

Board of Education Meeting
May 8, 2023
6:00 PM, at Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace and Attorney Phillip Feagan.

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Ashworth called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Tryon Elementary School Presentation

Dr. Cari Maneen, principal at Tryon Elementary School, introduced Donna Godley, 5th grade science teacher to present. Ms. Godley stated that the students in attendance were going to present what they learned while studying body systems. Each student spoke about the system they studies and the project they created to teach other students about their selected body system. Board Members told the students they did a great job on the presentation and their projects, and that the Board appreciated the students and Mrs. Godley coming to the meeting to share.

Approval of April 3, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the April 3, 2023 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the amended Board minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Summer Feeding Program - Jennifer Peeler (Information)

Jennifer Peeler, Food and Nutrition Director, presented to the Board regarding the Summer Feeding Program. Ms. Peeler stated that the Child Nutrition department has nine sites set up to provide meals for. She spoke in detail regarding each site scheduled for summer meals. She asked if anyone had any questions and there were none.

Overnight Field Trip Requests - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene went over the attached overnight field trip requests for FFA Camp and the NC FFA State Convention. Superintendent Greene stated that each one had a principal endorsement and met all requirements. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the overnight field trip requests and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The FFA Camp and the NC FFA State Convention overnight field trip requests were approved 7-0.

Exceptional Children's Update - Toni Haley (Information)

Toni Haley, Exceptional Children's (EC) Director, shared a presentation regarding EC program data. Ms. Haley spoke about data and trends in EC over the last couple of years. Ms. Haley highlighted the increasing numbers of EC students in Polk and across the state, and the challenges of the current funding model that is falling short of paying for required services. She stressed these budget shortfalls and service delivery challenges will continue to impact the district.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

CEP – Jennifer Peeler (Action)

Jennifer Peeler, Child Nutrition Director, gave a presentation to the Board on school meals and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. Ms. Peeler stated that the District has 2,159 students and 1,086 students have been predetermined to qualify for CEP without completing the free and reduced lunch application. Ms. Peeler stated that for the 2023-2024 school year every school in the district qualifies for CEP. Ms. Peeler broke down in detail what revenue would be lost with the different participation options that are available. Chairman Ashworth called for questions and there were none. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve CEP for the entire district, and to let administration decide whether it will be based on poverty rates from all schools or individual school rates. It was seconded by Ms. Gibbs the motion was approved 7-0.

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendments included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendments be approved as submitted. Mr. Parsons made the motion, which Ms. Allen seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0. Superintendent Greene offered congratulations to all food service staff as each site within the district scored a grade of 100 on their inspections.

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

Superintendent Aaron Greene held discussion with the Board regarding summer Board meeting dates. There was a motion from Ms. Jackson to move the regular meeting scheduled for 6/12 to 6/5/23 at 6:30, and to have the other summer meeting on 6/29/23 at 5:30 pm and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion to schedule the summer board meeting dates and times was approved 7-0.

Digital Learning Dashboard – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board regarding the Digital Learning Dashboard. DPI has supplied the district with a survey to be sent out to families regarding the availability of digital devices for students at their homes. This survey is anonymous and is not required for families to complete. Dr. Schweitzer wanted to make the board aware these surveys would be sent to families for their optional participation.

PCHS Floors – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer updated the Board on floor renovation at PCHS. Brady construction gave the district money due to their partial damage of the floors during the PCHS HVAC project. This money remains in local funding. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the request. Attorney Feagan asked if there was a contract. Dr. Schweitzer stated that after approval of the bid acceptance and the process, he will go back to them for a contract. Mr. Parsons made a motion to accept the bid and the request for the lottery funds and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

TES Pre-K Addition Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Director of Operations, Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, held discussion with the Board about the TES Pre-K Addition. The “Needs Based Capital Funding” grant was applied for and received 2 years ago. The Board must accept the agreement before the district can draw down the funding. Dr. Schweitzer went over the attached documents with the Board that needed approval. Mr. Covil made a motion to accept the funding and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion was approved 7-0. Dr. Schweitzer shared some pictures of the project with the Board.

Facilities Update – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Schweitzer shared information and photos of the entrance of Polk Central Elementary School with the Board. A new door has been installed and all public now must enter through the main office. The pass-through doors of the 3-5 grade building at Polk Central have been replaced as the first step in preparation for enclosing the courtyard area. At PCHS the center exterior doors at the student entrance have been replaced and a “buzz-in” system for students was

added and is currently being used. The student can “buzz in” to the receptionist and she can open the door for them to enter. Dr. Schweitzer informed the Board there would be a couple of major projects that will be coming in the near future. Dr. Schweitzer went over the projects listed on the electronic agenda in detail. There was a discussion about the funding for paving at PCHS, existing local capital funding, lottery funding, and requested local funding. The majority of the Board agreed to use lottery funding and pave the high needs portions for the amount.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene stated that the Golf Team is going to the regional tournament and the state championship, if they qualify.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding a purchase of the “Great Minds” curriculum on a “continuity of program” waiver for literacy curriculum and materials requested by the Curriculum and Instruction Director. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the purchase and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene stated that he has been approached about recognizing Coach Bruce Ollis in some capacity and asked the Board to give this some thought.

Superintendent Greene informed the Board Margot Carter would like to schedule a time for the Board to visit Thermal Belt Outreach to see student work. The Board agreed to participate if a workable date was set.

V. INFORMATION

April Preschool Monthly Report

Pre-K Financial Report

Monthly Financial Report

Month to Date Credit Card Report

Memorial Day Holiday May 29, 2023

PCEC Graduation - May 20, 2023 @ 10am at PCHS Auditorium

PCHS Graduation - June 9, 2023 @ 7pm at PCHS

Last Day of School for Students - June 9, 2023 (1/2 Day)

Last Day of School for Staff - June 16, 2023

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

Summer Leadership Conference/June 12-16/Wrightsville Beach

NCSBA Annual Conference/November 13-15, 2023/Greensboro

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:19 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an attorney client privilege. 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. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. At 9:05 pm, Mr. Parsons made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Ashworth called the Board's attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. The Board agreed to vote on the personnel agenda and then the administrative contracts separately. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion to the personnel agenda. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer on the personnel agenda. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. The personnel agenda motion carried 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Kenneth Burnett	Custodian	Polk Central	Retiring
Kathy St. Clair	Teacher	Saluda	Retiring
Paula Brown	Teacher	PCMS	Retiring
Tracy Wells	Teacher	Tryon	Retiring
Jennifer Waddell	Teacher	Polk Central	Resigning
Alan Roman Roman	Technology Assistant/PEAK Afterschool Site Director	Tryon/Polk Central/PCMS	Resigning
Linda Skillett	Substitute	Tryon	Terminated
Lisa Obermiller	Transfer from 7th grade Math teacher to School Counselor	PCMS/Sal	
Susan Lail	Health Science Teacher	PCHS	Resignation

Action:

Todd Murphy	HR Director	Central Office	Inman, SC	Gardner-Webb	School Administrator	23
Lacey Cochran	Music Teacher	SVE/PCES	Mill Spring	Liberty University		Years
Lori Nichols	Guidance Administrative Assistant	PCHS	Tryon	Wilson College	N/A	N/A
John Arnett	Part-Time Groundskeeper	Maintenance	Campobello, SC	N/A	N/A	30
Nancy Harris	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda	East Flat Rock	N/A	N/A	Years
Enmanuel Medrano	English Teacher	PCHS	Tryon	Montreat	Pending	Years
Megan Witte	Biology Teacher	PCHS	Hendersonville	Central Michigan University	Science	Years
Rachel Culbreth	Transfer from TA to Teacher	Polk Central	Columbus	Lees-McRae	Pending	Student Taught

Adyson Goss	Teacher	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	University of SC	El Ed (K-6)	2
Amy Scott	Transfer from Pre-K Teacher to Family Services Specialist	Central Office	Columbus	University of AZ	B-K, El Ed (K-6)	15
Laura Jane Howald	Transfer from Pre K Teacher to Education Manager	Central Office	Columbus	UNC Greensboro	B-K	11
Darryl Bollinger	Mechanic/Bus Driver	Transportation	Morganton	N/A	N/A	17
Emily Periera	CTE Teacher	PCHS	Leave TBD			

Administrator Contracts

Michelle Bean	PCHS	1 Year	Motion- Covil/Second-Parsons	Approved 7-0
Adam Dedmon	PCMS	1 Year	Motion-Gibbs/ Second-Jackson	Approved 7-0
Adam Giles	PCHS	1 Year	Motion-Jackson/Second-Page	Approved 7-0
Kim McMinn	PCES	4 Year	Motion-Parsons/Second-Allen	Approved 4-2, 1 abstain (Gibbs)
Tobree Mostel	SAL	1 Year	Motion-Covil/Second-Page	Approved 7-0
Todd Murphy	CO	4 Year	Motion-Jackson/Second-Page	Approved 7-0
Brandon Schweitzer	CO	1 Year	Motion-Parsons/Second Gibbs	Approved 7-0

Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to return to closed session for personnel discussion. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to return to closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion carried 7-0.

With all discussion concluded in closed session, Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Covil seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to amend the current superintendent's contract with an annual increase. Mr. Covil made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO