

Board of Education Meeting
November 4, 2024
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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, and Attorney Phillip Feagan

Special Work Session

A special work session was held prior to the regular scheduled board meeting that included recognition of the 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year and school improvement plan presentations. On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Ashworth recognized each of the 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year and presented them with a plaque. Chairman Ashworth presented plaques to Lydia Ramsey (SVE), Amber Styles (PCES), Denise Kennedy (SES), Caitlin Williams (PCHS), Jessica Wilkins (TES) and Eric Eaton (PCMS). Eric Eaton was issued an additional plaque recognizing his selection as the 2024-2025 District Teacher of the Year.

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 portions of the plans are discussed.

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 August 12, 2024 and September 9, 2024 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the August 12, 2024 and the September 9, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections to the presented 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 August 12 and September 9 Board minutes were approved unanimously.

I. 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 the Head Start Annual Report to the Board. She shared information from the 2023-2024 annual report including budget summaries and child outcome data. The 2023-2024 Preschool funding sources totaled \$1,753,653. The 2023-2024 Head Start expenditures totaled \$784,012 and the 2024-

2025 Head Start budget is \$803,117. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Head Start Playground Grant - Kathy Harding (Information)

Ms. Kathy Harding made a presentation to the Board on a recently received Head Start Playground Grant. Ms. Harding applied for this supplemental grant and was awarded \$460,348 to demolish and install new playgrounds at Saluda, Polk Central and Sunny View Elementary. In addition to this grant, the district has been awarded a grant from Dogwood Trust for \$50,000 to help with Sunny View and Polk Central playgrounds that will be added to the Head Start amount.

Accountability Update - Angela Dufford (Information)

Angela Dufford presented an accountability update to the Board. She shared the 2023-2024 testing report that was attached to the electronic agenda. Ms. Dufford went over the report in detail with the Board. Superintendent Greene offered that last year's performance was still in the top ten of the state, but not at the level the district has scored over the past few years. Superintendent Greene affirmed the district will continue making strides for improvement.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Safe Schools/Crisis Plans - Aaron Greene (Action)

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

2024-2025 Budget Resolution- Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace, Finance Officer, presented the attached 2024-2025 budget resolutions to the Board. The 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 budget. Chairman Ashworth requested a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Resolution as presented. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Resolution, seconded by Ms. Page. The 2024-2025 Budget Resolution was approved 7-0.

2024-2025 Teacher Supplement Proposal - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented to the Board regarding the 2024-2025 Teacher Supplement Proposal. He submitted a recommended scale for approval. The amount that is given to the district by the state to bolster local supplements changes from year to year. Mr. Greene explained the scale to the Members of the Board and asked for approval. Chairman Ashworth called for questions and there were none. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the Teacher Supplement scale and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Teacher Supplement scale was approved 6-0 with Ms. Gibbs abstaining for the vote due to not having the proposal at the time of the vote.

Dishwasher Quote - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented a quote for the dishwashers for Polk County High School and Saluda Elementary School for Board approval. Dr. Schweitzer covered the dishwasher quotes with the Board and stated that Swanner Restaurant Equipment Co. Inc. was the bid winner with a quote of \$51,246.00. Chairman Ashworth called for questions from the Board. Mr. Ashworth asked why there was a significant difference in the quotes. Dr. Schweitzer stated that the labor cost with Swanner was significantly lower than the other bids. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the proposed bid and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The dishwasher quote was approved 7-0 as presented.

PCHS Track Repair Quote - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding a repair quote for the PCHS Track. The landscaping crew recently damaged the track and it needs to be repaired. Nationwide Insurance, the vendor's insurance, has agreed to cover this amount in full. Geo Surfaces is the initial installer of the track and holds the warranty. If the district decided to have someone else complete the repair it would void the warranty. Worst case scenario regarding timing on the

repair is this project may be bumped back to summer of 2025 due to weather. Mr. Parsons asked if the track is still usable if the project can't be completed until the summer. Dr. Schweitzer stated that Geo Surfaces would do some patching to get the district through until the project can be completed. Mr. Covil asked how much of the track was damaged. Dr. Schweitzer explained the scope of the damage that was done. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approved the PCHS Track Repair Quote as presented. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the PCHS Track Repair Quote and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion was approved 7-0.

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

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer discussed with the Board the NC School Capitol lottery Funder Release Requests included in the Board packet. Dr. Schweitzer went over each request individually. Dr. Schweitzer informed the Board that the PCMS Seal Coat and Striping project sum total came in higher than originally approved. Administration would like approval for the PCMS Seal Coat and Striping project at a sum total of \$53,104.25. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the PCMS Seal Coat and Striping project and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The motion was approved 7-0. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the NC School Capital Lottery Fund Release Request. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

Hurricane Helene Facilities Report - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer provided an update to the Board on facility damage occurring during Hurricane Helene. Dr. Schweitzer went over the Facilities Impact Assessment that was linked to the electronic agenda and discussed each issue individually. Dr. Schweitzer stated that he is working with the district's insurance company and FEMA to determine how things need to be handled. Overall, the facility damage estimate is \$459,650 and the food loss estimate is \$18,000.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that the cell phone discussion has been put on hold during hurricane Helene and administration will begin having those discussions again soon.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding an administrative recommendation to waive the days missed during Hurricane Helene. Mr. Parsons offered his appreciation for the effort and community support district staff displayed during the time of Hurricane Helene. Mr. Covil made a motion to waive the days missed and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene highlighted a letter from the Health Director Josh Kennedy. In the letter, Mr. Kennedy offered thanks from the Health and Human Services Agency as well as his on personal appreciation for the district's work and community support during the time of Hurricane Helene.

Superintendent Greene recognized the Board for achieving the Silver Bell Award for completing annual trainings.

The Board directed the Superintendent to develop a proposed 2024-2025 academic calendar consistent with current Board preferences. Superintendent acknowledged the request and will complete the request before the December meeting.

V. INFORMATION

November 5, 2024 Optional Teacher Workday
November 11, 2024 Veterans Day Holiday
November 27, 2024 - November 29, 2024 Thanksgiving Holiday
Christmas Break - 12/23/24-1/3/25
September Head Start Policy Council Minutes
September Pre-K Monthly Report

October Pre-K Financial Report
October Monthly Financial Report
September Monthly Credit Card Report
October Monthly Credit Card Report

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

2024/2025 NCSBA Video Library
Annual Conference - November 18-20, 2024 in Greensboro
Core Training - December 12-13, 2024 in Raleigh

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:05 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a discussion of Safe Schools plans. Ms. Jackson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. 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 8:45 pm, Mr. Parsons made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page 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. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to the School Improvement Plans/Safe School & 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. Parsons made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans and the safe schools components discussed in executive session and Ms. Jackson seconded. It was approved 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
David McEntire	Custodian/Bus Driver	PCMS	Retired
Jeffrey McCabe	Teacher	PCHS	Accepted another position elsewhere
Maria Mignone Whitaker	Teacher	Polk Central	Resigning
Melanie Aguirre	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	Resigned
Casey Brown	Administrative Assistant	Sunny View	Resigned
Margo Aminah Harden	Afterschool Site Director	Tryon	Terminated

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Angela Wilson	Transfer from Teacher Assistant to Administrative Assistant	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Heather Smith	Transfer from Custodian to Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Jennifer Lynch	Transfer from EC Teacher Assistant to Custodian	Polk Central to Sunny View	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Brittany Hardy	EC Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Forest City	ICC	N/A	0
Donna Conner	Title I Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Mooresboro	Gaston College	N/A	Years
Michelle Hernandez	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	0
Madison Sparks-Trumble	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Tryon	N/A	N/A	2
Lyrick Broach	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central	Columbus	N/A	N/A	0
Mackenzie Carroll	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Green Creek	N/A	N/A	1
Claudia Moose	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Appalachian	Middle/Secondary	20
Sarah Niswender	Substitute / Afterschool Group Leader/transferred to Site Director	Tryon	Columbus	University of TN	N/A	4
Buffy Weathington	School Counselor	Saluda/PCMS	Tryon	UNC Charlotte	School Counseling	Years
Kellie Parker	Afterschool Group Leader/Substitute Teacher	Polk Central	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	1
Paula Cooper	EC Teacher Assistant	PCMS	Spindale	Winthrop	N/A	0
Haley Turner	Teacher	Polk Central	Mill Spring	Appalachian	Elementary Grades	Years
Belinda Minnich	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Rutherfordton	University of Central Arkansas	Middle/Secondary	30

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO