

Board of Education Meeting
August 14, 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, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, Student Services Director Toni Haley, Human Resources Director Todd Murphy, 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 June 5, 2023 and June 29, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the June 5, 2023 and June 29, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections to either set of minutes and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. The June 5, 2023 and June 29, 2023 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Pre K Half Days - Jan Crump (Information)

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump informed the Board of the beginning of year schedule for Pre K, and that Pre K students would attend half days for the first week. Ms. Crump referred to the Pre K schedule attached on the electronic agenda. She stated that the half days give the students extra time to become acclimated to the setting, and it gives Pre K staff time for the extra required training. All members of the Board were in agreement to allow the Pre K half days for the first week of school.

Ms. Jan Crump provided an update to the Board on recent Staff Professional Development. Ms. Crump stated that elementary staff have finished the two-year course in LETRS Training. All Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Teachers and EC Teachers have also completed the Math Foundations training. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation of Ms. Crump for leading these professional development courses. Chairman Ashworth called for questions and there were none.

Field Trip Request – Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board to approve the FFA Sunbelt Ag Expo overnight field trip. Superintendent Greene clarified the cost of the trip in relation with the amount given to each student from the plant sale. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the presented overnight field trip request. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The overnight field trip request for the FFA Sunbelt Ag Expo was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Out of District Tuition Approval - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented an “out of district” tuition recommendation to the Board. He reminded the Board that CFO Lovelace calculates the “per child” receipt of local revenue to arrive at the yearly figure, and this year’s calculation resulted in a recommendation of \$2,892 per student for Out of District tuition. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Out of District Tuition. Ms. Page made a motion to approve the tuition and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Out of District Tuition was approved 7-0.

2022-2023 Year End Budget Amendment – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene reviewed the 2022-2023 year end budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Mr. Covil made the motion, which Ms. Allen seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Micropurchasing Resolution – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented a Micropurchasing Resolution to the Board. This is the same resolution from previous years that must be approved annually. This resolution affords the CFO and the Superintendent the ability to make purchases up to amounts for different source purchases to be sure all funding streams are consistent with Board policy thresholds. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Micropurchasing Resolution. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the Micropurchasing Resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The Micropurchasing Resolution was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Student Transfer Request – Aaron Greene (Action)

The Board agreed to discuss the student transfer request further in closed session.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Construction Update – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer provided a summer facility work update to the Board, discussing construction projects that are ongoing and others that were completed during the summer of 2023. He shared details and pictures of each project.

Superintendent Greene informed the Board local supplement amounts for licensed staff have not yet been proposed. Since the budget has not been passed, the total amount of the local supplement that will be given this year can not be determined. Once the budget is passed, Mr. Greene will bring a local supplement proposal to the Board for approval.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Feagan spoke to the Board and presented information that he learned at the Summer Law Conference. He spoke in detail regarding several topics that were discussed at the conference.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding vacant positions within the district.

Superintendent Greene asked the Board if anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Teacher of the Year (TOY) interview committee. Ms. Gibbs volunteered to be on the TOY interview committee for the 2023-2024 school year.

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding the first day of school. With the information at the time of the meeting attendance is up around 50 students. This will change within the first weeks. According to feedback from school staff and parents, the first day was a success.

V. INFORMATION

2023-2024 School Year: First day for all Polk County Schools: August 14, 2023

Preschool Monthly Report

July Pre -K Financial Report

July Monthly Financial Report

June Credit Card Report

July Credit Card Report

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library

LEAD Training Program - Western Region - September 7 - WRESA

2023 Fall Law Conference-Asheville-October 11-13, 2023

Annual Conference-Greensboro-November 13-15

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was one member of the community that 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 7:25 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, student matter, and Attorney Client Privilege. Mr. Covil 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 8:34 pm, Mr. Covil made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Jackson 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 main personnel agenda without inclusion of Erika Stronach and Wesley Jackson. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer for the first portion personnel agenda. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion for the second portion of the personnel agenda which included Erika Stronach. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent and Human Resource Officer for the second portion of the personnel agenda and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion carried 6-0 with Mr. Covil abstaining. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion for the main personnel agenda which included Wesley Jackson. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer for the third portion personnel agenda. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Jackson recusing herself.

There was discussion among the Board regarding the Student Transfer Request. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion regarding the Student Transfer Request. Ms. Jackson made a motion to deny the request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion to deny transfer was approved on vote of 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Robyn Verba	High School Social Studies	PCHS	Parental Leave

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Erika Stronach	Principal	Saluda	Mill Spring	Western Carolina	Administrative	8
Terri Palmer	ARC Coordinator	PCHS	Rutherfordton	UNC Charlotte	N/A	25
Meghan Cantu	Occupational Therapist	Central Office	Shelby	Lenior-Rhyne	Occupational Therapy	3
Jonathan Greene	CTE Teacher	PCMS	China Grove	Appalachian State	CTE	10
Jennifer Elliott	CTE Teacher	PCMS	Forest City	UNC Asheville	CTE	5
Laura Shipman	EC Teacher	PCMS	Spindale	Gardner-Webb	EC	13
Sydney Millwood	EC Teacher	PCMS	Rutherfordton	Appalachian State	Applying	0
Tyler Johnson	6th Grade Math Teacher	PCMS	Canton	Western Carolina	CTE	2
Savanna Adams	7th Grade Math Teacher	PCMS	Tryon	Gardner-Webb	Elementary Education	2
Cameran Sherman	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Landrum, SC	North Greenville	N/A	0
Harby Hodges	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Columbus	College of Charleston	N/A	Years
Emma Bradley	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Chastity Faltraco	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Ellenboro	Western Carolina	N/A	5
Melanie Aguirre	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Tryon	N/A	N/A	0
Todd Cannon	EC Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Forest City	N/A	N/A	0
Kelly Sparks	EC Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	0
Jessica Jackson	Substitute Teacher	PCHS				

Joshua Culbreth	Field Trip Bus Driver	Sunny View Elementary	Forest City	N/A	N/A	Years
Cheryl Haynes	Bus Driver	All Schools	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	22
Brittany Galloway	Food Service Aide	Polk Central	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	0
Antonio Garcia	Instruction Liason/Tech Coordinator	PCEC	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0
Daniel Bradley	Interim Head Varsity Basketball Coach	PCHS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years
Wesley Jackson	Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach	PCHS	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Lanny Schronce	Substitute Teacher	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	4
Donna Mayo	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Morehead State University	Elementary Education	14
Amanda Hutchins	EC Teacher	PCHS	Unpaid Leave			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO