

Board of Education Meeting

June 9, 2025

6:30 PM, in the 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

Approval of May 12, 2025 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the May 12, 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. Gibbs made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Stich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Recognition – Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding several staff members and their accomplishments. He spoke regarding Dr. McMinn, Mr. Giles, Mrs. Wolfe, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Dennis, and Mr. Lanning for their accomplishments toward their educational career. Mr. Greene recognized Attorney Feagan for his years of service with Polk County Schools. Mr. Feagan is retiring as the Attorney for the Polk County Board of Education.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

CTE Plan – Josh Hill (Action)

Mr. Josh Hill was unable to attend so Superintendent Greene presented the District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Plan to the Board. Mr. Greene briefly went over the document that was on the agenda. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation to Josh Hill and the entire CTE team for the work that they do for the students. Mr. Greene stated that there were no substantial changes to the plan. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the CTE plan as presented. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the CTE plan as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The CTE plan was approved 7-0.

Overnight Field Trip Requests - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene requested approval from the Board for overnight field trip requests for the PCHS Band trip to Atlanta GA and the PCHS Band Camp. 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 Ms. Page. The overnight field trip request for the PCHS Band trip to Atlanta GA and the PCHS Band Camp were approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Strategic Planning – Todd Murphy (Action)

Human Resource Director Todd Murphy spoke with the Board regarding the approval of the Strategic Plan that was presented to the Board at the May 12, 2025 Board meeting. Superintendent Greene stated that there were no

recommendations for changes brought to their attention. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The Strategic Plan was 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. Ms. Page made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Year-End Budget Amendment Resolution - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented a year-end budget amendment resolution to the Board. This resolution will allow the finance officer to make amendments and adjustments up until June 30. All appropriate rules and policies will be followed. This will help the finance officer make sure all state and federal funding is expended before local funding. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Year-End Budget Resolution. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the Year-End Budget Resolution and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Year-End Budget Resolution was approved 7-0.

Errors and Omissions/General Liability Fund Agreement - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace presented to the Board regarding the attached Errors and Omissions / general Liability Fund agreement. This agreement provides liability protection for the Board. Superintendent Greene and Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace both agreed that there were no changes in the agreement since the previous year. Chairman Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in adopting the Errors and Omissions/General Liability Fund Agreement. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the Errors and Omissions/General Liability Fund Agreement and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The motion passed 7-0.

Henderson/Polk Agreement for Inter-County Transfers - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented the Henderson/Polk Agreement for Inter-County Transfers to the Board. Mr. Greene stated that there has been a question raised regarding K – 5 students. Currently this agreement includes grades 6-12. Mr. Greene asked if the Board would like to modify the agreement to include K-5. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the Henderson/Polk Agreement for Inter-County Transfers as it stands currently and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Henderson/Polk Agreement for Inter-County Transfers was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Helene Emergency Fund Approval – Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding the retaining wall at Saluda Elementary. It was going to be sprayed and covered and not fixed up to standards. Using the Helene Emergency Fund, this project can be completed up to standards. Since the amount exceeds \$50,000 (\$57,615) it requires Board approval. There was some discussion regarding the details of the project. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the use of the Helene Emergency Fund to complete the Saluda Elementary retaining wall. Mr. Covil made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Summer Good Giveaway. There were 150 meals prepared and 350 meals handed out.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Potential Cell Phone Policy Discussion – Aaron Greene/Todd Murphy (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding the potential cell phone policy discussion. The District has a current policy but needs to revise the policy based on the upcoming law regarding cell phones. There was discussion among the Board regarding the revision of the policy. Discussion regarding logistics, discipline, etc were discussed

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among the Board and administration. Attorney Feagan recommended amending the revision presented to add that it is mandatory to us whatever security storage the Board deems appropriate. Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to approve the revision of Cell Phone Policy on first reading. Mr. Stich made a motion to approve the Cell Phone Policy Revision with the amendment from Attorney Feagan on first reading and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The revision of the Cell Phone Policy was approved on first reading 7-0.

V. INFORMATION

May Preschool Monthly Report

May Head Start Policy Council Minutes

Pre-K Financial Report

Monthly Financial Report

Month-to-Date Credit Card Report

Board Meeting June 27, 2025 @ 5:30

NCSBA OFFERED OPTIONAL BOARD TRAINING

Summer Leadership Conference/June 16-20/Wrightsville Beach

CORE Training/July 21/NCSBA Office in Raleigh

Advanced Legal Training for Board Governance/August 15/Raleigh

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:17 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and preserving Attorney-Client Privilege. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. 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 8:19 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. Mr. Stich made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Kathleen Abraham	Science Teacher	PCEC	Resigning
Jessica Marrow	CTE Teacher	PCMS	Resigning
Cole Kittredge	Chorus Teacher	PCMS	Resigning
Thomas Hensley	PCHS Head Varsity Wrestling Coach	PCHS	Resigning from Coaching

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Adam Giles	Transfer from Assistant Principal at PCHS to Principal PCES	Polk Central	Inman, SC	Western Carolina	Administrative	7
Shelley Upton	Transfer from Pre K Teacher at SVES to Pre K Education Specialist at Central Office	Central Office	Mill Spring	Converse College	Elementary	20
Khrista Simpson	Teacher	Tryon	Columbus	Grand Valley State University	Elementary	15
Lisa Mallory	Math Teacher	PCMS	Inman, SC	USC	Math	28
Kasey Potter	Pre K Teacher	Polk Central	Landrum, SC	USC Upstate	Early Childhood	20
Shannon Bailey	Maintenance	Maintenance	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	22
Catherine "Byon" Morrisey	Head Women's Golf Coach	PCHS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	7
Christina O'Sullivan	Head JV/Asst. Cheer Coach	PCHS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	
Blair Ruth	Head JV/Asst. Varsity Men's Soccer Coach	PCHS	Columbus	N/A	N/A	

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Todd Murphy, Board Secretary
TM/TO/RC