Teacher of the year, also known as the Regional Science Teacher of the Year.

Transportation Staff

Superintendent Greene recognized the transportation department staff for the work that they do on a daily basis, especially all that is done behind the scenes to make sure our students are transported to and from school safely and effectively. Lambert Ridings, transportation director, introduced his staff; Dennis Owensby, Brian Rudi, Jamie Reeves, Dori Wallace,

and Terry Bishop. Mr. Greene read a statement explaining the duties of the transportation staff and shared his thanks on behalf of the Board and District.

Approval of the November 12, 2019 Board Minutes

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the November 12, 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.

Annual Election of Board Chairman & Vice-Chair (Action)

Chairman Covil turned the gavel over to Superintendent Greene for the annual election of the Board Chairman. Mr. Greene asked for nominations. Ms. Jackson made a recommendation to re-elect Mr. Covil as the Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried 6-0. Ms. Jackson made a motion to elect Ms. Page as the Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ashworth and Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Greene turned the meeting back over to Chairman Covil.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Fall 2019-2020 Testing Schedule - Dave Scherping (Information)

Chairman Covil turned the floor over to Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping. Mr. Scherping attached a Fall 2019-2020 Testing Schedule to the agenda for the Board to review. The last five days of a semester are when End of Course tests, NC Final Exams and the CTE Exams will be given. Polk County Early College will begin testing 12/16/19. For Polk County High School testing will be starting on 1/13/20.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ronette Dill, Curriculum and Instruction Director, made a presentation to the Board regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience, (ACES). She showed a five minute video as an overview of ACES. Ms. Dill stated that she first started working with ACES in 2015. Ms. Dill spoke about trainings, videos, and presentations that she and other teachers have completed. Research indicates that the impact of childhood trauma is lessened for children who have one stable, caring adult in their lives. Ms. Dill wrote a grant that allowed 18 teachers, counselors, nurses, and administrators attended two day resiliency training and eight of them attended a champions training. Ashley Bell and Ashley Thompson attended a week long "train the trainer" workshop. A recent Teacher Leadership program at NCCAT provided an opportunity for 24 teachers to watch a movie about "trauma-informed schools" and how they deal with students with ACES. Ms. Dill has also incorporated ACES into her beginning teacher program. Those with four or more ACES are four and a half more times likely to experience depression and 12 times more likely to commit suicide than those who have zero. Superintendent Greene reinforced everything that Ms. Dill discussed regarding ACES. Ms. Corley and the Board offered their appreciation for Ms. Dill for her passion on this topic. Mr. Greene stated that almost all local money is used for extra teaching positions, affording students a better opportunity to have more individual contact with their teachers and supportive adults.

Continued School Improvement Update - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the Continued School improvement. Administration is visiting each school in the next six weeks to speak with them regarding the Continued School Improvement. Mr. Greene stated that both the high school and the Early College have received their accreditation and this year's process is a continuous of that model.

FFA Tractor Driving Overnight Field Trip - Aaron Greene (Action)

Mr. Greene handed out a corrected Field Trip request and has recommended the approval of the request. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. It was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2018-2019 Audit Presentation - Mike Wike (Action)

The Chairman turned the floor over to Mr. Mike Wike, of Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, to present the 2018-2019 Audit findings for Polk County Schools. Mr. Wike began by letting the Board know that in regards to all aspects of the audit, Polk County Schools had received an unmodified report, meaning that there were no findings, and that the audit was a “clean”. Mr. Wike briefly went over the audit report with the Board, and went over the audit report in more detail with the audit committee prior to the Board Meeting. Superintendent Greene stated that he, with the Board’s permission, will be contacting County Government to discuss the District’s low fund balance and requesting fiscal support. Ms. Corley stated her appreciation of the administration for getting ahead of budget issues. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Audit. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the audit as presented. Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Covil called for questions, and there were none. Chairman Covil entertained a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Allen made the motion, which Ms. Corley seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0. Superintendent Greene stated that normally there would have been several budget amendments prior to this date but due to the state not having the budget completed this is the first amendment presented by the administration.

Policy Updates Second Reading - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the second reading of the Policy updates for policies 1310/1002, 1710/4021/7230, 1720/4015/7225, 1730/4022/7231, 1740/4010, 2300, 2320, 2330, 2335, 2500, 3101, 3520, 3610, 4040/7310, 4300, 4302, 4302-R, 4325, 4333, 4334/5035/7345, 4400, 4700, 4705-7825-R, 5015, 5070/7350, 5071/7351, 5210, 6125, 6225, 6420, 7100, 7130, 7240, 7241, 7410, 7730, 7940. Ms. Page made a motion to approve the above mentioned policies and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. Policies 1310/1002, 1710/4021/7230, 1720/4015/7225, 1730/4022/7231, 1740/4010, 2300, 2320, 2330, 2335, 2500, 3101, 3520, 3610, 4040/7310, 4300, 4302, 4302-R, 4325, 4333, 4334/5035/7345, 4400, 4700, 4705-7825-R, 5015, 5070/7350, 5071/7351, 5210, 6125, 6225, 6420, 7100, 7130, 7240, 7241, 7410, 7730, 7940 were approved on second reading 7-0.

Policy Updates First Reading - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping reviewed the old policy 7241- Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators and the proposed policy 7241 – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators. Mr. Scherping went over each of the changes in the proposed policy with the Board. Superintendent Greene asked if there were any changes within the proposed policy that didn’t involve a general statute or legal reference. Mr. Scherping stated that there were no changes that didn’t involve a general statute or legal reference. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve policy 7241- Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators on first reading. Mr. Ashworth made a motion and Ms. Page seconded the motion to approve policy 7241- Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators on first

reading. Policy 7241- Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators was approved on first reading on a vote of 7-0.

PCHS HVAC RFQ - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS HVAC RFQ. He explained to the Board since the last meeting the District has put out a request for qualifications for those interested in completing this project. There were three submissions; Snyder Electric, MSS, and Building Clarity. Interviews with the three companies were completed on 12/9/19. After the completion of the interviews the companies were rated. Out of seven interviewers six rated Building Clarity as number one out of the three companies. The Facilities Committee met before the Board meeting and discussed the outcome of the interviews. Ultimately they recommended to the Board that the District move forward with Building Clarity by meeting with them and having them complete a more thorough analysis of the building and issues. Building Clarity will then bring a design contract to the Board in January for approval. Superintendent Greene stated that there are several questions that the district will be asking Building Clarity before the design contract would be signed. Mr. Scherping stated there is a good possibility Building Clarity will be the engineering firm that designs and manages the project and MSS will be the company doing the installation. Chairman Covil asked the Board if there are any questions or comments. Mr. Covil stated that he supported the company and the committee 100% but not the way the design build process works. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the movement of the project and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The PCHS HVAC RFQ process was approved 6-1.

Resolution on Fines and Forfeitures - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene stated he would like for the Board to adopt the Resolution on Fines and Forfeitures that was attached to the electronic agenda. Superintendent Greene relayed information about NCSBA activity two years ago regarding the ongoing lawsuit with the NC General Assembly about Fines and Forfeitures monies. Attorney Feagan stated that the activity two years ago was to extend the judgment. Mr. Greene affirmed this resolution would state is the Board's desire that the legislature find a way to get this money to public schools. Ms. Corley made a motion to adopt the Resolution on Fines and Forfeitures and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The Resolution was adopted 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

2020-2021 Calendar Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the 2020-2021 Calendar. He stated that in conversations with stakeholders around the District people seemed very supportive of going back to the old calendar. Given the current law this cannot happen. Members of the legislature have stated that adopting the year round calendar for this particular reason is a misinterpretation of the law. There is word that the legislature will work to have the law will be rewritten to more clearly state the guidelines for various calendar types. Superintendent Greene recommends to use the traditional calendar process for the upcoming year and wait to see what happens in the legislature. Mr. Ashworth stated that he had heard that this topic was not getting a lot of interest with the legislature. Mr. Greene stated that the ones that are interested are those with more power. Mr. Greene stated that the district will consistently advocate that the students' needs are most important when crafting a calendar.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Cheerleading Competition - Aaron Greene (Information)

The Cheerleading Squad came in fifth out of seven teams in the state. There is an article on polksports.com that provides more information.

Hardship Diploma - Aaron Greene (Action)

There was a hardship diploma request in the closed session packet. The Board agreed to take the request into closed session for discussion.

Solar Panel Grant for Sunny View Elementary

Sunny View Elementary received a grant to purchase a Solar Panel. Superintendent Greene wanted to make sure the Board was informed of the entire process. The panel will be placed on the right hand side of the Sunny View's main building. This grant is a matching grant and Mr. Greene stated that he is working on some donations to match the grant. No Board member expressed any issues with proceeding with the solar panel.

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

November Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
November 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
Holiday Party - December 12 at 5:00 pm at Stearns
Christmas Break for Students: December 23, 2019- January 1, 2020. December 20 is a half-day and students return to school on January 2, 2020

BOARD TRAINING

Core Training - January 13-14, 2020 - NCSBA Office
Public Policy Conference - January 23-24, 2020 – Raleigh

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dick Shaughnessy wanted to share his appreciation for the Board of Education. He came to the Board on behalf of the Polk County Republican Party. They wanted to establish a Republican Student Club that has now been reinvigorated. Mr. Shaughnessy offered that his main reason for attending was to propose that the district consider helping with a project "Vehicles for Change," where retired surplus school buses are turned into homes for the homeless. Mr. Shaughnessy suggested the district could donate an old school bus to one of the clubs to help with this project. Mr. Greene stated that he would follow up with Lambert Ridings, transportation director, regarding what options there may be in pursuing this.

Superintendent Greene recognized Stephanie Blanton, fifth grade teacher at Sunny View Elementary, who was in attendance doing a project for her Administration degree. She spoke to the Board about how informative the meeting was for her. She offered her appreciation of the Board and the support it gives to the schools, students, and staff in Polk County.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:20 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a student matter. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. 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 8:50 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. Corley seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

There was a discussion regarding the hardship diploma request for Celamari Onderko among the Board. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the request and Ms. Gibbs seconded the request. The hardship diploma request for Celamari Onderko was approved 7-0.

INFORMATION:

Name	Position	School	
Molly Hill	Teacher	PCHS	Parental Leave
Rowann Hoy	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA
Laura Freck	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Student Teaching
Jeffrey Cantrell	Part-Time Custodian	Tryon/Sunny View	Student Teaching
Donna Brice	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA
Jennifer O’Rear	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Parental Leave
Kim McCool	Title I Teacher	Tryon	Retiring
Cierra Pyle Toney	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Resigned

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Susan Gautsch	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Rutgers University		4
Veronica Perez	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Landrum, SC	University of Phoenix		2

Lindsay Lewis	Substitute Teacher / Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Columbus	UNC Asheville		
Heather Griffin	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Mill Spring			6
Mackenzie Desmaris	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Mill Spring			
Nicole Sauve	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Tryon			
Susan Livingston	Teacher	Polk Central	University of SC	Taylors, SC	EI Education (K-6)	29
James "David" Moore	Bus Driver					
Jamie Weathers	Teacher Assistant	Tryon Elementary	Student Teaching			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO