

**Board of Education Meeting
March 11, 2019
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

There was Board members training 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 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the February 11, 2019 Board Minutes

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the February 11, 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

2018-2019 Summer School - Ronette Dill (Action)

Ms. Dill spoke regarding the attached summer school plan for remediation and the second administration of testing. Chairman Tennant called for questions from the Board and there were none. He then called for a motion to adopt the 2018-2019 Summer School plan. Ms. Page made a motion to adopt the 2018-2019 Summer School plan and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The plan was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Head Start Year 5 Continuation Grant and COLA Application - Kathy Harding (Action)

Chairman Tennant gave the floor to Kathy Harding, Preschool Director. Ms. Harding reviewed the documents attached to the Board Agenda including the Head Start proposed budget, the Self-Assessment and Improvement Plan, and the program goals. The budget total will be \$608,787 which includes some restricted money of \$12,827 for technical assistance and training of staff. There is a \$155,391 non-federal match from the NC Pre-K program. Ms. Harding commented on how much assistance the Polk County Middle School Health Center is for the students of Polk County. Mr. Covil asked if the Health Center was seeing patients yet. Mr. Greene answered that yes they are and the medical side should be starting up in the next week of two. Mr. Tennant called for questions or comments. Mr. Tennant entertained a motion for the approval of year five

of the continuation grant application. Ms. Corley made a motion and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The continuation grant application was approved 7-0.

Head Start Board Training Concluding Remarks - Kathy Harding (Information)

Ms. Harding shared her appreciation to the Board for participating in the Head Start Board training that was before the Board Meeting. She told the Board that if they had any questions or concerns to contact her. Superintendent Greene shared his appreciation to Ms. Harding for the hard work she does for Polk County Schools.

Overnight Trip Proposals - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Early College Coastal Trip and FFA Poultry Judging trips. Both plans were on the electronic agenda for prior review. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve both overnight trip proposals and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. Ms. Allen said that she would like for the students to come to the board meeting and tell the Board about the trips. Mr. Greene stated that he would see that that happened. The motion was approved 7-0.

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. Ms. Allen made the motion, which Ms. Page seconded. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

2019-2020 Lottery Application for QZAB Payment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

The Finance Officer continued by presenting the Board with the 2019-2020 Lottery Application for QZAB Payment. This will be paid up in 2021. Polk County Middle School should come off of the loan this year. Ms. Lovelace informed the Board that the annual payment is \$95,000. Chairman Tennant called for a motion in regards to the approval of the 2019-2020 Lottery Application for QZAB payment. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the payment. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

2018-2019 School Calendar Updates - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping presented calendar updates to the Board. Polk County Middle School, Polk Central & Sunny View Elementary Schools lost a day due to a water problem that the other schools did not miss. Administration is proposing that instead of students going to school 180 days they only go 179. Employees have to have 215 working days. The one day at the end of the year would be a work day for the above mentioned schools.

Saluda Elementary School missed one additional day due to inclement weather. Administration would like to follow the same process for Saluda as Polk County Middle School, Polk Central & Sunny View Elementary Schools.

Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments. Mr. Ashworth stated that this was okay because of the hour requirement instead of the number of days for students. Mr. Scherping

stated yes. PCHS and Tryon Elementary have 1068 instructional hours and the other schools have 1062 instructional hours. Students are required to have 1024 instructional hours. Polk County Schools' students receive approximately 44 more hours than is required by the law. Superintendent Greene commented on how the Polk County Board of Education has always stuck with 180 days and the administration will do it's best to continue to stick with 180 if possible. Chairman Tennant called for a motion. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve calendar updates for Polk County Middle School, Polk Central, Sunny View Elementary, and Saluda Elementary Schools. Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

2019-2020 School Calendar Options - Dave Scherping (Information)

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding school calendar options from the Calendar Committee. The three calendar options were attached to the online agenda. Mr. Scherping broke down the differences in the three options presented. Between option one and two, option two was the choice. When option three was added the votes divided. The calendar committee possibly would like to propose option 2 but not totally decided. Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding some concerns that were mentioned for option three; ending later in June there would be conflict with camps, Duke Tip, and those who want the summer started earlier. On the other side, teachers like to see work days mixed into the calendar for make-up days. The Calendar Committee would like to propose, begrudgingly, option two for approval for the Board. The vote on the Calendar will be postponed until next month to allow the Board to have time to review the three options. Mr. Ashworth stated that he has been spoken to by the public and they do not like option three. Ms. Allen stated that she had also been spoken to regarding the calendars by the public. Option two has the longer Christmas break, but exams are after break and Option one is the same that the district is used to. Mr. Covil stated that he had gotten used to the shorter Christmas break. Chairman Tennant stated that what he has heard is that some of the House Representatives are willing to look at Calendar flexibility but the Senate is not willing to even look at the option.

Performance Contracting Update - Dave Scherping

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the Performance Contracting. He handed out notes for the Board to have as he spoke. Mr. Scherping went over the steps that the District and Board have already gone through. He told the Board that Schneider has been walking through all of the buildings since November. They have given the district a list of energy conservation measures. These are the pieces that Schneider believes could go together to make a project. There were a couple of things that the District had in mind going into this project; the steam pipe at Saluda Elementary, HVAC issues at Polk County High School, and the Boiler at Sunny View Elementary. There needs to be two different kinds of projects on your list. One where you can spend a small amount of money on but it gives a large amount of savings and those that cost a large amount of money and gets a small amount of savings. Mr. Scherping had attached the Performance Contracting Scope of Work. This is what the district feels will be close to the final project. He discussed the list of projects with the Board. Mr. Scherping then discussed the financial side of the project. The Guaranteed Cash Flow that was attached to the online agenda was discussed. This is a \$2.2 million project. \$100,000 will come back in Rebates. The Board will be borrowing \$2.1 million, if it is approved. The project will take approximately 18 years to pay off. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board that there were a couple of things that were

wanted that were not put into the project. There was none of the big expense items at the high school put into the project. He also said that the district tried to keep the Board's debt service in mind, keeping it a 17-18 year project. Mr. Scherping wanted to remind the Board that this is a \$2.1 million loan that the Board would be taking out. Unlike other loans, the payments, would not come out of operations, the payments would come from the savings in the project. Schneider did say that they cannot calculate the savings until the project is done. Attorney Feagan wanted to know what the payback period for the total of all projects listed. Graham, from Schneider electric, stated that it would be the 18 years listed. Attorney Feagan asked if there were service fees that the District would have to pay to Schneider during the project. Graham answered that the only fees are the measurement and verification. Mr. Covil stated that he thought the High School was the main priority of the project and that he is shocked not to see it listed on the project. He also stated that he will have a hard time, as a Board member, to spend \$2.1 million and not correct the mold problem at the high school. Superintendent Greene stated that there has not been any mold identified at the high school. Mr. Covil also commented regarding the temperature control and lighting control. Superintendent Greene commented that the lighting would have occupancy sensors so the lighting would come on when someone walks into the room. He also stated that he didn't believe there were many places that the temperature could be monitored. Mr. Covil also stated that he believed that the Board would tie the next Boards hands. Superintendent Greene stated that if the Board wanted to proceed, he would like to sit down with a subcommittee and discuss it in more detail. Attorney Feagan stated that the details in the schedules contain the measurements and the projected energy savings are supposed to be laid out for each individual item. He asked if we had the schedules yet. Mr. Scherping answered that the district does not have the final schedule yet. Attorney Feagan asked for clarification on how the savings can be calculated in regards to the schedules to make the projections. Graham answered that the savings have been calculated but they are not counted in the cash flow. There is deferred first payment. The first payment is not due until one year after construction is complete. Attorney Feagan asked if they compared units of energy or dollars. Graham answered that in NC they have to guarantee dollars. Mr. Covil stated that the pay back for the Sunny View Boiler is 29.2 year pay back. Graham stated that the payback is a term to show your long-term verses short-term projects. The entire project will pay for itself in 18 years. At the end of the 18 years the total savings will go into the operating budget. Chairman Tennant stated that at the end of the 18 years the savings will be available for the Board to start the process of replacements. Ms. Corley asked if the contract this project does anything to the capital improvements. Superintendent Greene stated, no it would not. This is a way to get these things done. Mr. Ashworth as if the guaranteed dollar savings column something that is guaranteed to us. Mr. Scherping answered as long as we operated by the rules that are provided. Mr. Covil asked if the district would not be turning control over to Schneider. Mr. Greene answered not to the degree people think. Graham stated that the contract doesn't prevent schools from running facilities as they wish. It would only void the contract at that particular site. Ms. Jackson asked if that would reduce the guaranteed payment. Graham answered that only at that one site. Mr. Covil asked who was monitoring the sites. Graham answered that Schneider would be monitoring. Mr. Covil stated that they then would have control over the building. Mr. Scherping answered that if Schneider says to cool to a certain temperature and the district wants to cool lower. The district tells Schneider that they are not on the hook for that guaranteed savings. There would still be the guaranteed savings on the other projects. Graham stated that there were only two sites were set points are being established. Saluda and Polk County Middle Schools are having building

automation system upgrades. Mr. Ashworth asked who controls it at the school level. The Maintenance department is who monitors this. Mr. Ashworth asked how this worked yearly. You can be out of compliance this month but go back into compliance next year. Chairman Tennant asked about the last document attached to the online agenda. Mr. Scherping answered that in order for Superintendent Greene to proceed with this application the Board must adopt the resolution. Chairman Tennant stated that assuming the Board adopts this resolution the calendar of events will proceed. The Board still has full power to back out of the project until the April 8 Board meeting. The District would like for the facilities meeting to meet and discuss the project. Attorney Feagan asked who the anticipated bidders for the loan were. Mr. Scherping stated that the Schneider Company has a list that they will send it out to and the district has the option to send it to the local banks as well. Attorney Feagan asked about the 1% increase in the cash flow. That is showing the increase of utility cost. Graham also spoke about the buffer with the calculated savings and the guaranteed savings. Attorney Feagan commented that this information is very difficult to understand in full content and that there is value in the meeting with the facilities committee. Chairman Tennant commented that the escalation rate is per diem. Superintendent Greene commented that what they would be approving tonight would be the ability to file the paperwork. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments. Ms. Corley commented that the district needs this plan to upgrade. It is a lot of money but it loops back and is connected to the budget. Chairman Tennant commented that all the Board is being asked to do is adopt a resolution that would authorize the Superintendent in terms of seeking a finance package, communicating with the facilities committee in more detail, and meeting with the county commissioners. Mr. Scherping commented that the Board decides to stop the project the \$29,000 is still owed to Schneider Electric for the work that they have completed to date. Chairman Tennant asked the Board pleasure in authorizing the Superintendent to proceed with the next steps. Attorney Feagan said that it is his understanding from the statute that most of the contract is a reiteration of the statute and that Schneider has to give a bond of surety to 10% guarantee the savings. Graham, from Schneider agreed with Attorney Feagans statement. Ms. Corley made a motion to adopt the resolution to authorize the Superintendent to move forward. Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments from the Board and there were none. The resolution was approved on a vote of 6-1.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene informed the Board that the audit RFP has been sent out. Once those proposals are received the budget committee will meet and review those. There are two companies interested currently.

Superintendent Greene expressed his gratitude to the Board for attending the budget training prior to the Board meeting. He asked if there were any comments regarding the information discussed in the training. Ms. Corley asked if the Energy Saving Project is bad timing with going to the commissioners about the Energy Savings Project money, then saying that the district will be short on the other side. Superintendent Greene said that he believes it will be a good thing because of trying to save money in the long run. Chairman Tennant commented that the Board is being fiscally conservative to help get everything in order and that the district is going to have to go to someone, such as the county commissioners, to ask for help with funding of some operations such as the afterschool program. He hopes that there can be some sort of agreement to help with the afterschool program. Chairman Tennant believes that the afterschool

program is one of the reasons for success in Polk County Schools. Ms. Corley asked doesn't this say that in the long run be more accountable. Superintendent Greene and Chairman Tennant both agreed. Superintendent Greene asked the Board, in terms of the reductions they had spoken about, if there is anything they would like to be done differently. Chairman Tennant answered no, that there is no easy way to cut a budget. Mr. Covil stated that he thinks the District needs to let people know about the cuts in the budget. Superintendent Greene said that he has plans to do an article to let the public know of the cuts to the budget coming up.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene made a recommendation to continue to operate the Polk County Early College. The agreement has to be renewed every five years. This would mean the District would have the ability to operate the Polk County Early College for another five years. Chairman Tennant asked the Boards pleasure in the Cooperative Innovative High School Renewal Form. Mr. Covil made a motion to retain that program. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding participating in webinar training. Ms. Odel to send information to the Board members regarding dates of trainings to get members who wish to participate registered.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the FFA Oklahoma City trip. A PCHS golfer is on the FFA team and has a match during that time. Mr. Barber is requesting this student be allowed to fly to Oklahoma City after his golf match. Parents would take on the liability in have the student transported. Chairman Tennant stated that the funding would need to be another source other that the Board of Education. Attorney Feagan stated that there would need a waiver that the Board is not liable for the student during the flight. Ms. Jackson asked what would happen if a student could not financially be able to pay for the flight. Superintendent Greene stated that the FFA would have to come up with the means to pay for it.

Superintendent Greene stated that he would like to implement an administrative protocol where a supervisor of non-instructional employees has to give a five day notice to take annual leave. The Board was okay with making this an operating procedure.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding replacing Mr. Patterson on the facilities committee. The Board agreed for Mr. Ashworth to be on the facilities committee.

V. INFORMATION-

February Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
February Pre-K 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
Spring Break 4/15/19-4/19/19

NCSBA Public Policy Conference at the NCSBA Assembly Hall - April 30-May 1

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:10 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Page. 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 8:45 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion and it carried 7 to 0.

The Board made the decision to divide the personnel agenda into two parts. Chairman Tennant called the Board’s attention to those matters on the hiring portion of the personnel agenda that required Board approval. The Chairman asked the Board’s pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Corley made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Tennant called the Board’s attention to the second portion of the personnel agenda that required Board Approval. The Chairman asked the Board’s pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Corley made the motion to approve the request of unpaid leave that was on the second portion of the personnel agenda. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

INFORMATION:

Michelle Travieso	Assistant Principal	PCHS	Resigned
Cheryl Lewis	Food Service Worker	PCHS	Resigned
Mary Lisa Flynn	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	FMLA

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	College	Hometown	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Gerald Cunningham	Transfer to Head Custodian	Tryon Elementary		Tryon		
Donjulie Aranha	Part-Time School Psychologist	All Schools	Walla Walla University	Cedar Mountain	Psychologist	8
Brandon	Add Afterschool	PCMS		Forest City		

Moore	Site Director to his duties					
Brooklyn Alexander	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central		Columbus		
Breana Hamby	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Appalachian	Columbus	Elementary	
Megan Ledford	Add Substitute Teacher Assistant to her duties	All Schools		Rutherfordton		
Jacquelyn Davis	EC Teacher	Tryon Elementary	Unpaid Medical Leave			

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO