

RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS
Pocahontas Public Schools
Regular Board Meeting
May 15, 2023

Board Members Present: Gary Cole, President; Ruth Holt, Secretary; Brent Massey and Jennifer Rawls

Others Present: Lesa Grooms, Superintendent; Anthony Dowdy, Assistant Superintendent; Courtney Throesch, Special Education Coordinator; Charlotte Tribble, Rick Tribble, Judy McClain, Leahann Bounds, Jillian Hogan, Marlo Wardlow Caldwell, Amy Story, Elizabeth Sparks, Dianna Johnson, Victoria Pratt, Tracy Ward, Anthony Brewington

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in the junior high library. Board member Chad Overman was absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes from the April 17, 2023 board meeting, a change was needed to state that Gary Cole abstained from voting to approve the hiring of certified staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

On a motion by Jennifer Rawls, seconded by Ruth Holt, the board voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on April 17, 2023.

Item 3: Approval of Financial Statements

On a motion by Brent Massey, seconded by Ruth Holt, the board voted 4-0 to approve the financial statements for the Pocahontas School District for the month of April, 2023.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Superintendent Grooms provided the board with an update on the M.D. Williams structure issue. Borings have been completed and now going to the company to fix the structure issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 4: Approval of FY24 Preschool and School Age SPED Budgets and Assurances

On a motion by Brent Massey, seconded by Ruth Holt, the board voted 4-0 to approve the 2023-2024 Preschool and School Age SPED Budgets and Assurances as presented. (See attached).

Item 5: 2023-2024 Service Providers – Bid Recommendations

On a motion by Jennifer Rawls, seconded by Brent Massey, the board voted 4-0 to approve the following:

- Contracting with Gross Therapy Services (GTS) for Physical Therapy Services for eligible students, per the attached bid items. There were 2 bids received. GTS has been our provider for 4 years.
- Contracting with Integrated Therapy Services/Harwell Therapy for Occupational Therapy Services for eligible students, per the attached bid items. There were 2 bids received. Integrated Therapy has been our provider for 4 years.

Item 6: Window Film Quotes

On a motion by Ruth Holt, seconded by Jennifer Rawls, the board voted 4-0 to approve the low bid of \$11,433.00 from Incognito Tint for security window film for multiple campuses. State security grant funds will be used.

Item 7: Freedom of Choice Requests

On a motion by Jennifer Rawls, seconded by Brent Massey, the board voted 4-0 to approve the Freedom of Choice Requests for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Item 8: Legal Transfers

On a motion by Jennifer Rawls, seconded by Ruth Holt, the board voted 4-0 to approve the following legal transfers:

- 1 Kindergarten student from Pocahontas to Maynard
- 1 7th grade student from Pocahontas to Maynard
- 1 9th grade student from Pocahontas to Maynard

Item 9: Summer School and Summer Camp Staff

On a motion by Brent Massey, seconded by Jennifer Rawls, the board voted 4-0 to approve the list of summer school/camp employees as listed.

Item 10: 2022-2023 Bonus Proposal

On a motion by Ruth Holt, seconded by Jennifer Rawls, the board voted 4-0 to approve a one-time, non-recurring bonus of \$900 per employee for the 2022-2023 school year.

Item 11: 2023-2024 Classified Salary Schedule Increases

On a motion by Brent Massey, seconded by Jennifer Rawls, the board voted 4-0 to approve Dr. Arbuckle's recommended 4% increase to classified salary schedules for the 2023-2024 school year.

Item 12: Request to address the Board

Jillian Hogan addressed the board regarding a request for additional funds to compensate employees not returning the 2023-2024 school year. No action was taken.

Item 13: Resignations

On a motion by Brent Massey, seconded by Jennifer Rawls, the board voted 4-0 to approve the following resignations:

- Brandi Varner - Volleyball Head Coach and PJHS Social Studies
- Anthony Hausman - High School Softball Coach and Golf Coach
- Pat Wren - PHS Library Media Specialist (Retirement)
- Raine Tyler - PHS Cafeteria
- Adam Hand - District Technology Director
- Kira Hand - MDW Dyslexia Interventionist (Paraprofessional)
- Kelly Wright - MDW Teacher

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 14: Employment

On a motion by Jennifer Rawls, seconded by Brent Massey, the board voted 4-0 to employ the following employees for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Tessa Cripe - Secondary (PHS) Resource English Teacher
- Mike Slater - Head boys Basketball Coach
- Kaydra Cole - Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
- Marjorie Caulk - PHS Cafeteria
- Kimberly Archer - PJHS Cafeteria

OTHER

1. Senior Awards Program is Tuesday, May 16th in the MDW Gym. Begins at 7:00 p.m.
2. Athletic Awards is Thursday, May 18, 2023 in the MDW Gym. Begins at 6:30.
3. Graduation is Friday May 19th, 2023. Be in the PHS Math/Science hall no later than 7:45. Graduation begins at 8:00 - we usually begin walking out just before 8:00 to have an 8:00 start time.

ADJOURNED



Gary Cole, President



Ruth Holt, Secretary