

Board of Education Meeting
March 10, 2025
6:30 PM, in the Polk County High School Media Center

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 - Polk County High School

The Polk County High School Unity Club presented to the Board regarding their club. There were several members of the PCHS Unity Club present. Each member explained their role in the club and some activities that the club has participated in this school year. The Board showed their appreciation to the students for their work and presentation.

PCHS Women's Volleyball State Championship Team

The Board recognized Polk County High School volleyball coach Molly Hill. Coach Hill offered comments to the Board regarding the State Champion Volleyball Team. The volleyball team presented medallions to the Board to commemorate the 2024-2025 PCHS State Champion Volleyball Team. To surprise the members of the volleyball team, they were presented with a second “state championship back-to-back” ring that could be worn daily. The team presented a ring to Principal Bean and also to the Coach Hill and Coach Smith.

Approval of February 10, 2025 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board’s attention to a copy of the February 10, 2025 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. Mr. Stich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

FFA Overnight Field Trip Request - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board to approve the overnight field trip requests for the FFA National Land Judging Competition and the NCFFA State Dairy Judging 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. Allen. The overnight field trip request for the FFA National Land Judging Competition and the NCFFA State Dairy Judging Career Development Event were approved 7-0.

PreK Mid-Year Update - Kathy Harding (Information)

Director of PreK Kathy Harding provided a PreK update to the Board. Ms. Harding discussed enrollment and funding for the 2025-2026 school year. There have been 55 enrollment appointments completed as of 3/7/25. Ms. Harding introduced Ms. Laura Jane Howald, the Education Manager for Pre-School. Ms. Laura Jane Howald shared a

presentation regarding curriculum and the program's 6 weeks units of study. She shared the different areas that the children learn while doing these units.

Pre-K Playground Bid Approval - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer discussed and submitted PreK playground bids to the Board for their approval. The project includes complete demolition and rebuild of PreK playgrounds for Sunny View Elementary, Polk Central Elementary, and Saluda Elementary. Great Southern Recreation Company was the clear bid winner. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the bid as submitted. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the bid as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion was approved 7-0.

2024-2025 Summer Program Plan - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene briefly went over the attached 2024-2025 Summer Program Plan. This plan is very similar to the plans approved in the past. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the plan as presented. The 2024-2025 Summer Program Plan was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

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. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment and it was seconded by Ms. Page. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Audit Contract – Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace presented to the Board regarding the Audit Contract with Anderson, Smith, and Wyke, LLC. Taking action at this meeting will approve them to continue with the audit contract for the 2025-2026 school year. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the audit contract. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the audit contract with Anderson, Smith, and Wyke, LLC and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The 2025-2026 Audit Contract was approved 7-0.

Student Transfer Request – 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 the student transfer requests. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the student transfer requests as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Covil. The student transfer request was approved 7-0.

Helene Recovery Update – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the Helene Recovery. Dr. Schweitzer discussed FEMA, Utica National Insurance Group, Community Partnerships for Recovery, The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, The Polk County Community Foundation, and multiple donors as some of the recovery partners. Dr. Schweitzer described two of the major projects happening currently. Chairman Ashworth called for questions and there were none.

Recent Grant Awards – Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding Recent Grant Awards. Mr. Greene informed the Board of the \$30,000 Child Nutrition grant to change the serving line at TES and SVES. Superintendent Greene then gave the floor to Dr. Schweitzer to briefly talk about a safe schools grant. The district received a grant to purchase supplies and materials to bolster school safety infrastructure and response. There is also money in the grant to fund another year of school social worker salary.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene confirmed the County funding for the PCHS paving job and that it is still good to go for the summer.

Mr. Greene also reported the District is still waiting on final invoices to come in for the total raised at PC4K.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene confirmed the budget workshop for April 14 from 4:00-6:00.
Superintendent Greene stated that Administration recommends moving the optional workday at the end of the year to the day that was missed for weather, and to forgive Saluda for their second day missed in that window. The district will still have the correct number of hours required by the state. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the recommendations for the calendar and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The updated 2024-2025 school calendar was approved 7-0.
Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding Federal funding. Mr. Greene passed out a brief explaining Federal Funding and involvement in the budget and discussed it in detail with the Board.

V. INFORMATION

February Head Start Policy Council Minutes
February Pre-School Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Month to Date Credit Card Report
Spring Break 3/31/2025-4/4/2025

NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

Spring Law Conference/April 3-4/Via Zoom
Summer Leadership Conference/Jun 16-Jun 20/Wrightsville Beach
NCSBA Video Training Library

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:37 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and a Property Matter. Ms. Gibbs 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 7:57 pm, Ms. Gibbs made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Jackson 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. Allen made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Jeff Thomas	Art Teacher	PCHS	Retiring
Mary Greene	PCEC Director	PCEC	Retiring

Debra Bailey	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Retiring
Belinda Painter	Food Service Worker	Polk Central	Retiring
Travis Reid	Maintenance Worker	Maintenance	Resigning
Sarah Reid	EC Teacher	PCHS	Resigning

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Colleen Dolan	PEAK Afterschool Tutor	All Schools	Columbus	University of Montana	El Ed (K-6)	Years
Amanda Anderson	Food Service Substitute	All Schools	Saluda	N/A	N/A	1
Briana O'Neal Mulls	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	0
Carolina Castillo-Ibarra	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	Berea College	Pending El Ed(K-6)	Student Taught
Savanna Roberts	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Mill Spring	ICC	N/A	0

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
AG/TO