

## Board of Education Meeting

April 14, 2025

6:30 PM, in the Stearns Education Center Boardroom

Board member budget training prior to the 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, 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**

### **Approval of March 10, 2025 Board Minutes (Action)**

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the March 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. Mr. Stich made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## I. INSTRUCTIONAL

### **Overnight Field Trip Requests - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board for overnight field trip requests for the PCMS Science Olympiad State Competition, and the PCMS Bridge Building State Competition. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the presented overnight field trip requests. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve both requests and it was seconded by Mr. Stich. The overnight field trip request for the PCMS Science Olympiad State Competition and the PCMS Bridge Building State Competition were approved 7-0.

### **AIG Plan- Andrea Walter (Action)**

Andrea Walter presented the District's AIG Plan to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the proposed AIG plan. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the AIG plan as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The AIG plan was approved 7-0.

### **Title I Audit Report - Jan Crump (Information)**

Jan Crump went over the results for the Federal Program Cross-Program Consolidated Monitoring Review. There were no findings reported by the review committee, only praise for the District's work and reporting. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation to Ms. Crump for her work and time put in to this program and the audit.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

### **Child Nutritionist/CEP - Jennifer Peeler (Action)**

Superintendent Greene and Ms. Peeler held discussion with the Board regarding the District's participation in CEP. Looking at data for the upcoming year, feeding all students breakfast and lunch for free as in past years will incur a projected loss between \$50,000 - \$75,000. In previous years the community has been very supportive in this endeavor.

Mr. Ashworth called for a motion regarding CEP for Polk County Schools. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve CEP for the District and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion passed 7-0.

**Food Service Rollover Bids - Jennifer Peeler (Action)**

Jennifer Peeler discussed rolling food service bids with the Board. Superintendent Greene recommended the Board approve the rollover bids. He doesn't feel that it would be productive or financially beneficial to go back out for bids. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Rollover Bids. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the Food Service Rollover Bids and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Rollover Bids were approved 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. Mr. Stich made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

**Proposed 2025-2026 Budget - Debbie Lovelace (Action)**

The 2025-2026 Proposed Operations Budget and Capital Outlay for submission to Commissioners were attached to the electronic agenda with total expenditures at \$6,432,765 and Capital at \$312,000. Chairman Ashworth called for any questions or comments from the Board and there were none. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 proposed budget and capital outlay as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The 2025-2026 proposed local budget and capital outlay budget were 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. Allen made a motion to approve the student transfer requests as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The student transfer request was approved 7-0.

**PCHS Fire System Replacement Project - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer held discussion with the Board regarding the PCHS Fire System Replacement Project. He briefly went over the bid tabulation sheet that was shared with the Board. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the PCHS Fire System Replacement Project Bid as presented. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the bid and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The PCHS Fire System Replacement Project Bid was approved 7-0 as presented.

**TES Annex Roof Replacement Project - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke with the Board regarding the TES Annex Roof Replacement Project. He briefly went over the bid tabulation sheet that was shared with the Board. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the TES Annex Roof Replacement Project Bid as presented. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the bid and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The TES Annex Roof Replacement Project Bid was approved 7-0 as presented.

**TES / PCES Kitchen Hood Project - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer held discussion with the Board regarding the TES / PCES Kitchen Hood Project. He briefly went over the bid tabulation sheet that was shared with the Board. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the TES / PCES Kitchen Hood Project Bid as presented. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the bid and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The TES / PCES Kitchen Hood Project Bid was approved 7-0 as presented.

**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. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the NC School Capital Lottery Fund Release Requests as presented. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the NC School Capital Lottery Fund Release Requests and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### **Summer Program Plan - Angela Dufford (Action)**

The Summer Program Testing Plan was approved at a prior Board meeting. Since that time there have been some changes in flexibility for retesting windows. The District amended the original plan and made changes to create a better testing plan for summer second administrations. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the updated Summer Testing Program Plan. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the updated Summer Testing Program Plan and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The updated Summer Testing Program Plan was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene stated that the total amount of money raised from PC4K was a little over \$60,000.

Superintendent Greene stated that there are ongoing discussions regarding the \$500,000 County support for the PCHS Phase II paving project.

Superintendent Greene stated that a draft of the Strategic Plan will be brought to the Board in May for review, and then a final draft will be brought back in June for final approval.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene distributed a letter from a community member regarding placing two statues in Stearns Park. There has always been discussion regarding who is to make decisions about requests like this. Attorney Feagan found a letter from 2008 where the county leases the property from Polk County Schools. The Board directs Superintendent Greene to reach out and let the community member know that the district is in favor of placing the statues but is not in complete control of the property. He will communicate that the Town of Columbus and Polk County Government should weigh in as well.

### V. INFORMATION

Head Start Policy Council Minutes

Preschool Monthly Report

Pre-K Financial Report

Monthly Financial Report

Month to Date Credit Card Report

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

Summer Leadership Conference/Jun 16-Jun 20/Wrightsville Beach

Western Leadership Education and Development/Sept 19/9:00-12:00

NCSBA Video Training Library

### VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

### VII. CLOSED SESSION

#### **Closed Session**

At 7:12 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and preserving Attorney-Client Privilege. Ms. Allen 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 8:03 pm, Ms. Page 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. Covil 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. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion for the contract renewal portion of the personnel agenda. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the contract renewals presented and it was seconded by Ms. Page, with Ms. Gibbs recusing herself from a family member's contract. The contracts were approved as presented 7-0 except for Ethan Edwards who was approved 6-0 with one abstention.

Ms. Gibbs made a motion to go back into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion was approved 7-0.

Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to return back to open session. Mr. Covil made a motion to return back to open session and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion was approved 7-0.

### **Information:**

Maureen Hankala	Transfer from OCS position to Self-Contained position at PCHS				
Leah Foster	Transfer from EC Teacher Assistant at PCES to Computer Tech Assistant at PCEC				
Hilliard "Copie" Rhodes	Maintenance Worker	Maintenance	Retiring		
Betty Jo Owensby	Food Service Manager	PCHS	Retiring		
Jenny Lail	SS Teacher	PCHS	Retiring		
Billy Transou	School Counselor	PCHS	Retiring		
Gina Burnett	Elementary Teacher	Saluda	Retiring		
Cecelia Danthine	5th grade teacher	TES	Resigning		
Ashley Marion	Elementary Teacher	Saluda	Resigning		
Wendy Berryhill	Part-Time Art Teacher	Saluda	Resigning		
Jamie Graber	8th Grade Math Teacher	PCMS	Resigned		
Antonio Garcia	Computer Tech Assistant	PCEC	Resigned		
Amber Styles	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA		
Sydney Millwood	Speech Language Pathologist Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA		

### **Action:**

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Hannah Elwell	SS Teacher	PCHS	Saluda	East Carolina	Secondary Grades	3
Austin Elwell	EC Teacher	PCHS	Saluda	East Carolina	Exceptional Children	Years

Jacob Lowthur	SS Teacher	PCHS	Lawton, OK	National University, CA	Will Apply	Years
Laura Fry	Transfer from Teacher Assistant at Tryon to Art Teacher at PCHS		Tryon	USC	Art	Student Taught
Kenneth Arrowood	Maintenance Worker	Maintenance	Columbus	N/A	N/A	23
Sam Hudson	Bus Driver	All Schools	Tryon	N/A	N/A	0
Sydney Metcalf	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	Western Carolina	N/A	0
Jackqueline Carpenter	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	Western Carolina	El Ed	Years
Cody Ezell	School Counselor	PCHS	Rutherfordton	Gardner-Webb	Student Services	Years
James "Colby" Davis	EC Teacher Assistant	PCES	Chesnee	N/A	N/A	2

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary  
AG/TO