

Board of Education Meeting

December 9, 2024

6:30 PM, at Isothermal Community College, Polk Campus

There was an audit committee meeting at 6:00 prior to the regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Director of Human Resources Todd Murphy, 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

Recognition of the 2024 Christmas Card Artists

Chairman Ashworth recognized the five student Christmas card artists whose artwork was chosen for the 2024 Polk County Schools' Christmas cards. They included: Jessie Bradley, Mia Wolfe, Alyssa Scanlon, River Miller, and Kylie Lewis. Mr. Ashworth presented each artist with a Christmas ornament gift and a box of their own Christmas cards. Superintendent Greene thanked Mr. Thomas, the students, and their families for attending the meeting and for the contribution of their artwork.

Recognition of Mr. Robert Parsons

Mr. Ashworth recognized Mr. Parsons for his service to the Polk County School Board. Superintendent Greene presented a plaque to Mr. Parsons and offered appreciation for his service on behalf of the District. All agreed that Mr. Parsons should be commended for always putting the students first.

Approval of November 4, 2024 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the November 4, 2024 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Swearing in of the Elected and Re-Elected Board Members: Lucinda Allen, Richard Covil, Richard Stich (Action)

The Polk County Clerk of Court, Pam Hyder, administered the oath of office to Ms. Lucinda Allen, Mr. Richard Covil, and Mr. Richard Stich. Each of the elected members took the oath of office individually and all swore to fulfill the constitutional and statutory obligations contained in their oath of office.

Annual Election of Board Chairman & Vice-Chair (Action)

Chairman Ashworth turned the gavel and meeting over to Superintendent Greene for the annual election of the Board Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Greene asked for nominations. Ms. Allen made a motion to re-elect Mr. Ashworth as the Board Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Page, and it carried 7-0. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to re-elect

Mr. Covil as the Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Greene turned the gavel and meeting back over to Chairman Ashworth.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Dr. Margaret Annunziata - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene introduced Dr. Margaret Annunziata, president of Isothermal Community College (ICC), and thanked her for being present to share the good work being done at ICC and in the partnership with Polk County Schools. Dr. Annunziata discussed some of the changes happening at ICC intended to increase and enhance opportunities for the students they serve. She shared statistics regarding the success rate for Polk County students that attend ICC. Superintendent Greene shared his appreciation for the work that Dr. Annunziata has done and the partnership between Polk County Schools and ICC.

Federal Programs - Jan Crump (Action)

Jan Crump presented a request for approval of the Federal Programs Consolidated Application. Ms. Crump stated the funding supports the District's work with at risk students, Pre-K Students, summer remediation, professional development and several other program areas. Chairman Ashworth asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Federal Consolidated Application for 2024-2025. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the Federal Consolidated Application Plans for 2024-2025 and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion was approved 7-0.

Student Transfer Requests - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

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

2025-2026 School Calendar - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the 2025-2026 School Calendar as requested by the Board. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The 2025-2026 school calendar was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2023-2024 Audit Presentation - Anderson, Smith, & Wike PLLC (Action)

Chairman Ashworth welcomed Mr. Andy Deal of Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, to present fiscal year 2023-2024 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, meaning 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. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve and accept the 2023-2024 Audit. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the audit as presented. Mr. Stich 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. Stich/Ms. Page seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Employee Assistance Program – Todd Murphy (Information)

Human Resources Director Todd Murphy gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding the new Employee Assistance Program that will be offered to district staff in the new year. Mr. Murphy briefly went over the attached

document regarding Educators EAP. He noted there will be a savings of 57cent per employee per month switching to Educators EAP.

REVISED: Hwy 9 DOT Project Deed for Right of Way - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented the Revised Hwy 9 DOT Project Deed Right of Way to the Board and discussed details regarding the agreement. DOT rejected the initial proposal and sent back a modified version to the district for approval. There was a change in wording in the deed that Dr. Schweitzer and Mr. Feagan have discussed. Mr. Feagan stated that this is a standard Deed of Easement. Once the money is transferred the deed will be transferred. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the Revised Hwy 9 DOT Project Deed for Right of Way and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The Revised Hwy 9 DOT Project Deed for Right of Way was approved 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene reminded the Board that he had sent out a survey regarding Committee assignments. Also, he commented that Ms. Odel had handed out information sheets for them to complete to ensure that the district has the correct information.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene inquired as to what the Board preference would be regarding Ethics Training and Boardmanship 101 training. The Board agreed that they would like to have it in a live session prior to a Board meeting. Mr. Greene stated that he would get that scheduled and send out the information once it has been scheduled.

V. INFORMATION

November Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
November 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
Christmas Break for Students: December 23, 2024 - January 3, 2025 - students return to school on January 6, 2025

OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

2024/2025 NCSBA Video Library
Core Training - NCSBA Office, Raleigh - 1/13/25 - 1/14/25
Core Training - NCSBA Office, Raleigh - 1/29/25 - 1/30/25
2025 Board Officers Academy - NCSBA Office, Raleigh - 2/5/25

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:19 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, and a student matter. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. 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 8:35 pm, Ms. Allen 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 general 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. Mr. Stich seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Ashworth called the Board's attention to the Administrator Contracts presented. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the Administrator as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Administrator contracts were approved 7-0.

Information:

None

Action:

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO