

Board of Education Meeting
October 9, 2023
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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

Members Absent: None

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

Special Work Session

A special work session was held prior to the regular scheduled board meeting that included school improvement plan presentations. All school improvement plans were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Each school principal and a selected Improvement Team representative briefly presented the goals and highlights of their school improvement plans. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments after each presentation. Superintendent Greene reminded the Board that School Improvement Plans are voted on after closed session once the safe school portion of the plans are discussed.

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Ashworth called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Head Start Training

Kathy Harding, Preschool and Nursing Director, performed required Head Start training for the Board.

Approval of September 11, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the September 11, 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. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. The September 11, 2023 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

Principal Appreciation Month – Aaron Greene

Chairman Ashworth turned the floor over to Superintendent Greene to speak regarding Principal appreciation month. Superintendent Greene commended the principals and school administrators for their selfless dedication to the students and staff of Polk County Schools. Mr. Greene said it was important for us all to give a big "thank you" to principals and school administrators within Polk County Schools.

INSTRUCTIONAL

School Improvement Plans - Jan Crump (Action)

There was a special work session prior to the regular scheduled board meeting that included school improvement plan presentations. All school improvement plans were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Each school principal and a selected Improvement Team representative briefly presented the goals and highlights of their school improvement plans. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments after each presentation.

Head Start Annual Report – Kathy Harding (Information)

Kathy Harding presented to the Board regarding the Head Start Annual Report. She shared information from the 2022-2023 annual report. This information contained the budget summaries and the child outcome data. The 2022-2023 Preschool funding sources totaled \$1,559,503. The 2022-2023 Head Start expenditures totaled \$722,584 and the 2023-2024 Head Start budget is \$722,584. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments. There was a discussion regarding the differences and how students are continuing to grow relative to prior years.

Head Start Carry Over Request Revision – Kathy Harding (Action)

Kathy Harding spoke with the Board regarding the Head Start Grant Carry-Over request. Ms. Harding stated that the Board must approve the request to carry over \$1,194,694 of the Head Start Grant. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion to approve the Head Start Grant Carry-Over request. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Head Start Carry Over Request and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The Head Start Carry Over Request was approved 7-0.

Accountability Update – Adrian Hammond (Information)

Ms. Adrian Hammond spoke with the Board regarding an accountability update. Ms. Hammond presented information about the NC Personalized Assessment Tool (NCPAT). Ms. Hammond went over, in detail, assessments, check ins, and other information regarding the NCPAT.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Safe Schools/Crisis Plans - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greened stated that the details of the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans are discussed in closed session due to the required confidentiality of the plans. Approval of the plans will take place after being reviewed in closed session.

Strategic Planning -Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding the upcoming Strategic Planning. Mr. Greene stated that he would need one or two School Board members to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Greene outlined several items that would be included within the Strategic Planning Process including meeting the needs of students, career planning at a younger age, and “portrait of a graduate” focus.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Dr Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding a construction update. He informed the Board that the Tryon Elementary Pre K building is proceeding on time. Dr. Schweitzer shared some photos of the progress. Dr. Schweitzer updated the Board on several other construction projects going on including steel fencing at Polk Central and the PCEC Security project upgrade.

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that DPI is still interpreting the Budget. Mr. Greene will bring a local supplement recommendation to the Board for approval once the budget is clear.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene submitted the FFA Land judging Overnight field trip request for Board approval. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the FFA Land Judging Overnight field trip request. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approved the FFA Land Judging Overnight field trip request and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Page. The FFA Land Judging Overnight field trip request was approved 7-0.

V. INFORMATION

September Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board
Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board
Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library

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

Annual Conference-Greensboro-November 13-15

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:03 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and school safety plans. Ms. Gibbs 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. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. At 9:26 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Parsons 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. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Ashworth called the Board’s attention to the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans that require Board approval and confirmed that specifics regarding the safe schools and crisis plans for the district and schools had been detailed and discussed in closed session. The Chairman asked the Board’s pleasure regarding a motion. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans and Ms. Allen seconded. It was approved 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Cari Maneen	Principal	Tryon	Resignation
Kimberly Granville	AIG Teacher	Polk Central/Sunny View/Tryon	Resignation
Joshua Thompson	Custodian	Tryon	Resignation
Karsten Masinick	Transfer from EC Teacher at Polk Central to Social Studies Teacher at PCHS		

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Kendal Stoney	Transfer to AIG Teacher	Polk Central/Sunny View/Tryon	Tryon	Belmont	El Ed	Years
James Thomas	Full-Time Custodian	Tryon	Landrum, SC	N/A	N/A	Years
Heather Smith	Full Time Custodian	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Lindsey Gantt	Part-Time Food Service Aide	PCMS	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	0
Jessica Conner	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	Columbus	ICC	N/A	1
Kimberly Buchanan	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	A-B Tech	Nursing	0
Jennifer Villegas Guerrero	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	0
Julia Ridings	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0
Mitchell Elliott	Substitute Teacher	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	Western Carolina	N/A	0
Valerie Davis	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Saluda	Johnson and Wales University	N/A	Years
Samantha Bland	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Ellenboro	Cleveland Community College	N/A	Years
Diane Ballard	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Saluda	South University	N/A	4
Cayce Hipp	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Rutherfordton	Isothermal Community College	N/A	8
Lynne Christiansen	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	NC State	N/A	0
Sherli Muir	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Landrum, SC	NY Institute of Technology	N/A	0
Karen "Diane" Love	Substitute Teacher	Polk Central	Mill Spring	Bryan College	El Ed	29
Travis Then	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Saluda	Fort Lewis College	N/A	6
Jessy Shuler	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0

Katie Buckner	Food Service Aide	Saluda	Medical Leave Without Pay
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VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO