

**Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 9, 2024**  
**6:30 PM, Tryon Elementary Preschool Building**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Student Services Director Toni Haley, 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**

**Tryon Elementary School Presentation**

Dr. John Mauldin introduced teachers and students that had prepared student presentations for the Board. There were groups of fifth-grade students and first-grade students. Each teacher and student spoke to the Board regarding their recent projects and presentations. The Board applauded the student's efforts and shared their appreciation to the teachers and students for their work and time.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Polk County Community Foundation Grants and Community Partnership -Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding Polk County Community Foundation (PCCF) Grants and Community Partnership. Mr. Greene shared a brief presentation regarding the PCCF Productive Partnership. Mr. Greene shared information about the grants and monies that this position has helped bring to the District and its students. Mr. Greene indicated that this position is also a "gatekeeper" in some ways. They know the school system and its operations and schedules and they can vet programs for "fit" before they get started. This position is responsible for bringing close to \$350,000 in PCCF grants. They have also worked closely with PCCF to grow more than \$90,000 in the Polk Schools Fund and over \$1,000,000 in external grants. George Alley is the current lead in this position. The District also has Cindy Riddle working as the Arts Lead for the program. Superintendent Greene expressed his appreciation to the Polk County Community Foundation for all of their support.

**Accountability Update - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene gave a brief accountability update to the Board. Mr. Greene stated that this is normally the time that the district gives a testing update for the preceding year. These results just became available and there is still a correction period for those results before they are officially released. Ms. Dufford is still becoming familiar with all things testing. The district plans to bring information regarding 2023-2024 testing at the October meeting.

**Superintendent Update - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the board regarding a start of school update. Mr. Greene gave the Board a handout on enrollment data. Based on the information the district is at the same number for enrollment as it was last year. Mr. Greene, Mr. Covil, and Ms. Gibbs visited the all schools in the District. Mr. Covil stated that he was amazed at how good the schools looked, and that they were very clean. Ms. Gibbs commented on how happy students were, and that

she was thrilled with everything she saw during her trip. Mr. Ashworth stated that all of the comments that he has heard so far have been positive. Ms. Jackson stated that the students she has spoken to are enjoying their year so far.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

### **Hwy 9 Widening Project - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)**

Dr. Schweitzer provided more information to the Board regarding the Hwy 9 Widening Project. The project was previously discussed in detail at the August Board meeting. Dr. Schweitzer went over the Deed for Highway Right of Way. The price that NCDOT is offering the District is \$80,000 after much negotiation. The options are to accept the deed for the offered amount or defer the offer. Attorney Feagan spoke with the Board regarding the details of the deed. Attorney Feagan said that if the Board decided not to accept the deed, they would proceed with their arbitration process. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Hwy 9 Project as presented. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the Hwy 9 Project as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

### **Student Transfer Request – Aaron Greene (Action)**

The Board agreed that there was no need to discuss the request further in closed session. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the student transfer request. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the student transfer request as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The student transfer request was approved 7-0.

### **Lottery Reimbursements - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board two 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. Page made a motion to approve lottery requests and the motion was seconded by Ms. Allen. The lottery requests were approved as presented 7-0.

### **Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Application (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer discussed with the Board the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Application attached to the agenda. Dr. Schweitzer briefly went over the details of the Polk County High School CTE Addition request for \$7 million. If the district is approved for \$6 million that should be enough to get started. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Application and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Application was approved 7-0.

### **November 4, 2024 Board Meeting - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene asked for the Board's thoughts on the November Board of Education meeting. The regular scheduled meeting would be Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, which is Veterans Day this year. Mr. Greene suggested moving the meeting to November 4. Mr. Covil made a motion to move the meeting to November 4 and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene asked the Board's their pleasure in continuing the Board meeting with School Improvement plans starting at 5:30. 5:30-6:30 will be school improvement plans only, then the regular schedule meeting would begin at 7:00. The board agreed.

Superintendent Greene updated the Board on the discussion of cell phone usage in schools. Mr. Greene stated that there will be a meeting with administrators and cell phones will be discussed. Mr. Greene stated that it may be easier developing a cell phone policy on the K-5 level during the year but it would be a little more difficult in the upper grades.

Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation to Mr. Covil and Ms. Gibbs for touring the schools with him. He spoke with the rest of the Board regarding setting up a time to go for a tour.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Overnight Field Trip Request - Superintendent Greene went over the overnight field trip request for Polk county High School, Skills USA CTSO. Superintendent Greene stated that the request has principal endorsement and has met all requirements. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the overnight field trip request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The overnight Polk county High School, SkillsUSA CTSO field trip request was approved 7-0.

NCSBA Voting Delegates and Directors – Superintendent Greene stated it was time to elect NCSBA voting delegates if anyone is interested. Mr. Greene said that you do have to be present to vote at these meetings. No one was interested in being a voting delegate due to the time requirements.

Superintendent Greene spoke his appreciation to Kathy Harding, her staff and Brandon Schweitzer for all the work that they did with the new building and getting it up and going. The Board spoke their praise of the hard work that was done.

#### **V. INFORMATION**

- Preschool Monthly Report
- Pre-K Financial Report
- Monthly Financial Report
- Year to Date Credit Card Report

#### **OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING**

- 2024/2025 NCSBA Video Library
- 2024 Fall Law Conference-October 16-18, 2024 in Asheville
- Annual Conference-November 18-20, 2024 in Greensboro

#### **VI. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

#### **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Closed Session**

At 7:36 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a student matter. Ms. Jackson 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 8:02 pm, Ms. Jackson 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. Mr. Parsons 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:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	
Cory Lowery	SS Teacher	Polk Early College	Resigned

Reed Hoerner	EC Teacher Assistant	Polk County Middle School	Resigned
--------------	----------------------	---------------------------	----------

**Action:**

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Jeff McCabe	Math Teacher	Polk County High School	Spartanburg, SC	George Mason University	Math	8 yrs
Jeffery Keene	Substitute	All Schools	Rutherfordton, NC	Gardner-Webb University	Biology	30 yrs
Christina O'Sullivan	Substitute	All Schools	Columbus, NC	NA		
Charles Fowler	Groundskeeper	Maintenance	Landrum, SC	NA		Years
Vaylie Alvarado	Afterschool	Tryon Elementary	Mill Spring, NC	NA		
Ainsley Hodge	Afterschool	Tryon Elementary	Tryon, NC	NA		
Miya Jackson	Afterschool	Polk Central Elementary	Mill Spring, NC	NA		
Yuriko Chavez	Afterschool	Polk Central Elementary	Columbus, NC	NA		
Chase Stansbury	Afterschool	Tryon Elementary	Mill Spring, NC	NA		
Maia Walen	Afterschool	Tryon Elementary	Tryon, NC	NA		
Millie Twiggs	Afterschool	Saluda Elementary	Saluda, NC	East Tennessee State		
Terry Gossett	Custodian	Polk County Middle School	Mill Spring, NC	N/A	N/A	Years

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
 AG/TO