

RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS
Pocahontas Public Schools
Regular Board Meeting
February 21, 2022

Board Members Present: Karen Baltz, President; Judy McClain, Vice President; Gary Cole, Secretary; Dr. Michael Davis and Jim Toney

Others Present: Lesa Grooms, Superintendent; Malia Nichols, Madison Bibbs, Destiny Autry, Kirstin Godwin, Heather Pankey, Visitors

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the junior high library. All board members were present.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Judy McClain, seconded by Jim Toney, the board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on January 17, 2022 as well as the minutes from the special board meetings on February 1, 2022 and February 10, 2022.

Item 3: Approval of Financial Statements

On a motion by Mike Davis, seconded by Gary Cole, the board voted 5-0 to approve the financial statements for the Pocahontas School District for the month of January, 2022.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Item 4: Agreement w/Staff Member to Teach in Excess of 150 Students Per Day

On a motion by Gary Cole, seconded by Jim Toney, the board voted 5-0 to approve the attached agreement with Carol Massey, PJHS Math Teacher, to teach in excess of 150 students during the 2nd semester.

Item 5: Legal Transfers

On a motion by Mike Davis, seconded by Judy McClain, the board voted 5-0 to approve the following transfers:

- 1 student from Pocahontas to Hoxie
- 1 student from Maynard to Pocahontas

Item 6: Literacy Curriculum for the Elementary

On a motion by Judy McClain, seconded by Mike Davis, the board voted 5-0 to approve the Literacy curriculum for the Elementary. The purchase of this material will complete the needed curriculum for literacy.

Item 7: COPS Grant

The district was awarded a federal Department of Justice COPS grant in December. The purpose of the grant is to implement the BadgePass Identity Management Platform along with Ai-phone cameras and Mag-locks on identified exterior doors to eliminate the current safety threat of unauthorized entry to our students.

The amount of the project is estimated to be \$264,615.00. The grant we received was for 75% of total cost, which is \$198,461.25. The district will be responsible for the remaining \$66,153.75.

Action on this item was tabled. Adam Hand will attend next board meeting to provide clarification.

Item 8: Resignations/Retirement

On a motion by Gary Cole, seconded by Mike Davis, the board voted 5-0 to approve the following resignations/retirements:

Retirement (Effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year:

- Stan Hall – PHS Band Instructor
- Sandra Lowtharp – 3rd Grade Teacher

Resignations

- Stephanie Hampton – PHS Counselor
- Hillary Henderson – 4th Grade Teacher (Effective March 4, 2022)
- Emily Freer – PJHS Math Teacher (Effective May 6, 2022)

Item 9: Review Mask Policy

The board reviewed data regarding quarantined students/staff in the district. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 10: Employment/Personnel

On a motion by Gary Cole, seconded by Judy McClain, the board voted 5-0 to approve the re-employment of the following administrators and program directors for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Charles Baty – Head Football Coach/Athletic Director
- Anthony Brewington – Head Boys Basketball Coach/Asst. High School Principal
- Shawn Carter – Pocahontas Elementary Principal
- Harlan Davis – Head Girls Basketball Coach/Asst. Jr. High School Principal
- Craig Green – High School Principal
- Christian Helms – Asst. Elementary School Principal
- Eric Housh – Junior High School Principal
- Chris Lindner – MD Williams Intermediate Principal
- Rhonda McCallister – Curriculum Coordinator
- Courtney Throesch – Special Education Coordinator

On a motion by Jim Toney, seconded by Mike Davis, the board voted 5-0 to advertise for an Assistant Superintendent. This position has been open since January, 2020.

The board also discussed Superintendent Grooms' salary. No action was taken.

OTHER

1. Lesa Grooms, Superintendent, provided the board with an updated district enrollment count of 1965 as of 2/14/2022.

ADJOURNED



Karen Baltz, President



Gary Cole, Secretary