

Board of Education Meeting
September 11, 2023
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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

Members Absent: Ms. Gibbs

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, 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

Student Presentation: PCMS

Superintendent Aaron Greene introduced Principal Adam Dedmon and the PCMS Bridge Building Team to give a presentation to the Board. Principal Dedmon and the members of the team shared their DOT Model Bridge Building Team experiences with the Board, and discussed how they built their award-winning bridge. Students described the competition and all that goes into preparing and competing. They explained the process of constructing the bridge using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to ensure the strength and sturdiness of the bridge. Each student shared the positive impact that going to Raleigh to the state competition had on their lives. The Board shared how proud they were of the team and their accomplishment.

Approval of August 14, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the August 14, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes 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. Page seconded the motion. The August 14, 2023 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Opening of School Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene provided an update to the Board on the opening of school. Mr. Greene presented initial enrollment information for the 2023-2024 school year. Enrollment for the year, at the time of the meeting, was 2195 students. All bus routes are covered and the district is only down a couple of licensed teachers. Superintendent Greene stated his appreciation to the community for its support and patience in getting the year started.

Federal Consolidated Application Plans for 2023-2024 - Jan Crump (Action)

Jan Crump presented a request for approval of the Federal Program Consolidated Application. Ms. Crump stated the funding is used to work with at risk students, Pre K Students, summer remediation, professional development and several other programs. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Federal Consolidated Application for 2023-2024. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the Federal Consolidated Application Plans for 2023-2024 and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 6-0.

2023-2024 Testing Calendar - Adrian Hammond (Information)

Accountability Coordinator Adrian Hammond shared the 2023-2024 testing calendar with the Board. Ms. Hammond went over the schedule that was attached to the electronic agenda in detail.

2022-2023 Test Results and Reporting - Adrian Hammond (Information)

Ms. Adrian Hammond presented 2022-2023 Test Results and Reporting information. She stated that Polk County Schools are ranked #5 in proficiency scores in the state of North Carolina. Ms. Hammond reviewed her attached presentation in detail to the Board going over each section with the Board. Meetings with principals and conversations analyzing the data have already begun. Mr. Parsons asked if the results were still being compared with PreCOVID scores. Mr. Greene stated that these scores are looking back to what it would have been PreCOVID performance.

Field Trip Request – Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board to approve the FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event Trip and the SkillsUSA (CTSO) Carpentry Club Overnight Request. Attorney Feagan clarified that for the SkillsUSA trip, camp staff will be used for chaperone ratios. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the presented overnight field trip requests. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The overnight field trip requests were approved 6-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

District Website Reports - Andy Rhinehart (Information)

Superintendent Greene introduced Andy Rhinehart. Mr. Rhinehart created and manages the district's "PolkStudents" and "PolkSports" websites and social media. PolkSports reaches its 10-year milestone on September 13. There have been 6,025 articles posted on PolkSports. There have been 1,300 articles posted on PolkStudents. Mr. Rhinehart stated that he has started a newsletter that folks receive every day with news headlines. Mr. Parsons asked who takes the pictures for the sites. Mr. Rhinehart stated that currently he is the one taking the pictures and writing the articles. The Board and Mr. Greene stated their immense appreciation for all Mr. Rhinehart does for the district.

State Budget Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene provided a brief update on the state budget process. At the time of this meeting there was still no state adopted budget. Mr. Greene discussed the negative impacts of not having a budget approved at this point in the year. He also shared concerns about some of the budget pieces that will complicate or reduce funding for public schools. Superintendent Greene indicated that he and the Finance Officer will sort out the budget details and arrive at a resolution as soon as possible after the legislature approves the budget.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer stated TES Pre K Construction is on schedule.

Administration updated the Board on the Tryon Elementary air conditioning issue when it stopped working in certain parts of the campus in days prior. Mr. Greene, Dr. Schweitzer, Darren Green and others worked together to do what needed to be done to take care of the students and get things back up and working.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

NCSBA Voting Delegates: Superintendent Greene stated that NCSBA is looking for voting delegates for the upcoming annual conference. If interested, the member would need to attend the conference. Chairman Ashworth stated that he would be willing to be the voting delegate for Polk County Schools if there were no conflicts.

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding an after-school program partnership with the YMCA. Due to a loss of grant funding, afterschool capacity had been decreased due to lower staffing. The additional spaces for students would be a tuition-based model. All children will receive the same care and programming.

Polk County Band would like to invite the Board to the Band Competition on 10/14. More information to come once the date and time are finalized.

Superintendent Greene recognized Brandi Drake, teacher at Saluda Elementary, and thanked her for attending the meeting. Ms. Drake is working on a leadership degree.

V. INFORMATION

1. Preschool Monthly Report
2. Pre-K Financial Report
3. Monthly Financial Report
4. Year to Date Credit Card Report

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

1. 2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library
2. 2023 Fall Law Conference-Asheville-October 11-13, 2023
3. Annual Conference-Greensboro-November 13-15

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:23 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and School Safety. Ms. Allen made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried 6-0.

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 8:31 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

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 personnel agenda. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer personnel agenda. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Emily Moore	Pre K Teacher	Polk Central	Resigning
Krista Ramirez	Full-Time Custodian	Sunny View	Resigned

Chastity Faltraco	Transfer from Pre K Teacher Assistant to Pre K Teacher	Polk Central	
Heather Elliott	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA
Sherrie Huffman	School Counselor	PCMS	FMLA

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Termaine Jackson	ISS Coordinator	PCHS	Tryon	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jaime Jackson	Add Afterschool Group Leader to duties	PCMS	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sydney Millwood	Add Afterschool Group Leader to duties	PCMS	Rutherfordton	Appalachian State University	EC	0
Melinda Gragg	Food Service Aide	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jerry "Steve" Metcalf	Substitute Custodian	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sydney Millwood	EC Teacher	PCMS	Leave Without Pay			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

 Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

 Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO