

Board of Education Meeting
January 8, 2024
6:30 PM, at Sunny View Elementary School Board Room

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

Members Absent: None

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

Sunny View Elementary School Principal, Preston Allen, and students lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance

SVES Student Presentation

Sunny View Elementary School Principal Preston Allen introduced Ms. Cary, fifth grade teacher, and her students to perform a skit from the book “Thunder Rolling in the Mountains.” The Board applauded the performance and shared their appreciation with the teacher and students for their hard work and performance.

Approval of December 11, 2023 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board’s attention to a copy of the December 11, 2023 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Appreciation Month: Recognition of Polk County Board of Education - Superintendent Greene

Mr. Greene read a statement expressing the District’s appreciation of the Board’s valuable service and dedication to excellence. The Superintendent thanked the Board for what they do for Polk County Schools and Polk County’s students. A copy of the statement has been included in a press release and is available upon request. Each member was given a book of statements from directors in the District regarding their appreciation of the Board. A donation has been made to the Polk Schools Fund in the name of the Polk County Board of Education.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

FFA Poultry Judging Overnight Field Trip – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene provided a corrected copy of the FFA Poultry Judging Overnight request to the Board. The initial request had an incorrect date. Mr. Greene requested approval from the Board for the FFA Poultry Judging Overnight Field Trip Request. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the presented overnight field trip requests. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The overnight field trip requests were approved 7-0.

EC Annual Report - Toni Haley (Information)

Chairman Ashworth recognized Exceptional Children Director Toni Haley, who covered Polk County’s Annual Report for Students with Disabilities (available to the public online). Ms. Haley pointed out areas in which Polk County met

and did not meet State required targets. Ms. Haley discussed all of the indicators and their status, and she also explained why the district did not meet a particular indicator and areas in which the district had made growth. Ms. Haley stated surveys will be sent out to parents to gather more program performance data. Superintendent Greene added further information regarding EC programming to the discussion. The District is at about 17%-18% of students qualifying for EC services while only receiving EC state funding at a 13 % of ADM level. Mr. Covil asked how many students are EC and Ms. Haley stated there were 369 students identified as EC. The Board thanked Mrs. Haley and her staff for their efforts.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2022-2023 Audit Presentation - Anderson, Smith, & Wike PLLC (Action)

Chairman Ashworth turned the floor over to Mr. Andy Deal of Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, to go over fiscal year 2022-2023 Audit findings for Polk County Schools. Mr. Deal began by letting the Board know that in regards to all aspects of the audit, Polk County Schools had received an unmodified report and that it was a “clean” audit. Mr. Deal briefly went over the audit report with the entire Board, as more detail was provided to the Budget Committee prior to the Board Meeting. There was one internal control finding related to being over budget in the capital outlay fund. This was related to grant funding for the Forbes PreK addition project and has already been corrected. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve and accept the 2022-2023 Audit. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the audit as presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

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

2024-2025 Budget Calendar - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace presented the 2024-2025 Budget Calendar to the Board for approval. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion regarding the 2024-2025 Budget Calendar. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the calendar as presented by Debbie Lovelace. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Clerical Pay Scale - Todd Murphy (Action)

Human Resources Director Todd Murphy spoke to the Board regarding a new clerical pay scale. A copy of the proposed pay scale was distributed to the Board. He explained that the clerical pay study committee that arrived at the recommendations was made up of an administrator, school-based clerical staffer, central office based clerical staffer, and the Human Resources Department. The committee chose to base the scale of the number of students enrolled in the school and the type of work being done in the role. The goal of the clerical pay scale is to create a step-based system to award years of service here at Polk County Schools. Superintendent Greene stated that Mr. Murphy and the committee worked closely with finance to develop this scale. This will cost the district about \$75,000 in additional funding. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approved the presented Clerical Pay Scale and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The motion passed 7-0.

Board Policy Update (Second Reading) – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer gave remarks to the Board regarding the second reading of Policies 1310/4002 Parental Involvement, 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials, 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program, 4335 Criminal Behavior, 4720 Surveys of Students, 6120 Student Health Services, and 7300 Staff Responsibilities. Dr. Schweitzer stated that these are the same policies that were approved last meeting on first reading with no changes. Chairman Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the aforementioned policies on second reading. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the policies as presented on second reading and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. Policies 1310/4002 Parental Involvement, 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials, 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program, 4335 Criminal Behavior, 4720 Surveys of Students, 6120 Student Health Services, and 7300 Staff Responsibilities were approved on second reading by a vote of 7-0.

NBPSCF Grant Application - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the Needs Based Public Schools Capital Fund (NBPSCF) Grant Application. Dr. Schweitzer is working on an application to procure funding for a new CTE wing at PCHS. This would be a five-classroom wing with a dual-bay shop. Dr. Schweitzer shared a mock-up plan of the wing to show the Board what it could look like. This would eliminate the need for existing older mobile trailers and the Barn storage building. The projection cost is estimated to be \$7 million dollars with a 5% local match.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Construction Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer updated the Board on the Forbes PreK Tryon Elementary School project. He informed the Board that everything is still on schedule. Dr. Schweitzer proposed extending the self-imposed deadline from February 29 to March 31. This request is not coming from the contractor but the district itself. The Board agreed to the extension of the deadline.

Dr. Schweitzer informed the Board that when the construction of the Soccer field took place there was debris dump at the end of the storm drain line. This has now completely stopped up. This has been resolved.

2024-2025 Calendar – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the 2024-2025 Polk County Schools Calendar that meets the requested terms of the Board. This calendar is very similar to the 2023-2024 School Calendar. It adheres to 180 days, two weeks at Christmas, Election day as a “no student” day, and exams getting done before Christmas. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 calendar as presented and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The 2024-2025 calendar was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene updated the Board regarding an approved legislation about those who can approve or enter into a contract for the district taking extra training. Mr. Greene presented taking this training during Spring Budget Workshop. The Board agreed to take this training during the workshop in March.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene held discussion with the Board regarding weather and school closing. All other surrounding districts are closing for Tuesday 1/9/2024 due to the incoming rain/wind. Mr. Greene asked the Board for their opinion on the matter. The Board discussed and the District decided to cancel school for 1/9/2024 due to rain/wind.

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding a student transfer request that was shared with the Board. Administration is good to approve the transfer. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the transfer request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The student transfer request was approved 7-0.

V. INFORMATION

December Pre-School Monthly Report Presented to the Board
Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board
Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board
Month to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board
Optional Teacher Workday-January 15, 2024

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library
2024 Board Officers Academy-NCSBA Assembly Hall-Jan 18, 9-3:30

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:40 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and an attorney-client matter. 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 8:23 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Allen 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. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Laura Shipman	EC Teacher	PCMS	Resigned

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Corey Lowery	History Teacher	PCEC	Bostic	UNC Charlotte	Will Apply	Years
Cindy Gilbert	Substitute Teacher	PCHS/PCMS/PCEC	Rutherfordton	N/A	Music	Years
Deanna Durham	Substitute Teacher	PCHS/PCMS/PCEC	Columbus	N/A	Computer Sciences	Years
Beth Packer	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Hendersonville	N/A	Music	Years
Cayce Hipp	Pre K Teachers Aide	Polk Central	Rutherfordton	ICC	N/A	Years

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO