

Board of Education Meeting
November 13, 2023
6:30 PM, Polk County Middle School Media Center

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

Members Absent: Chairman Ashworth

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

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of the 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year

On behalf of the Board of Education, Vice Chairman Covil recognized each of the 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year and presented them with a plaque. Vice Chairman Covil presented plaques to Jamie McGinnis (SVE), Lyla Johnson (PCES), Meliss Gillespie (SES), Kristen Korzelius (PCHS), Sarah Reid (TES) and Leslie Rhinehart (PCMS). Lyla Johnson was issued an additional plaque recognizing her selection as th2 2023-2024 District Teacher of the Year.

Special Recognition – Andy Rhinehart

Superintendent Aaron Greene spoke to the Board in recognition of Andy Rhinehart, The Wolverine Reporter. Mr. Greene read a statement to express Polk County Schools' appreciation of Andy Rhinehart. Former Superintendent Bill Miller spoke as to how much Andy Rhinehart has done and meant to Polk County Schools. Mr. Greene presented a plaque to Mr. Rhinehart to show the Board's appreciation.

Approval of October 9, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Vice Chairman Covil called the Board's attention to the October 9, 2023 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Covil asked if there were any additions or corrections to the presented minutes and there were none. Mr. Covil 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 October 9, 2023 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

INSTRUCTIONAL

Afterschool Presentation and Update – Tiffany Dennis (Information)

Tiffany Dennis, director of PEAK afterschool provided an update to the Board on afterschool programming. There were several students present who shared their experiences within the different afterschool programs. Ms. Dennis informed the Board of a new partnership between PEAK and The Polk County YMCA to address students still waiting to be accepted into an after school program. Applications have been opened for those YMCA positions.

Niche Recognition - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding the Niche recognition website. Polk County is ranked #1 out of 114 for best places to teach in NC, #1 out of 114 for the District with the best teachers in NC, #2 out of 115 for the best school district in NC, and #93 out of 114 for the most diverse school district in NC on the Niche website. Mr.

Greene stated that this recognition reflects not only the efforts of the school district but the community as a whole. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation to the community for their support.

Overnight Field Trip Request: Wrestling- Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board for an overnight field trip requests for Wrestling. Mr. Greene explained that there are three overnight trips to approve. Having to travel back and forth impacts the athletes negatively from a competition standpoint. This request has met all guidelines and has the appropriate endorsements. Vice Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve this overnight trip request. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the overnight field trip request for Wrestling and it was seconded by Ms. Page. Mr. Covil asked for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 6-0.

Testing Update – Adrian Hammond (Information)

Ms. Adrian Hammond provided a testing update to the Board. Ms. Hammond briefly covered the 2023-2024 testing calendar that was attached to the electronic agenda. Mr. Covil asked how Check-in I went for Polk County Schools. Ms. Hammond explained that the standards that are tested on the check in's have not always been taught. They go over the data and see which standards have not been taught and which areas need more focus, so the results are not intended to be summative.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2023-2024 Budget Resolution- Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace, Finance Officer, presented the attached 2023-2024 budget resolutions to the Board. The 2023-2024 Budget Resolution was included in the electronic agenda for review prior to the Board meeting. She communicated there will be future changes in the resolution as DPI releases more information regarding the 2023-2024 budget. Vice Chairman Covil requested a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Resolution as presented. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Resolution, seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The 2023-2024 Budget Resolution was approved 6-0.

2023-2024 Teacher Supplement Proposal – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Aaron Greene spoke with the Board regarding the 2023-2024 Teacher Supplement Proposal. Mr. Greene went over the proposed 2023-2024 teacher supplement scale. Mr. Greene clarified that on the scale the experience column is based on years of service in NC. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the proposed 2023-2024 Teacher Supplement scale and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 6-0.

NC School Capital Lottery Fund Release Request- Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer discussed with the Board the NC School Capitol lottery Funder Release Request included in the Board packet. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the NC School Capital Lottery Fund Release Request. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 6-0.

Tryon Elementary Pre-K Playground Bids – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Director of Operations, Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, covered the Tryon Elementary Pre-K Playground Bid process with the Board. Dr. Schweitzer went over in detail the information that was attached to the electronic agenda. Creative Playscapes won the bid at \$177,000.00. Mr. Covil called for a motion to approve the Pre-K Playground bid as presented. Ms. Page made a motion to approve Creative Playscapes and it was seconded by Ms. Allen.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer gave an update on the Tryon Pre K Construction. The building is “in the dry” and is on target currently. Due to the upcoming Holidays, there may be some slight delays with the shipping of materials and companies being closed at different times.

Superintendent Greene asked the Board their pleasure of having the December meeting at Polk County High School and everyone was in favor.

Superintendent Greene stated that during the Head Start Review there would need to be a couple of Board Members to be present during the review. Mr. Greene asked Mr. Covil, Ms. Jackson, and Mr. Parsons if they would be available and they all three agreed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that there are several individuals requesting the naming of something on the PCHS campus in honor of Bruce Ollis and Jerry Hensley for their contribution to Polk County Schools Athletics. The Board agreed to give thought to possibilities for this recognition.

Superintendent Greene is seeking guidance from the Board in terms of the calendar development process. The Board directed the superintendent to develop a calendar that would allow the finishing of exams in the first semester in coursework before the Christmas Holiday. Attorney Feagan informed the Board about the calendar law.

V. INFORMATION

1. Thanksgiving Break - 11/22/23-11/24/23
2. October Head Start Policy Council Minutes
3. October Pre-K Monthly Report
4. Pre-K Financial Report
5. Monthly Financial Report
6. Monthly Credit Card Report

NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

1. 2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library
2. Annual Conference-Greensboro-November 13-15
3. Core Training - NCSBA Office, Raleigh - December 14-15

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:18 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and student matter. Ms. Jackson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 6-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Mr. Covil called for a motion to return to open session. At 7:39 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Mr. Covil asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

There was discussion regarding a student matter. Mr. Covil called for a motion regarding the Student Matter. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the student matter and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The student matter was approved 6-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Linda Hines	Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk	Central Office	Retiring
Rhonda Brown	Administrative Assistant	Tryon Elementary	Retiring
Robyn Verba	Teacher	PCHS	Resignation
Beverly Logan	School Nurse	PCMS	Resignation
Michelle Loeza	Food Service Aide	Floater	Terminated
Rhonda Rimer	Transfer from Receptionist/Fixed Assests/Accounts Receivable to Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk	Central Office	Transfer
Courtney Edney	Transfer from CO Pre K Nurse to PCMS School Nurse	PCMS	Transfer
Renee Souther	Transfer from TES School Nurse to CO Pre K Nurse	Central Office	Transfer
Ashlyn Searcy	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA
Margaret Feagan Hannon	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA
Mary "Lisa" Flynn	Receptionist	Polk Central	FMLA

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Kimberly Buchanan	Full Time School Nurse	Tryon Elementary	Tryon	A-B Tech	Nursing	12
Sydney Cash	Transfer from TA to Teacher position	Tryon Elementary	Rutherfordton	Liberty University	Pending	0
Lisa Wessell	PreK Teacher Assistant	Tryon Elementary	Tryon	N/A	N/A	Years
Kailyn Brown	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	N/A	N/A	4

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO