

**Board of Education Meeting  
February 11, 2019  
6:00 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

**There was Ethics and FMLA training for the Board members prior to the Meeting**

**Members Present:** Chairman Tennant, Vice Chairman Page, Ms. Corley, Mr. Ashworth, Mr. Covil, Ms. Allen, Ms. Jackson

**Members Absent:** None

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

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Chairman Tennant called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

**Approval of the January 14, 2019 Board Minutes**

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the January 14, 2019 Board Minutes. He asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

**Fall 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Testing (Information) Dave Scherping**

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding Fall 2018 first semester testing. Together Polk High and Polk Early College administered approximately 200 End of Course tests about 800 Final Exams. Everything went well during the fall testing. In addition to these tests all students also had to take teacher-created classroom exams in courses that do not have state exams. Testing was a success for the fall 2018 first semester. Mr. Scherping also spoke to the Board regarding testing changes or requests for changes by the state. The Department of Public Instruction no longer requires there to be a proctor in every classroom at all times during exams. Polk County Schools believes proctors are an important part of the District's procedure for testing so the District will continue having them for all exams. The state superintendent also wants to decrease the number of questions on tests, decrease the time students must sit for a test, change policies to reduce the amount of stress during testing time, eliminate the restriction that prevents teachers from reviewing test-taking strategies on the day of testing, decrease the number of tests that students take, and give students another way to show progress if they have a bad testing day. The state wants to move to a model that will test students at the beginning, middle, and the end year instead of being tested once at the end of the year. Then, the combination of those three scores would decide whether they passed the grade or not. There is also a big push for electronic

personalized learning and testing. Fifth grade will be taking the science test online this year. Teachers are working to give students the experience of testing online throughout the year so that the students will be familiar with the process. Superintendent Greene said that there are going to be a certain number of tests that are required by law to administer. Superintendents are being pushed to eliminate the progress-monitoring tests that districts believe are helpful to students and teachers in adjusting instruction. Superintendent Greene also spoke in agreement with Mr. Scherping that testing proctors are very important to maintain a secure testing for teachers and students. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments. Chairman Tennant stated that he likes the idea of continuing proctoring for protecting the integrity of the testing process.

## II. ADMINISTRATIVE

### **Budget Amendment (Action) - Debbie Lovelace**

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Tennant called for questions, and there were none. Chairman Tennant entertained a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Mr. Ashworth made the motion, which Ms. Page seconded. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

### **Spring Budget Workshop (Information) – Aaron Greene**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Spring Budget Workshop that is usually held in April. Due to the decisions that are going to have to be made, Superintendent Greene is suggesting moving the meeting to March. Communication with Local Government is at the end of March and first of April. Mr. Greene would like for the Board to have the information before it is presented to local government. There would need to be an understanding that there may be some information not available, such as smaller capital requests from schools. A workshop meeting day and time of March 11, 2019 at 4:30 was suggested. Chairman Tennant asked the Board if this date and time would work. All were in agreement. The Spring Budget Workshop is scheduled for March 11, 2019 at 4:30. Superintendent Greene would like to meet with the Board in small groups before the budget workshop to discuss some information in detail. The Board agreed to participate in these meetings.

### **Energy Savings Performance Contract (Information) – Dave Scherping**

Mr. Scherping discussed the Energy Savings Performance Contract schedule with the Board. Superintendent Greene, Dave Scherping, Robert Gilbert, and Darren Green met with Schneider Electric regarding the first round of submissions that the District will receive. Later this month they will meet regarding the second round of submissions. Later this week the District will be discussing the humidity problem at the high school. The first discussion of project financing will also be happening. The District will be working with Schneider Electric and their financial department to lay out the paperwork for banking bids. Before this happens, the Board will have to approve the amount and give the okay to move forward with the program. March 5 is the date Schneider Electric will give the district the first look at their plan. There will be a sub-committee made up of Board members that will look at this plan before it is brought to the entire Board. A copy of the plan has to be submitted to the Local Government Commission and the State Energy Office for approval. With the current schedule, the district is looking to have the final approval

by the May Board of Education meeting. The schedule is not something that the district is tied to so there can be changes if necessary. Ms. Corley asked if this timeline impacts the budget timeline. Mr. Greene answered that it could impact the long-term facilities plan. Mr. Ashworth asked what the general feeling was with Schneider Electric. Mr. Scherping answered that he felt they were doing a good job so far, but not sure until the full plan is ready. Schneider Electric is very willing to listen and discuss whatever needs to be addressed. Chairman Tennant asked if Schneider Electric was looking at each individual campus as a separate entity and tailoring a program for each individual campus. Mr. Scherping answered yes they are. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board how Schneider has negotiated processes for the District already. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments for Mr. Scherping and there were none.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that he will be going to the County Commissioners meeting on February 18 to discuss their Calendar Flexibility Resolution. At the last updated Superintendents Council meeting, Leann Winner told school leaders that the outlook on the state legislature changing the calendar law was not positive.

Superintendent Greene also provided an update on the Polk Middle School Based Health Center. The current clinical social worker that is housed at Polk Middle, is doing great and starting to build her case load. The added crisis counselor is going to be placed at the high school to broaden service provision. The crisis counselor will be able to have an existing caseload at Polk County High School and add students in crisis she intervenes with at other schools. The shared DSS/School counselor is also reported to be doing a great job. Chairman Tennant asked for questions or comments and there were none.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene wanted to inform the Board of a day trip for the fifth grade at Saluda Elementary School. Green River Adventures of Saluda has offered to take the fifth grade down the lower part of the Green River. This is a very tame part of the river. This trip will be part of the Muddy Sneakers Program. Due to the risk involved, Mr. Greene wanted to make sure no one disapproved. Ms. Page asked what the chaperone-to-student ratio would be. Mr. Greene said approximately 2-3 adults to 6-7 students. Parents will also have to give permission for the student to go. Attorney Feagan asked where they would start. Mr. Covil answered they will start at the bridge. Ms. Dill spoke to the Board about when she took her staff down the Green River with Green River Adventures. Mr. Covil stated that he thought it was a great idea for the students to be given this opportunity. Ms. Jackson asked if it was only for Saluda, or would all the elementary schools be able to go. Mr. Greene answered that currently it is only Saluda, but if it goes well the district would like to give the other elementary schools the same opportunity. Mr. Ashworth said that as long as the supervision was there he thought it would be fine. Ms. Corley said she has done it before and safety equipment is used. Chairman Tennant said that he was glad they would have PFDs and helmets. He shares the same safety concern as Ms. Page. Ms. Corley wanted to make sure that the students that couldn't go would not feel left out. Mr. Greene expressed that the students that were unable to get in the water would have an alternate experience from Muddy Sneakers. Ms. Dill explained to the Board how this trip fits in with the curriculum of the Muddy Sneakers program. Ms. Allen asked if there was a cost associated with

the trip. Mr. Greene stated that Tim and Sarah Bell are covering the entire cost. Ms. Jackson asked when the trip would be scheduled. Mr. Greene said that the trip would be in May when the air and water are a little warmer. The Board voiced their support for the trip to take place.

## V. INFORMATION-

January Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board  
January Pre-School 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

## BOARD TRAINING

Spring Budget Workshop – March 11, 2019 at 3:30 in the Stearns Education Center Boardroom

## VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Corley wanted to express her thanks for the holiday lunch that was provided.

## VII. CLOSED SESSION

### Closed Session

At 6:31 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and two student matters. Ms. Jackson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page and Ms. Corley. The motion carried 7-0.

### RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Chairman Tennant called for a motion to return to open session. At 6:50 pm, Ms. Allen made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion and it carried 7 to 0.

Chairman Tennant called the Board's attention to those matters on the regular personnel agenda that required Board approval. The Chairman asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

There was discussion among the Board regarding two discretionary admission applications. Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure regarding the two applications. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve both applications on a conditional basis. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Both discretionary admissions applications were approved on a conditional basis on a vote of 7-0

**INFORMATION:**

Carolina "Teal" Abbott	Speech Pathologist		Resigning
Ethan Abbott	Science Teacher	PCHS	Resigning
William Arrowood	Afterschool Site Director	PCMS	Resigned
Kenneth Busch	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Resigned
Carmen Millet	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View	Resigned

**ACTION:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Licensure Area</b>	<b>Years Exp</b>
Kayla Manning	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS		Ellenboro		
Megan Ledford	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central		Rutherfordton		1
Gwendolyn Griswold	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	University of SC	Saluda	Media Services	20
Benjamin Pullara	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	University of SC	Tryon		

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board, Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO