

Board of Education Meeting

June 5, 2023

6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping, 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

Approval of May 8, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the May 8, 2023 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Special Olympics – Toni Haley (Information)

Toni Haley, director of Student Services, updated the Board regarding on the 2023 Special Olympics held at Polk High School. Ms. Haley read several comments from her staff regarding their experiences volunteering with Special Olympics. Ms. Haley shared a short video highlights Special Olympics for the Board. Superintendent Greene spoke of his appreciation for Ms. Haley and Jane Ollis for their hard work to plan and support the Special Olympics.

CTE Plan - Josh Hill (Information)

Mr. Josh Hill presented the District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan to the Board. Mr. Hill provided updates to the Board on CTE. He stated that since the plan is a two-year plan, there is no substantive change with the plan from last year. Mr. Hill spoke highly of his CTE teachers and their hard work. There were 572 credentials earned in the previous year and 840 for the current year. The Polk County Schools' CTE program is one of the top performing programs in the west. Mr. Hill spoke of his appreciation for Michelle Fortune, CEO St. Luke's Hospital, who donated five updated hospital beds to the Health Sciences classroom. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments regarding the CTE Plan presented. Mr. Parsons asked about the quality report and if that is the old red/green report. Mr. Hill stated that they have changed the red/green report to a larger report and that is the report that the data came from. Superintendent Greene spoke of his appreciation to Josh Hill, Lindsey Edwards, and the entire CTE team for the work that they due for the students.

AIG Summer Seminars – Jan Crump (Information)

Jan Crump, the Curriculum and Instruction Director, presented to the Board regarding the AIG Summer Seminars. Ms. Crump briefly went over the attached brief of the different seminars that will be offered. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Mr. Parsons made the motion, which Ms. Page seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Year-End Budget Amendment Resolution - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented a year-end budget amendment resolution to the Board. This resolution will allow the finance officer to make amendments and adjustments up until June 30. All appropriate rules and policies will be followed. This will help the finance officer make sure all state and federal funding is expended before local funding. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Year-End Budget Resolution. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Year-End Budget Resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The Year-End Budget Resolution was approved 7-0.

Supplement Adjustment – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene communicated with the Board regarding a local licensed personnel supplement adjustment. Mr. Greene stated that in the Fall the Board approved additional funding for supplements. Given there is some funding still left in the “071” budget, the district would like to give the remainder as additional supplement to licensed staff. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to use the remaining amount of 071 state supplement money to be distributed with the Spring local license supplement checks, and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

2023-2024 Drivers Education Contract - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the 2023-2024 Drivers Education Contract. This is the same standard agreement that the district has had with Mountain Professionals in the past. Superintendent Greene recommends the district continue with the agreement. Mr. Greene stated that there is no double payment and the money comes to the district and the district pays Mountain Professionals. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 Drivers Education Contract including the correction and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The corrected 2023-2024 Drivers Education Contract was approved 7-0.

Errors and Omissions/General Liability Fund Agreement - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace presented to the Board regarding the attached Errors and Omissions / general Liability Fund agreement. This agreement provides liability protection for the Board. Superintendent Greene and Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace both agreed that there were no changes in the agreement since the previous year. Chairman Ashworth asked the Board’s pleasure in adopting the Errors and Omissions/General Liability Fund Agreement. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Errors and Omissions/General Liability Fund Agreement and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons and Ms. Gibbs. The motion passed 7-0.

Student Transfer Request - Aaron Greene (Action)

Chairman Ashworth stated that the Transfer Request that was included in the confidential closed session packet could be taken in to closed session if the Board desired. Superintendent Greene stated that he had nothing to add to the request. The Board agreed to vote on the request. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Student Transfer Request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Student Transfer Request was approved 7-0.

PCHS Floor Project – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer updated the Board on the need to complete the PCHS Floor Project. Interstate is the company that won the bid for this project. The total for the project will be \$177,900. This will get the terrazzo floor back to its original status. This funding will come from state Repair and Renovation lottery funds. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the PCHS Floor Project as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The PCHS Floor Project was approved on a vote of 7-0.

TES PreK Addition Distribution Request – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board the Tryon Elementary School Addition Distribution Request. Dr. Schweitzer stated that this project is being funded by three separate sources with various matches. Dr. Schweitzer went through the details of the matches and amounts. The request will be taken to the county for approval on a monthly basis. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the TES Pre K Addition Distribution Request and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The TES Pre K Addition Distribution Request was approved 7-0.

Bid Approvals – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer submitted to the Board requests for several bid approvals. The low bid for each respected bid was attached to the electronic agenda. Each bid process was completed according to the appropriate procurement process. Dr. Schweitzer spoke in detail regarding each of the following bid projects, and there was discussion among the board about each of the listed projects: PCHS Paving Project, PCHS Gym Roof Project, TES Dishwasher Replacement, PCEC Security Project, Interactive Panels for Classrooms, and Student Chromebooks. The Board decided to vote on each bid separately. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the PCHS Paving Project and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 6-0 with Ms. Jackson choosing to abstain. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the PCHS Gym Roof Project and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The motion was approved 7-0. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the TES Dishwasher Replacement and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the PCEC Security Project and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The motion was approved 7-0. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Interactive Panels for Classrooms and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Student Chromebooks and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

TES Pre-K Addition Project Update – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the TES Pre-K Addition Project. Mr. Schweitzer gave details and showed pictures of the progress of the TES Pre-K Addition.

Superintendent Greene stated that Ms. Carter at Thermal Belt would like for the Board to visit and see the progress of the homes being built. Mr. Greene will schedule two dates for the Board to visit.

Superintendent Greene invited the Board to attend graduation ceremonies coming up.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene requested the Board to keep in mind a potential celebration for Coach Ollis' retirement. Superintendent Greene presented the resolution to prioritize the budget. The Board agreed to table the resolution until the next Board meeting.

Superintendent Greene stated that HB 66 has now added Polk County into a partisan elections bill. This will require the Polk County Board of Education elections to be partisan. There are about 6000 unaffiliated voters in Polk County. Mr. Greene would like to draft a resolution in opposition of HB66 if the Board would like him to. Mr. Covil made motion to proceed with Mr. Greene drafting a resolution and it was seconded by Ms. Page. This motion was approved 7-0.

V. INFORMATION

1. Pre-K Financial Report
2. Monthly Financial Report
3. Month to Date Credit Card Report
4. PCHS Graduation - June 9, 2023 @ 7pm at PCHS
5. Last Day of School for Students - June 9, 2023 (1/2 Day)
6. Last Day of School for Staff - June 16, 2023
7. Board Meeting June 29, 2023 @ 5:30

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

Summer Leadership Conference/June 12-16/Wrightsville Beach
NCSBA Annual Conference/November 13-15, 2023/Greensboro

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Several members of the community spoke during public input. A verbatim account of public input and all open meeting Board discussion is available via digital audio recording.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:39 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an Attorney Client Matter. Ms. Gibbs/Ms. Jackson 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. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:42 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Gibbs 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. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion for the regular personnel agenda. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer for the regular portion personnel agenda. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and Human Resource Officer for the teacher contracts portion of the personnel agenda and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Nicole Kemp	Teacher	Polk Central	Resigning
Lacey Bolt	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Resigning
Wanda Reid	Part-Time Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Resigning
Nancy Johnson	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central/Sunny View	FMLA
Renee Souther	School Nurse	Tryon	FMLA
Sylvia Avellaneda	ESL Specialist	Tryon	FMLA

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Adam Dedmon	Principal	PCMS	Forest City	Converse College	Administrative	3
Lori Byars	Assistant Principal	PCMS	Mill Spring	Appalachian	Administrative	Clinical Internship
Ansley Lynch	Teacher	Polk Central	Mill Spring	UNCA	Pending	Student Taught
Haley Robinson	Teacher	Tryon	Mill Spring	Western Carolina	Pending	Student Taught
Lindsay Lewis	Teacher	Tryon	Columbus	UNCA	El Ed (K-6)	Clinical Internship
Sharon Johnston	EC Teacher	Tryon	Columbus	Western Carolina	EC	10
Cecelia Sanchirico	Teacher	Tryon	Sloansville, NY	College at Oneonta	El Ed (K-6)	6
Mollie LeBude	EC Teacher	Polk Central	Saluda	NC State	Pending	2
Karsten Masinick	EC Teacher	Polk Central	Mills River	Liberty University	Pending	1
Christopher Wilson	Band Teacher/Director	PCMS	Hendersonville	North Greenville University	Music K-12	Years
Kelsey Townsley	Teacher	Saluda	Saluda	University of Colorado	El Ed K-6	8
Rhonda Hill	EC Teacher/Transfer from Polk Central to PCHS	PCHS	Rutherfordton	Converse College	EC	28
Elford "Rick" Pruitt	Bus Driver	Transportation	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	Years
Michael Marshall	PE Teacher	Saluda	Dayton, OH	Cedarville University	Will Apply	3

Johnna Searcy	Health Sciences Teacher	PCHS	Columbus	UNC Charlotte	Will Apply	Years
Melissa Brown	PEAK Site Director	PCMS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	1

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO