

POCAHONTAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"PREPARING TODAY FOR TOMORROW"

BOARD AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting

Minutes **(DRAFT)**

June 19, 2023

PJHS Library

6:00 PM



Board Member Present: Mr. Gary Cole (President), Ms. Ruth Holt, Mr. Chad Overman, Ms. Jennifer Rawls, Mr. Brent Massey

Administrators Present: Dr. Lance Arbuckle (Superintendent), Mr. Craig Green, Mr. Christian Helms

1. Call to Order

1.1. Board president, Gary Cole, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and recognized all board members as present.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Board members reviewed the minutes of the May regular board meeting and the June 8 special board meeting. Ms. Holt made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Massey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation of Reports

3.1. Financial Report

3.1.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared the financial data from period 11. Mr. Overman and Ms. Holt asked for clarification concerning listed revenue presented as total operating as well as operating expenditures. Dr. Arbuckle shared he would review the data and present updated data (if necessary) at the July regular board meeting. Info related to ESSER funding was also presented.

3.2. Year End Enrollment

3.2.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared year end enrollment decreased by six (6) students from Q4 2022 (1926 students) to Q4 2023 (1920 students).

3.3. Discipline Report

3.3.1. Year end district discipline data was presented. There is a need for multiple years worth of data to identify trends.

3.4. Updated 2023-'24 Policies – 1st Reading

3.4.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared a first reading of policies requiring updates due to legislative changes. Highlights from various policies were shared.

4. Old Business

4.1. Alma Spikes / ADE Response

4.1.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared the division of facilities has responded to the May 8 waiver letter request. The board charged Dr. Arbuckle to begin communicating with

interested parties in the first steps to bringing options for disposing of the property in the future.

5. Action Items

5.1. Appointment Ex-officio Secretary

5.1.1. Dr. Arbuckle explained the need for the superintendent to act in an ex-officio capacity to sign checks, statements, and other such items. Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the recommendation and Ms. Rawls seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

5.2. Appointment of Northeast Educational Co-op Board Member

5.2.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared the history of the Co-op board position and the relationship to the local superintendent position. He also shared the change in the law that allows for the co-op board member to be chosen from the board, school administration, teaching ranks, or community at large. Mr. Overman made a motion to appoint Dr. Arbuckle as the Pocahontas representative. Ms. Rawls seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5.3. Leading PLCs District Wide Representation

5.3.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared the PLCs District Wide initiative was a relationship district admin began with DESE and SolutionTree during the '22-'23 school year. This year long experience is designed to foster knowledge and action concerning PLC (Professional Learning Communities) across all levels of leadership from the boardroom to the classroom. Dr. Arbuckle invited a board member to serve as the representative. Ms. Rawls volunteered to serve in this capacity.

5.4. Approval to use a Facsimile

5.4.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared a role of the superintendent and district dispersing officer (Mr. Cole) was to provide signatures for official school and district documents. Statute allows for a facsimile of signatures to be used. Dr. Arbuckle recommended the board approve the use of facsimile signatures by individuals mentioned above. Ms. Rawls made a motion, Ms. Holt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5.5. School Choice Applications

5.5.1. Dr. Arbuckle recommended approval of the school choice application. Mr. Massey motioned to accept. Mr. Rawls seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5.6. Legal Transfers Outside of District

5.6.1. Dr. Arbuckle recommended the approval of all legal transfers from the district. Mr. Overman made a motion to approve said recommendation. Mr. Massey seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

5.7. Inventory Deletions

5.7.1. Dr. Arbuckle recommended the removal from inventory the ice machine in the high school gym/coaches office. Ms. Holt asked about the need to replace the machine as it would be removed from inventory. Dr. Arbuckle shared that a new machine was already in place and this one needed to be removed from inventory

for disposal. Mr. Overman motioned to accept the recommendation as presented. Ms. Holt seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

5.8. Student Insurance Renewal

5.8.1. Dr. Arbuckle presented four quotes for student insurance that were sent in as a call for bids. The recommendation was for approval of the bid from the Dwight Jones Agency, the current provider to the district. Ms. Holt shared her personal experience with the current provider and asked various questions concerning the coverage quoted. It was noted that all four bids provided the same level of coverage. Mr. Cole shared some history of the district providing student insurance. Mr. Massey shared information relating the premiums with the amount of coverage provided. It was also noted the student insurance was a supplemental policy to a primary insurance coverage, whether that would be commercial, private, or governmental. Ms. Holt asked about the possibility of providing a higher level of coverage for students and families that may not have access to primary insurance. Dr. Arbuckle shared the board had the ability to approve the bid on a one (1) year term. Mr. Massey made a motion to approve the recommendation on the one (1) year term. Mr. Overman seconded. The motion carried 4-1 with Ms. Holt dissenting. The board also asked Dr. Arbuckle to share some of the frustrations that were discussed with the Dwight Jones Agency.

5.9. Personnel Policy Updates

5.9.1. Dr. Arbuckle presented the certified personnel policies for a second reading and approval. Ms. Rawls made a motion to approve the certified policies as presented at the June special board meeting. Mr. Overman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

5.9.2. Dr. Arbuckle presented the certified personnel policies for a second reading and approval. Ms. Rawls made a motion to approve the certified policies as presented at the June special board meeting. Ms. Holt seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Public Comments

7. Superintendent Comments

7.1. Teachers of the Year

7.1.1. Dr. Arbuckle recognized the following Pocahontas teachers/classified staff...

Wendy Roberts – Elementary

Andrea Murry – Secondary

Gail Collier – Classified

Dr. Arbuckle also thanked all school employees for their commitment and dedication to our district, our students, and their individual schools.

7.2. LEARNS Act Lawsuit

7.2.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared the recent decision by the Arkansas Supreme Court to return the LEARNS act lawsuit to the lower court for reconsideration. This decision ended the injunction and currently allows the LEARNS act to go into place on its intended timeline. Dr. Arbuckle also shared this was relevant to the district because the

future status quo of the LEARNS act will be important on the date signatures are turned in by the state group working to get a vote on the ballot.

7.3. Property Insurance Renewal

7.3.1. Dr. Arbuckle shared that typically the board would also be reviewing property insurance however he is working with ASBA currently as those premiums and coverage options have not been released by ASBA at this time. He also alerted the board to the expectation that premiums would rise sharply. Mr. Massey indicated the rise in premiums could be as high as 25% and were being impacted tremendously by the change in assessment values across the various sectors. Dr. Arbuckle indicated the overall premiums would also be impacted by the need to no longer cover Alma Spikes for replacement costs.

7.4. District Facilities

7.4.1. Dr. Arbuckle indicated he was continuing to gather information regarding the state of district facilities. He shared information regarding the two year funding window in regards to state partnership money. Dr. Arbuckle highlighted the need to plan appropriately as most school district request happen in year one of the cycle. In the current cycle a handful of projects have been funding for year one while all of the projects would be expecting funds in year two. Ms. Holt asked for clarification on the timing of the cycle (2025-2027). Mr. Cole expressed it was a year after or more when projects had to begin and money would be spent, thus highlighting the need to plan more. Dr. Arbuckle offered additional clarification on the role of the district master plan and the need to plan out four to six years (or more). Mr. Overman shared that after looking at some documentation, out of ten or so funded projects, another district in the state received funding for two of their schools and the statewide needs ranking for those states was a higher number (lower value) than the number for Pocahontas High School. Dr. Arbuckle shared the state has increased their cost factor since the time of the millage and the state may continue to increase this factor.

8. Future Action Items

8.1. The regular July meeting will include a second reading and passage of remaining updated policies.

9. Executive Session

9.1. The board entered into a five minute recess and executive session to discuss employment related issues at approximately 7:54pm.

10. Employment

10.1. The board reentered open session at 8:33pm and Dr. Arbuckle made a recommendation to approve the modifications and new hires as noted below:

Classified Personnel - Modifications:

Felecia Foster	Pocahontas JrH	drop	Special Education Para
Felecia Foster	Pocahontas HS	add	Special Education Para
Becky Lindner	MDWilliams	drop	GT Teacher

Becky Lindner	Pocahontas HS	add	GT Coordinator
Anna Flannery	Pocahontas Elem	drop	Self-Contained Special Ed Para
Anna Flannery	Pocahontas Elem	add	Para – Computer Lab

Certified Personnel – New Hires:

Sandra Lowtharp	Pocahontas Elem	Teacher – 3rd Grade
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Classified Personnel – New Hires:

Nathan Taylor	Technology	Tech Support Specialist
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11. Announcements

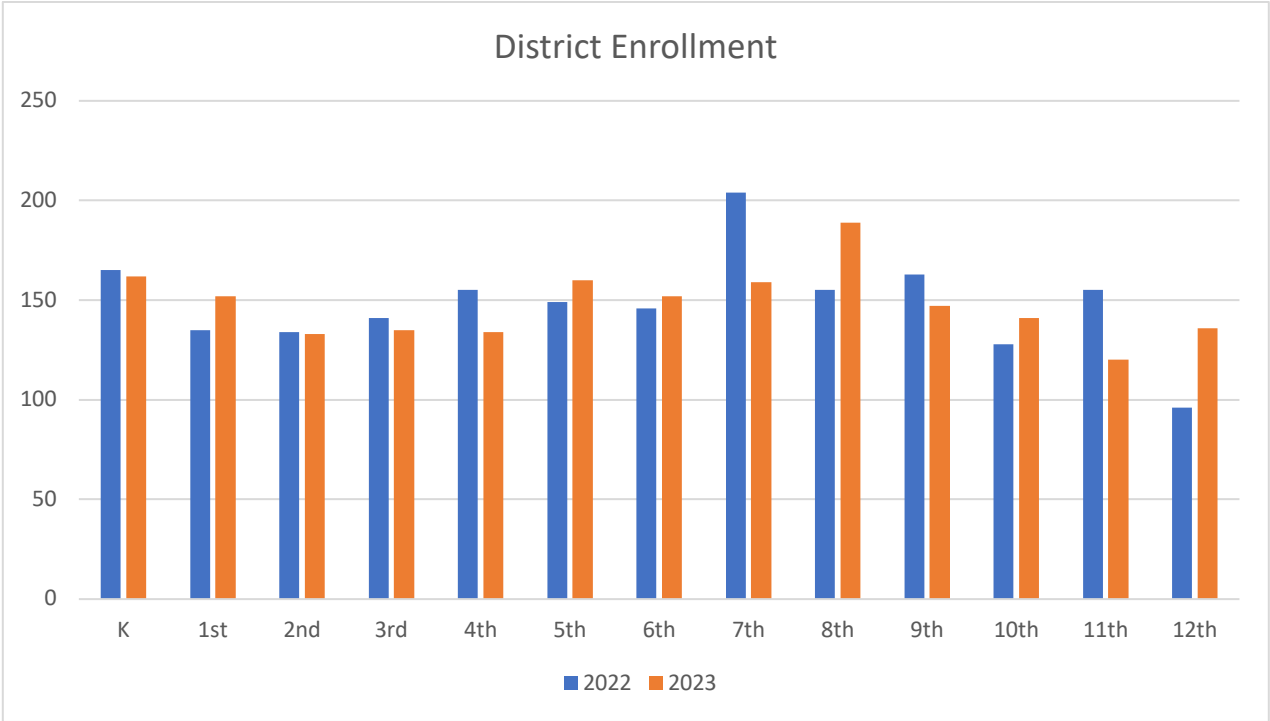
11.1. No announcements were made

12. Adjournment

12.1. Mr. Cole adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:35pm.

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Table 3.2



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