

Board of Education Meeting
January 13, 2025
6:30 PM, at Stearns Education Center Boardroom

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, 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

Student Presentation

Due to inclement weather the student presentation was canceled.

Approval of December 9, 2024 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the December 9, 2024 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. Page 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.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

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 19.5% of students qualifying for EC services while only receiving EC state funding at a 13% of ADM level. There are approximately 372 students recognized as EC and 26 students in the referral process. The Board thanked Mrs. Haley and her staff for their efforts.

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

Superintendent Greene presented the FFA Poultry Judging Overnight request to the Board. There were no questions regarding the request. 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 request. Mr. Covil

made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The overnight field trip requests were approved 7-0.

Continuous Improvement Process - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene and Curriculum Director Crump made a brief presentation to the Board regarding the District's continuous improvement process. Ms. Crump explained that this process requires each school to pull data and information that school improvement teams and district administration meet and analyze. They discuss what areas are showing improvement or growth and which still need to be addressed. The goals for each school are re-emphasized, and another meeting is scheduled for the end of the year to assess goal process at that point. Superintendent Greene then discussed Strategic Planning with the Board. This was planned for 2020-2021, but with the events that took place that process was put on hold. Mr. Greene explained the handout with timeline, process, and events that would take place during the strategic planning process.

Forbes Teacher Leadership Program - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene updated the Board on a newly implemented Forbes Teacher Leadership Program. Forbes has granted the district funding to offer the Forbes Leadership Program to teachers in addition to their support of ongoing administrative professional development. This program is intended to identify and nurture the talent and leadership potential of the teachers chosen for the program. There were approximately 25 applicants and 17 were chosen for the first cohort. They will attend 5 sessions during the Spring semester.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Ms. Allen noted that there was an error within the budget amendment. Listed on Fund 8 it is listed under the amendment 3 column and should be in the amendment 2 column. Superintendent Greene stated that he would make note of the change. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved with the correction. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment with the correction discussed, and it was seconded Ms. Page. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

2025-2026 Budget Calendar – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar to the Board for approval. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion regarding the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to approve the calendar as presented by Mr. Greene. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Head Start No Cost Extension – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the Head Start No Cost Extension to the Board. He explained this is requesting an additional 12 months no-cost extension for the grant awarded with a budget period 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025 to replace the existing preschool playgrounds at Polk Central, Saluda, and Sunny View schools in the amount of \$460,348. If approved, the new budget period and project ending date will be 6/30/2026. Chairman Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the attached Head Start No Cost Extension. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the Head Start No Cost Extension and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The Head Start No Cost Extension was approved 7-0.

PCHS Paving Project-Phase II – Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS Paving Project. Dr. Schweitzer recapped the phase II Process. He went over the existing and proposed information. Dr. Schweitzer presented the bid tabulation and stated that Tarheel Paving won the bid at \$674,047.55 and he is requested approval. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the proposed bid. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the bid as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion approved 6-0 with Ms. Jackson recusing herself from the vote.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding Ethics and Boardsmanship training. The training is schedule for February 10 at 4:00 in the Stearns Education Center Boardroom.

Chairman Ashworth asked Operations Director Schweitzer to speak to the Board regarding a Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA). This is a comprehensive assessment of all Board of Education owned facilities. At the end of the process the district will be presented with a detailed evaluation and maintenance plan for all facilities. This assessment will cost the district approximately \$150,000. The facilities sub-committee has discussed the pros/cons of the FCA previously and wanted the input of the Board. There was discussion among the Board regarding the FCA process and need for it. The Board agreed for Dr. Schweitzer to draft an RFP and bring bids back to the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the PC4K Event. This is scheduled for Saturday February 8 from 5:00-10:00.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the District switching Milk companies. The Maola company has not fulfilled the deliverables on their end of the contract. The district will now shift its milk contract to PET instead of Maola.

Superintended Greene spoke to the Board regarding the 2024-2025 School Calendar. The Board discussed different options for make-up days for the 2024-2025. The Board agreed on weather make up days and Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the new 2024-2025 calendar. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the presented 2024-2025 calendar and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The presented 2024-2025 school calendar was approved 7-0. The updated calendar will be communicated to stakeholders.

V. INFORMATION

December Pre-School Monthly Report Presented to the Board
December Head Start 2024 Minutes
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 20, 2025

NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

2024/2025 NCSBA Video Library
Core Training-1/29/25-1/30/25-WRESA
2025 Board Officers Academy-2/5/25-Raleigh
Board Chairs/Superintendents Seminar-2/6/25-Raleigh

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was one community member who wished to offer 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 7:34 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel. Ms. Allen 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 8:00 pm, Ms. Gibbs 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. 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.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Jeffrey Micchelli	EC Teacher	PCHS	Resigned
Jim Mulderig	Bus Driver	PCMS	Retiring
Lucy Steppe	EC Teacher	PCMS	Retiring
Damian Jackson	Custodian	PCMS	Terminated

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Anne Sheppard	School Counselor	Sal/PCMS	Saluda	UNC	Social Work	8
Brandy Painter	Transfer from Substitute Teacher to EC Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Tryon	N/A	N/A	Years
Gabrielle Devine	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	Tryon	N/A	N/A	2
Linda Brenner	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	11
Jordan Heafner	Full Time Custodian	PCMS	Ellenboro	N/A	N/A	0
Melissa Gillespie	Substitute Teacher	Saluda	Hendersonville	Furman	El Ed (K-6)	31

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO