

**Board of Education Meeting
November 9, 2020
6:30 PM, at Stearns Education Center**

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

Members Absent: Ms. Bell

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ronette Dill, Assistant Superintendent 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.

Special Board Presentation - Geoffrey M. Tennant

Superintendent Greene recognized Ms. Alice Tennant, the wife of Mr. Geoffrey M. Tennant. Mr. Greene introduced Mr. William J. Miller to speak on behalf of Mr. Geoffrey M. Tennant. Mr. Miller gave remarks regarding his relationship with Mr. Tennant and Mr. Tennant's relationships with others. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Tennant always did what was right and best for the students of Polk County. Superintendent Greene invited Ms. Tennant and portrait artist Rich Nelson to stand with Mr. Miller for the unveiling of a portrait of Mr. Tennant. Mr. Nelson offered his appreciation of Polk County Schools and how fortunate he was for his family to have benefitted from the schools in the district. Superintendent Greene recommended the adoption of a Resolution for Mr. Tennant that would name him Chairman Emeritus of the Polk County Board of Education. Superintendent Greene read the Resolution to the Board and Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve the recommended Resolution. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the recommended Resolution and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Resolution was approved 6-0.

Recognition of the 2020-2021 Principal of the Year

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Covil presented a plaque to the 2020-2021 Polk County Schools Principal of the Year, Ms. Jan Crump.

Recognition of the 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Covil presented each of the 2020-2021 Teachers of the Year with a plaque. Chairman Covil presented plaques to Laura Jane Howald from Polk Central Elementary School, Dawn Forward from Polk County High School, Kathryn Patterson from Polk County Middle School, Ginger Rackley from Saluda Elementary School, Stephanie Blanton from Sunny View Elementary School, and Wendi Owens from Tryon Elementary School. Laura Jane Howald was presented an additional plaque recognizing her selection as District Teacher of the Year.

Approval of the October 12, 2020 Board Minutes

Ms. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the October 12, 2020 Board Minutes. The Board agreed to take all sets of minutes into consideration at one time. Mr. Covil asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PCHS Bass Master Team

Chairman Covil requested to move part of new business to the beginning of the meeting. Chauncey Barber, Agriculture teacher at PCHS, addressed the Board briefly and introduced Chan Barber, a student to speak about a club

proposal, and he was joined by Hunter Hill, a perspective sponsor. Chan Barber spoke to the Board regarding the proposal to start a PCHS Bass Master Team. Chan shared a presentation that he had created with details about the team and requirements, level of student interest, and possible timeline for beginning. He shared his thoughts with the Board on why this team would be great for PCHS, and included reference to several positive aspects, including a focus on safety, first aide, getting young people outdoors, and more. Hunter Hill spoke to the Board about how this experience helped him as a young student. He offered that the team would have universal appeal, as there is broad interest and anyone can fish. Mr. Hill also believes that there would be a lot of community support for such a team. Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke to the Board with his input on the proposal. He offered research and the existing information he has gathered. Dr. Schweitzer offered his full support of this proposal. Attorney Feagan raised questions about liability. Superintendent Greene asked Ms. Lovelace to speak to the District's insurance agency and see what level of liability they will extend to the group, and when they can have documentation of the liability. Chairman Covil provided an opportunity for Members to give their thoughts, and all offered their approval for Chan Barber and Dr. Schweitzer to continue their work in organizing and building the team. A final verification of insurance and team protocol will be provided to the Board once completed.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Beginning Teacher Support Program - Ronette Dill (Action)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP). The NC State Board of Education Policy for beginning teachers has been updated. The Polk County Schools BTSP plan has to be revised to match the State Board Policy. The educator preparation program portion of the plan has been revised, and Ms. Dill covered all revisions in detail. This plan only has to be updated if the State Board changes their policy. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve the revisions to the Beginning Teacher Support Program. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the revisions to the BTSP Plan and it was seconded by Ms., Gibbs, and The Beginning Teacher Support Program plan revisions were approved on a vote of 6-0.

Remote Learning Plan Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board with an update for the Remote Learning Plan. Mr. Greene informed the Board that this week students in grades K-4 will transfer to a dedicated remote teacher. All 5th grade students will transfer to the new model at the end of the month. Ms. Dill, Mr. Scherping, and DeShane Briscoe have been working to get student information to remote teachers, and to help prepare them for this transition. In Person teachers are providing information to remote teachers about their students to assist their planning and instructional delivery. Mr. Scherping reminded the Board of the upcoming report card and the difference it could make in encouraging engagement. Chairman Covil stated his appreciation to all staff for their continued hard work during this time.

Calendar Update – Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping presented to the Board regarding calendar updates. On October 29 and October 30 schools were closed due to a power outage caused by weather. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board how the days had been reassigned throughout the calendar and that the district wants to be flexible with rescheduling those days due to winter coming. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve the calendar updates provided. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the calendar recommendations and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The motion carried 6-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2020-2021 Budget Resolution – Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace, Finance Officer, presented the attached 2020-2021 budget resolutions to the Board. The 2020-2021 Budget Resolution was included in the electronic agenda for review prior to the Board meeting. Ms. Lovelace stated that there is COVID money for the District to use, however, it is significantly restricted as to its use. There will likely be future changes in the resolution as DPI releases more information regarding the 2020-2021 budget. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Resolution as presented. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Resolution and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The 2020-2021 Budget Resolution was approved 6-0.

Policy Updates (First Reading) - Dave Scherping (Action)

Assistant Superintendent Dave Scherping went over the following Policies for first reading, either adopting new or changing the current policy; 2302, 1510/4200/7270, 1710/4020/7230, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 2120, 2121, 3000, 3102, 3410, 3460, 4001, 4040/7310, 4400, 4600, 5030, 5070/7350, 7232, 7335, 1320,3560, 1610/7800, 2127, 4110, 4120, 4230, 4270/6145, 4325, 5050, 6325, 7240, 7241, 7503, 7560, 7620, 7900. Mr. Scherping went over briefly each of the policies with the Board with some in more detail. Attorney Feagan stated that there was not a lot of substance in the changes. Many of the changes were COVID related. He stated that the School Board Association revisions were really just very technical details. There were several policies that included the same paragraph that was in the School Safety policy. Attorney Feagan recommends that the district update the transportation policy with a statement and bring it back in December for first reading. Chairman Covil entertained a motion to approve policies 2302, 1510/4200/7270, 1710/4020/7230, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 2120, 2121, 3000, 3102, 3410, 3460, 4001, 4040/7310, 4400, 4600, 5030, 5070/7350, 7232, 7335, 1320,3560, 1610/7800, 2127, 4110, 4120, 4230, 4270/6145, 4325, 5050, 6325, 7240, 7241, 7503, 7560, 7620, 7900 on first reading. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the aforementioned policies on first reading and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. Policies 2302, 1510/4200/7270, 1710/4020/7230, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 2120, 2121, 3000, 3102, 3410, 3460, 4001, 4040/7310, 4400, 4600, 5030, 5070/7350, 7232, 7335, 1320,3560, 1610/7800, 2127, 4110, 4120, 4230, 4270/6145, 4325, 5050, 6325, 7240, 7241, 7503, 7560, 7620, 7900 were approved on first reading with a vote of 6-0. There is a policy that allows the superintendent to approve policies that only have technical corrections to them, and the Board may explore that option going forward. In December, the district will bring about 30 policies that only have changes in references to other policies for Board consideration and action.

Child Nutrition Update - Jennifer Peeler (Information)

Superintendent Greene welcomed Ms. Jennifer Peeler, Child Nutrition Director, to speak to the Board. She updated the Board on Weekend meal pickups. Ms. Peeler explained that they send home a breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday. If the child is not in school on Friday they get a breakfast and lunch for Friday as well. The meals usually consist of frozen foods that can be prepared at home. Ms. Peeler also presented to the Board a grant that she was nominated for and received for \$30,000 through "No Kid Hungry." This money will be used to purchase a transit van to help with the transportation of food and food service supplies. Superintendent Greene offered thanks to Ms. Peeler on behalf of the Board and the District for all the work done by her staff and her. Chairman Covil asked how many meals are usually sent home during the weekend meal pickup. Ms. Peeler stated that usually about 100 children that picked up meals at the bus garage and about 35 that picked up meals at Sunny View. Each child receives four meals, and some receive Friday meals. This is approximately 500-600 meals. Ms. Peeler also stated that there is still an opportunity for daily meal pickup at elementary sites during lunchtime.

Polk County Annual Report for Students with Disabilities - Mike Melton - Exceptional Children Director (Information)

Superintendent Greene introduced Toni Haley, the new Compliance Coordinator for the district, to the Board. Chairman Covil recognized Exceptional Children Director Mike Melton, who went over Polk County's Annual Report for Students with Disabilities (available to the public online). Mr. Melton pointed out areas in which Polk County met and did not meet the State required targets. Mr. Melton discussed all of the indicators, specifying whether or not the district had met each target. He also explained why the district did not meet a particular indicator and areas in which the district had made growth.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene provided some T-shirts for each Board member to get before they left.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board and informed them that EdNC, Deputy State Superintendent of Innovation, State Board of Education Advisor, and the No Kid Hungry and Western Regional Support Case Manager will be visiting the Polk County Pre-K program. This is an opportunity to celebrate all of the success and hard work of the staff at Polk County Schools. This is also an opportunity to help to push the agenda that all four year olds in the state need Pre-K.

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

Veterans Day Holiday - 11/11/20
Thanksgiving Break - 11/25/20-11/27/20
October Head Start Policy Council Minutes
October Pre-K Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Monthly Credit Card Report

BOARD TRAINING

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:10 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an attorney client privilege matter. Ms. Gibbs 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 8:43 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion 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. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve pay increases as presented in closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The pay increases were approved 6-0.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Dawn Forward	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Natalie Heatherly	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Brittany Gilbert	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Mackensie Lewis	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Beth Blanton	Teacher Assistant/Afterschool	Polk Central/Sunny View	FMLA*
Beth Queen	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Ethan Edwards	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Lindsey Edwards	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Rita Booth	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Katrina Pack	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA*
Brandon Schweitzer	Principal	PCHS	FMLA*
Jennifer Schweitzer	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Jennifer Edwards	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Linda Jackson	Custodian	PCHS	FMLA*
Stefanie Tyler	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*
Brian Taylor	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Natalie Heatherly	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Linda Sage	School Counselor	PCMS	FMLA*
Dianne Holt	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*

Eric Eaton	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Elisa Flynn	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Katie Elliott	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Hali Barnard	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Maria Freeman	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Katie Buckner	Food Service Aide	Saluda	FMLA*
Emily Moore	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Josh Thompson	Custodian	Tryon	FMLA*
Jamie Kilgore	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Stacy Evans	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Ida Szendrodi	Bus Driver/Substitute	PCHS	FMLA*
Jon Ezell	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Zach Searcy	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Angie Kelly	Teacher Assistant	PCHS	FMLA*
Denise Corcoran	Substitute Teacher		FMLA*
Nancy Holland	Substitute Teacher		FMLA*
Paulette McGee	Substitute Teacher		FMLA*
Kerri Troutman	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Christen Smith	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Nancy Johnson	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*
Megan Williams	Afterschool Joint Position	Tryon	FMLA*
Latisha Miller	Teacher Assistant/Afterschool	Tryon	FMLA*
Kaye Hall	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*
Stephanie Champion	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Parker Mullinax	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Jennifer Carney	Teacher	Tryon/Sunny View	FMLA*

May Dunaway	School Counselor	Tryon	FMLA*
Kerri Troutman	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Kathy Ashley	Bus Driver	Tryon	FMLA*
Carson Forward	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	FMLA*
Yvonne Bruce	Secretary	Tryon	FMLA*
Chris McGee	Teacher	Saluda	FMLA*
Reed Hoerner	Substitute Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Jayne Hoerner	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Cynthia Scaggs	Food Service Aide	PCMS	FMLA*
Stephanie Jarvis	Food Service Aide	PCMS	FMLA*
David McCullough	Bus Driver/Substitute	PCMS	FMLA*
Carson Forward	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon	FMLA*
Linda Sage	School Counselor	PCMS	FMLA*
Sherrie Huffman	School Counselor	PCMS	FMLA*
Jessica Wilkins	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA*
Rhonda Hill	Teacher	PCMS	FMLA*
Langlee Rogers	School Counselor	PCMS	FMLA*
Sherrie Ford	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Connie Edwards	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA*
Donna Everett	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA*
Amanda Huddleston	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	FMLA*

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Kendal Stoney	Full Time K-5 Remote Teacher	Remote	Tryon	Belmont University	El Ed (K-6)	
Helen Payne	Transfer from Part-Time TA to K-5 Remote Teacher	Remote	Columbus	University of FL	El Ed (K-6)	
Maria Llanos	Full Time K-5 Remote Teacher	Remote	East Elmhurst, NY	CUNY Hunter College	Pending	
Savanna Bowyer Adams	Part-Time K-5 Remote Teacher	Remote	Tryon	Gardner-Webb	El Ed (K-6)	
Patrica Shaw	Part- Time K-5 Remote Teacher	Remote	Brevard		El Ed (K-6)	
Charlie Wilbanks	Substitute Teacher	All Schools				
Darrell Elliott	Transfer from Temporary Full Time Custodian to Permanent Full Time Custodian	PCMS				
Edward McEntyre	Transfer from Permanent Part-Time to Permanent Full -Time Custodian	Stearns/PC EC				
Cindy Close	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	University of Nebraska	Tryon		7
Susan Kirk	Substitute Teacher	All Schools		Tryon		

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Mr. Covil, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO