

Board of Education Meeting
August 12, 2024
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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

Members Absent: Ms. Allen

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, 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 10, 2024 and June 27, 2024 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the June 10, 2024 and June 27, 2024 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. Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The June 10, 2024 and June 27, 2024 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Pre-K Half Days – Kathy Harding (Information)

Director of Pre-K Kathy Harding 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. 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.

Field Trip Request – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board for students to attend the FFA Sunbelt Ag Expo overnight field trip and the FFA State Veterinary Science Career Development Event. Superintendent Greene made a clarification regarding payment of meals while at the FFA State Veterinary Science Career Development Event. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the presented overnight field trip requests. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve both requests and it was seconded by Ms. Page and Mr. Parsons. The overnight field trip request for the FFA Sunbelt Ag Expo and the FFA State Veterinary Science Career Development Event were approved 6-0.

Infinite Campus Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer provided an update to the Board regarding Infinite Campus. Dr. Schweitzer shared a brief presentation with the timeline of Polk County Schools and Infinite Campus. Dr. Schweitzer stated that there are resources presented every day and the Infinite Campus support team has been very supportive. Dr. Schweitzer informed the Board that the Infinite Campus Team has intentionally delayed the launch of the parent module for a couple of reasons. The team wanted to make sure the data within Infinite Campus was fully aligned and making sure the processes were correct in the background. The team is hopeful to get the parent module launched soon. Chairman

Ashworth asked how staff were reacting to the change. Dr. Schweitzer responding that he was cautiously optimistic and felt that staff seemed to do extremely well on the first day.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Out of District Tuition Approval - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the administration's annual "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 \$2,931 per student for Out of District tuition. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Out of District Tuition. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the tuition and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Out of District Tuition was approved 6-0.

2023-2024 Year End Budget Amendment – Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the 2023-2024 year end budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Mr. Parsons made the motion, which Ms. Page seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 6-0.

Micropurchasing Resolution – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented a Micropurchasing Resolution to the Board for approval. 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 revenue areas to be sure all funding streams are consistent with Board policy thresholds. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Micropurchasing Resolution. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Micropurchasing Resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The Micropurchasing Resolution was approved on a vote of 6-0.

Student Transfer Request – Aaron Greene (Action)

The Board agreed that there was no need to discuss the included student transfer request further. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the student transfer request. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the student transfer request as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The student transfer request was approved 6-0.

Hwy 9 Widening Project - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the Hwy 9 Widening Project. Dr. Schweitzer stated that NCDOT is currently in the process of working out easements and agreement with the land owners in that area. There are a couple of goals for the district engaging with NCDOT. The first goal is to make sure the road does not move any closer to Polk Central Elementary School. The second goal was to hang on to some of the trees and shrubbery. The road itself will not move closer but there will be some construction on the school side of the road. Dr. Schweitzer shared pictures right of way, drawings, and the deed for highway right of way. There was discussion among the Board regarding the project. The deed will be brought to the Board for action at the September meeting.

Facilities Update – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer provided a facility update to the Board. He shared information on the online agenda regarding projects that were completed during the summer of 2024. Dr. Schweitzer gave a special thank you to Darren Green, the director of maintenance for the District for his and his teams work this summer. Dr. Schweitzer stated that the PCMS seal coat and restripe projects initial estimate was \$49,000. The final cost came in at \$50,575. Dr. Schweitzer apologized that there was no action on this project since it was over the threshold. Superintendent Greene ask for the Board to go ahead and act retroactively so that there is record that it was approved. Chairman Ashworth asked the

pleasure of the Board regarding the PCMS seal coat and restripe project being \$50,575. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the project and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The PCMS seal coat and restripe project was approved 6-0.

Pre-K Building Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the Pre-K building at Tryon Elementary. He stated that the building is up and running. Chairman Ashworth asked if everything went well on the first day. Dr. Schweitzer stated that normal first day issues but nothing more. Dr. Schweitzer shared his appreciation to Champion Construction for their work on the building.

Lottery Reimbursements - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board several lottery reimbursement requests. Each of these requests were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve lottery requests and the motion was seconded by Mr. Covil. The lottery requests were approved as presented 6-0.

Sales Tax Set Aside - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer updated the Board regarding a sales tax set aside transfer. This is a request for the County to transfer sales tax funds over to the district and will be submitted at the next County Commissioner meeting.

Superintendent Update-Start of 24-25 School Year - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene gave the Board a start of school update. Mr. Greene stated that the district had a great administrative retreat. The theme for the year for the district is Energize, Engage, and Empower. Mr. Greene spoke with all principals and all of them stated the day went great with its normal beginning of the year issues. Mr. Greene will bring attendance numbers in September.

Forbes Deed – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene gave the floor to Attorney Feagan to speak about the Forbes Deed. Mr. Feagan gave information regarding the Forbes deed and details of the execution. He stated a motion would be needed to formally approve the execution of the non-warranty deed conveying any right title or interest in the former Forbes preschool property to the Stuart and Margaret Forbes Foundation. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the deed. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the execution of the non-warranty deed granting any and all right title or interest which the Board may have in the former Forbes preschool property to the Stuart and Margaret Forbes Foundation, Inc. and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. Said deed being recorded in Book 468, Page 1764 Polk County Registry. The motion was approved 6-0.

Food Service

Superintendent Greene gave out information to the Board regarding Summer Meal handouts. Ms. Jackson asked if the district knew where food service is as far as money raised for the food service department and all kids eat free. Mr. Greene stated that he is getting information out that reminds people that all kids are eating free and that money is needed to help fund the meals.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that the NCSBA is looking for local Board members to service on the NCSBA Board of Directors. Please see Ms. Odel if you are interested.

Chairman Ashworth spoke to the Board regarding the issue of Cell Phones. He stated that he has gotten several emails regarding this issue. He asked the Board if this is something that the Board would need to act on. Mr. Greene explained that teachers and administrators all agree that cell phone usage is a problem, but there are other considerations when working to have a policy or rule around their use. Attorney Feagan stated that he would try to get

a copy of a policy that is already out there. The Board requested Mr. Greene and administration to work with directors, principals, and Attorney Feagan on a policy regarding cell phones.

V. INFORMATION

2024-2025 School Year: First day for all Polk County Schools: August 12, 2024

July Pre-K Financial Report

June Monthly Financial Report

July Monthly Financial Report

June Credit Card Report

July Credit Card Report

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

2023/2024 NCSBA Video Library

WRESA Leadership Education and Training-9/4/24 at WRESA

COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference-9/8/24 in Washington, D.C.

2024 Fall Law Conference-October 16-18, 2024 in Asheville

Annual Conference-November 18-20, 2024 in Greensboro

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There were two members 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 7:32 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an Attorney Client Privilege. Ms. Jackson 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 8:50 pm, Mr. Covil made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Jackson 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. The Board acted on the first individual personnel recommendation, Justin Lovelace. Mr. Covil made a motion to reject the recommendation for employment of Justin Lovelace as Accountability Coordinator, and it was seconded by Mrs. Jackson. The Board voted 6-0 to not approve Justin Lovelace.

Superintendent Greene offered another recommendation for the Accountability Coordinator position, Angela Dufford. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve Angela Dufford as Accountability Coordinator, and it was seconded by Mrs. Gibbs. The Board approved Angela Dufford 6-0.

Mr. Rob Parsons made a motion to accept the recommendation of Damian Jackson for employment as custodian at Polk Middle. Mrs. Page seconded the motion. Mrs. Jackson recused herself from the vote, and the Board approved Damian Jackson for employment by a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Gibbs made a motion to approve all other recommendations for personnel action, and Mr. Parsons seconded. The remaining recommendations for employment or action were approved 6-0.

July 16, 2024 Hearing Minutes and Determination: Mrs. Jackson made a motion to accept the determination and account of the Board’s July 16, 2024 Hearing regarding Ellen Rogers for the official Board record. Mrs. Page seconded. The Board approved the July 16, 2024 Closed Session Hearing determination and minutes 6-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School				
Jennifer Elliott	CTE Teacher	PCMS	Resigned			
Margaret Hannon	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Resigned			
Lindsey Gantt	Food Service	PCMS	Resigned			
Thomas "Mark" Smith	Groundskeeper	Maintenance	Resigned			
Stacy Harris	Teacher Assistant	Transferring from Teacher Assistant at PCHS to Teacher Assistant at Tryon Elementary				
Ellen Rogers	Teacher	Saluda	Terminated			
Brittney Whitaker	6th Grade Teacher	PCMS	Parental Leave			
James Mulderig	Custodian/Bus Driver	PCMS	Resigning his custodial duties			

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Bryanna Doucette	EC Teacher	Saluda	Hendersonville	University of Phoenix	Will Apply	0
Jodi Everts	Exploratory Teacher	PCMS	Mill Spring	Southern Wesleyan	Will Apply	5
Matthew Dellinger	CTE Teacher	PCMS	Fletcher	Southwestern Community College	CTE	14
Brittney Whitaker	Social Studies Teacher	PCMS	Horse Shoe	East Carolina University	Will Apply	0
Bethany Oxford	ELA Teacher	PCMS	Spartanburg, SC	Clemson University	Will Apply	Years
Janet Phillips	ARC Teacher	PCHS	Ellenboro	Gardner-Webb University	Middle Grades	24

Sara "Amy" Ballentine	English Teacher	PCHS	Columbus	Univeristy of South Carolina	Secondary Grades	27
Emily Moore	Pre K Teacher	Tryon	Forest City	Appalachian State	Pre K	Years
Amy Robinson	Speech Language Pathologist	District Wide	Rutherfordton	University of Central Florida	Speech	27
Rachel Hamby	Transfer from EC Teacher Assistant at Tryon to EC Teacher at Polk Central			University of Phoenix	Will Apply	0
Tena Green	Transfer from Full Time Teacher Assistant at Saluda to Part Time Music Teacher at Saluda			Converse College	Will Apply	0
Cameran Sherman	Transfer from Teacher Assistant at Tryon to Teacher at Tryon			North Greenville University	Will Apply	0
Lily Earney	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Mill Spring	Isothermal Community College	N/A	2
Harley Jones	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Saluda	Blue Ridge Community College	N/A	2
Cindy Morse	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Forest City	N/A	N/A	4
Savanna Parris	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Saluda	Liberty University	N/A	0
Angela Tipton	EC Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	0
Danielle Marsh	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Tryon	Isothermal Community College	N/A	9
Whitney Yelton	Transfer from Food Service at Polk Central to Teacher Assistant at Polk Central			N/A	N/A	9
Danielle Brodie-Lancaster	Food Service Assistant	PCMS	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	1
Shannan Manly	Food Service Assistant	Tryon	Landrum, SC	N/A	N/A	Years
Alaina Waters	Food Service Assistant	Polk Cental	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	2
Meredith Carter	Food Service Assistant	Tryon	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	10

Charity Hamilton	Food Service Assistant	All Schools	Saluda	N/A	N/A	11
William "Bo" Barron	Full Time Custodian	Tryon	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years
Connie Lewis	Full Time Custodian/Bus Driver	Saluda	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Bailey Rankin	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Tryon	N/A	N/A	0
Jatziry Roman-Salinas	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Termaine Jackson	Afterschool Group Leader	PCHS				
Markiesha Jackson	Afterschool Site Director	PCMS				
Jan McManus	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Inman, SC	Converse College	N/A	
Jody Durham	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	Appalachian State University	N/A	20
Victoria Denton	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0
Justin Lovelace	Accountability Coordinator	Central Office	Hendersonville	Converse College	Administration	16
Damian Jackson	Custodian	PCMS	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Jerry "Steve" Metcalf	Custodian	PCMS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

 Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

 Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO