

**Board of Education Meeting
January 13, 2020
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

Members Present: Chairman Covil, Vice-Chairperson Page, Mr. Ashworth, Ms. Allen, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Gibbs

Members Absent: Ms. Corley

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ronette Dill, Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace and Attorney Phillip Feagan

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Covil called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Tryon Elementary School Presentation

Ms. Hardin, Principal of Tryon Elementary School, and students that are on the News Crew for Tryon Elementary School did a “sample” report of news around Tryon for the Board. The presentation included things the crew is learning about, such as using a “green screen”, providing news about the big football game, and how a traveling news reporter does their work. The students met in the hallway after the report for a group photo. Superintendent Greene voiced his appreciation to the parents and students for their hard work.

Approval of the December 9, 2019 Board Minutes

Mr. Covil called the Board’s attention to a copy of the December 9, 2019 Board minutes. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Appreciation Month: Recognition of Polk County Board of Education - Superintendent Greene

Mr. Greene read a statement to the Board expressing his appreciation of the Board’s valuable service and dedication to excellence. The Superintendent thanked the Board for what they do for Polk County Schools and Polk County’s students.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Federal Consolidated Monitoring Review Report (Information) - Ronette Dill

Ronette Dill spoke with the Board regarding the recent Federal Consolidated Monitoring Review and resulting performance report. Ms. Dill went over each of the findings that were included on the report. Most items were paperwork issues. The next consolidated monitoring visit for Polk Schools will be in five years. Ms. Dill shared the compliance letter that she received after sending in required corrective action information.

January 17 Professional Development (PD): Overview of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) (Information) - Ronette Dill

Ms. Dill reported to the Board regarding the January 17 professional development day. A consultant from DPI will be presenting a one hour overview of MTSS. The high school and the early college will attend the PD in the morning and the middle school and elementary school staff will attend the same PD in the afternoon.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

PCHS HVAC Project Contract (Action) - Dave Scherping

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS HVAC Contract. He handed out copies of maps of PCHS and a proposed contract to partner with Building Clarity. The Facilities Committee and administrative staff met and reviewed the proposed project. Building Clarity is recommending running cold water to a variety of sections within the building to serve the air handlers that will provide cooling. The cooled air will then flow through duct work and goes to each classroom throughout the building. There will be nine “new” air handlers on the roof of the building. The gym at PCHS is not air conditioned. There is a request for cost proposal to add that. Attorney Feagan asked if there had been any indication regarding an even distribution of air since the cold water will only flow to certain areas of the building. Mr. Scherping responded that a Variable Air Volume solution will move and distribute the air accordingly. If this project is approved, the proposal is to replace the main chiller this summer, remediate and/or replace all, and then install the air handling units. Then work can begin on individual classrooms. The goal is to have a few classrooms completed before school starts so that teachers will be able to experience the finished project. Ms. Allen asked if it would take a complete year for the project to be completed. Mr. Scherping said that it will take a little over a year. It would start around May and be completed by the following summer. Currently there are only two ways to get on the roof at PCHS. The maintenance staff said it will be necessary to provide other access to the roof for the maintenance of equipment once the project is complete. Building Clarity is a member of the Design Build Institute of America (DBIA). The contract they submitted for review is a standard contract for the DBIA. Polk Schools administration and Counselor Feagan requested additions and changes for this particular contract. The amount in the contract for contracting the design process is \$24,000. This amount includes getting the design complete project plans prepared by April 10. Attorney Feagan stated that in section 7.2 the phrase “at the highest rate allowed by law” needs to be struck out of the contract. Ms. Jackson asked why the percentages were different each month. Mr. Scherping explained that originally the contract stated that the company could send a bill at any time and the district would have to pay it. The percentages were set by Mr. Scherping to make it better align to the timeline of the project. In section 4.2 there are three options that were discussed. The district chose the option of having partial ownership of the design documents. Attorney Feagan asked if the district would have the license to use the design if a different company was chosen to complete the project and Mr. Scherping said yes. Ms. Gibbs wanted to confirm that once each classroom was completed it will be operating on the new system. Mr. Scherping stated that that was correct. Mr. Scherping showed the Board the differences between the different solutions that are possible. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the PCHS HVAC Project Contract with Building Clarity and Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The contract was approved 6-0.

Mr. Scherping stated to the Board that the April Board meeting date is 4/13/20 which falls on Spring Break. Ms. Allen made a motion to move the April Board meeting to 4/20/20 and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The April Board meeting will be on April 20, 2020.

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Covil called for questions, and there were none. Chairman Covil entertained a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Allen made the motion, which Ms. Page seconded. Chairman Covil called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 6-0.

2020-2021 Budget Calendar (Action)-Debbie Lovelace

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace presented the 2020-2021 Budget Calendar to the Board for approval. Superintendent Greene noted that it was odd to be recommending a budget planning calendar when the NC Legislature has yet to approve a budget for this fiscal year. Chairman Covil called for a motion regarding the 2020-2021 Budget Calendar. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the calendar as presented by the Financer Officer. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Policy 7241-Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators Second Reading (Action) Dave Scherping

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the second reading of policy 7241- Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve Policy 7241 on second reading and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. Policy 7241 was approved on second reading 6-0.

Policy 4240 - Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety First Reading (Action) - Dave Scherping

Mr. Scherping reviewed Policy 4240- Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety. Mr. Scherping went over each of the changes in the proposed policy with the Board. Chairman Covil called for a motion to approve policy 4240- Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety on first reading. Attorney Feagan expressed that every NC citizen has the duty to report to DSS - anything that is abuse, neglect, or detrimental to children. Then there is an additional duty to report to law enforcement those things that are considered crimes. Attorney Feagan stated that the safest way to go is to report to DSS and also law enforcement. Chairman Covil asked who actually would make the report. Mr. Scherping stated that it is the responsibility of the one who witnessed. Superintendent Greene stated that unless it is the principal that is being accused, the district is going to clear that the staff member is to inform the principal and then they make the call together. Mr. Ashworth made a motion and Ms. Allen seconded the motion to approve policy 4240- Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety on first reading. Policy 4240- Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety was approved on first reading on a vote of 7-0.

School Safety Update (Information) - Dave Scherping

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the quarterly school safety meetings taking place with administration and county safety officials. Attending these meetings are staff from the Sheriff's Department, school SROs, Emergency Management personnel, and officers from each police department within the county. Mr. Scherping shared some scenarios that have been discussed during the meetings. They also discussed different the different organizations and the roles of each one during certain scenarios.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Polk Cares 4 Kids (PC4K) – Superintendent Greene reminded the Board of the PC4K event happening on 2/1/20.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board about reissuing the Head Start proposal to build onto Tryon Elementary for Pre-K. No one disapproved of this action.

FFA Poultry Judging Overnight Field Trip Request was presented to the Board. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the FFA Poultry Judging Overnight Field Trip and it was seconded by Page. The trip was approved 6-0.

Superintendent Greene shared a letter with the Board that he wanted to send to the County Commissioners. He asked the Board for permission to do so. The Board agreed for Mr. Greene to send the letter with one correction.

Mr. Greene brought up the March Board meeting. Ms. Jackson is unable to attend on the regular scheduled meeting. The Board discussed possible meeting dates for the March meeting. Ms. Jackson made a motion to move the March meeting to March 16 and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. The motion was approved 6-0. The March Board meeting will be held on March 16 @ 6:30pm.

V. INFORMATION – Mr. Covil went over these items with the Board:

December Preschool Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Month to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

January 17, 2020 - Required Teacher Workday

January 20, 2020 - Optional Teacher Workday

Polk Cares 4 Kids - February 1, 2020

BOARD TRAINING

Core Training - January 13-14, 2020 - NCSBA Office

Online Fundraising: Liability Issues and Policy Approaches Webinar - January 21, 2020

Public Policy Conference - January 23-24, 2020 - Raleigh

Political Speech and Campaigning on Campus Webinar - February 18, 2020

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Dick Shaugnessy spoke to the Board and asked if the webinar mentioned in the Board Training portion was available for him to participate in. Superintendent Greene informed him to visit ncsba.org and the training and registration was listed there if he was interested.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:48 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Ms. Jackson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion carried 6-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Mr. Covil called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:22 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

Mr. Covil called the Board’s attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Mr. Covil asked the Board’s pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

INFORMATION:

| Name | Position | School | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|
| Brooke Benfield | Teacher | Polk Central | FMLA |
| Matthew Russell | Teacher | PCMS | FMLA |
| Jennifer Taylor | Teacher | PCMS | FMLA |
| Nancy Johnson | Teacher Assistant | Tryon | FMLA |
| Lisa Brown | Teacher Assistant | Tryon | FMLA |
| Gerald Cunningham | Bus Driver | Tryon | Resigned |

ACTION:

| Name | Position | School | Hometown | College | Licensure Area | Years Exp |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Elisabeth Blanton | Full-Time Pre K TA | Polk Central | Mill Spring | | | |
| Tonya Gordon | Part-Time Food Service Aide | Polk County Middle School | Rutherfordton | | | |
| Alan Roman | Afterschool Group Leader | Tryon | Columbus | | | |
| Christopher Burrell | Temporary Full-Time Custodian | Tryon | Mill Spring | | | |
| Kevin Jones | Varsity Softball Coach | PCHS | Piedmont, SC | | | |
| Georgia "Libby" Justice | Title I Tutor | Tryon | Landrum, SC | | | |
| Jeannette Miller | Food Service Aide | Tryon | | Tryon | | 1 |

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO