

**Board of Education Meeting
April 8, 2019
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

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 March 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. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Polk FFA Student Presentation

Ashley Gilbert and the 2019 Polk County High School FFA Poultry Judging team, Karli Kilgore, Ben Hardin, Landry Edwards, and Jackson Tipton delivered a presentation to the Board regarding their recent Poultry Judging competition. This team placed 22 out of 89 teams in the state of North Carolina. The team also placed second in the western region. Ms. Gilbert spoke to the Board regarding what Poultry judging is about and competitions are handled. Each student spoke to the Board about the different components of the competitions and what they had to know for the competition. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation to Ms. Gilbert and the Poultry Judging team for their work and for representing Polk County Schools.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Academic Competitions - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board and highlighted the academic competitions that were listed in the attachment on the online board agenda. She reminded the Board that all news articles about the academic competitions can be found at www.polkstudents.org. Chairman Tennant called for any questions or comments from the Board and there were none.

Spring Testing Update - Dave Scherping (Information)

Dave Scherping briefed the Board on spring testing. Mr. Scherping shared a document outlining testing information for the end of this academic year. Mr. Scherping went over and discussed the changes to the testing protocol and rules that were mentioned in the document that was attached to the online agenda. There is great deal of discussion in the new guidelines about making testing less stressful. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none.

TSI Plan and Budget - Ronette Dill (Action)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the 2019 Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) Budget. Earlier in the year administration informed the Board that Polk County High School had been placed on the Targeted Support & Improvement Schools based on the growth of the students with disabilities. Administration would like to use the approximate \$10,000 of TSI monies for NCSTAR Training, Communication Improvement, and the Focus on Math Instruction. This would use approximately \$9,030 of the \$10,000 allotment. This is a one-time federal fund for the TSI Schools. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there was none. Chairman Tennant asked for the Board's desire in regards to the TSI Plan and Budget. Ms. Corley made a motion for the Board to approve the budget and the training and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

High School Accreditation - Ronette Dill (Action)

1. PCHS Documentation
2. PCEC Documentation

Ms. Dill updated the Board on the accreditation process for PCHS and PCEC. She informed the Board that there was one blank on the PCHS Documentation. There was one student that was not promoted in 2017-2018 which would give you a .0016% of the student body.

For the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) accreditation process, DPI pulls all testing and graduation data for the last three years. The DPI Team will look at that data, the information that is attached to the online agenda, the school's internal assessment and how they rated themselves on the rubric, the school's improvement plan, and documentation of school improvement plan meetings. Once the information is received at DPI, the team will do a desk audit. They will stay in contact with Ms. Dill if they need further information. Ms. Allen asked about the "Trust Level" referred to in the Polk County Early College documentation. Ms. Dill explained that it's a lot like "Wolverine Time" at PCHS. It's a time when students can see teachers and get further assistance they need to do so. Mr. Covil asked if it was done daily. Superintendent Greene stated that if a student is not performing well academically or they have had a discipline issue they don't have the freedom or independence during the "Trust Level" time. Chairman Tennant called for questions and there were none. Chairman Tennant asked the Board its pleasure in allowing Ms. Dill and Mr. Greene to submit information to Raleigh to move forward. Ms. Jackson made a motion for Ms. Dill and Mr. Greene to submit information to Raleigh to move forward and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

PCHS ACT Testing Irregularity - Dave Scherping (Information)

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS ACT testing irregularity. Mr. Scherping reminded the Board that all 11th graders take the ACT. This year the district had an irregularity that will affect PCHS. Because some test scores were rejected, the irregularity caused a decrease

in a total tested student rate of 93%-94%. Every test other than the ACT is owned by DPI and the district follows DPI rules to administer them. The ACT is purchased separately, therefore the district must abide by ACT requirements. The first date to administer was Feb. 20, and that school day was delayed due to weather. So the test was not administered on Feb. 20. As a result, the district had to box up all the test materials for regular administration students and ship it back to ACT. Students either take the regular ACT or have accommodated testing. Because the other students in the accommodated group had a different test date they didn't miss their scheduled day of ACT testing. The ACT directions say if the testing day was missed the material is sent back, but if the day wasn't missed the material can be used. Materials for the regular ACT testing were returned and materials for the accommodated testing were not. The district was not fully aware of the interpretation and implications of the materials return rule as applied to accommodated testing. If the accommodation required the standard test book to be used, it is not an accommodation that applies to being able to use the standard test book on the day after being delayed. Unfortunately there were eight students that fell into this category. The district thought that since they were approved in the ACT accommodation system and the accommodated manual was used during administration, they were allowed to use the initial testing material received. On March 12 the regular ACT testing was administered and in real terms greater than 95% have now been tested. The District was notified on March 25 by ACT that the eight accommodated students were tested with the wrong materials. Now that the make-up window has passed they do not have an opportunity to do a make-up test. Each student/parent has been contacted and given an explanation of this issue. If the student wants to take another ACT test the district will cover the expense. Mr. Covil asked if not having the 95% will hurt the district in any way. Mr. Scherping said it will likely impact the school's performance grade and it may be harder to get recognition for student achievement.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment #5 (Action) - Debbie Lovelace

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Superintendent Greene explained to the Board that the large amount of fund balance listed for potential use is the anticipated loss that was discussed in the budget workshop. 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. Covil seconded. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

2019-2020 Audit Contract - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the 2019-2020 audit contract. RFPs were sent out and there were two responses. One was from Anderson, Smith & Wyke PLLC and the other was from Reeves and Associates. Anderson, Smith & Wyke came back with a three year annual cost of \$28,800 which included four hours of training. Reeves and Associates came in with first year at \$33,500, second year \$34,000, and the third year being \$34,500. The finance committee met prior to the meeting and is recommending the district remain with Anderson, Smith & Wyke. There was a conversation about the district staying with the same company too long. Some of Reeves and Associates customers have been with them for 10-11 years so the finance committee didn't feel like it would be worth the extra money just to make a switch. Ms. Jackson stated that even staying with the same company they do have different people coming in.

Ms. Page stated that the district has had good experiences with Anderson, Smith & Wyke so she doesn't see a reason to change. Chairman Tennant agreed with Ms. Jackson and Ms. Page that the district has gotten very good results. Mr. Covil commented that the difference in the cost is sizeable. Mr. Covil made a motion that the district accept the proposal from Anderson, Smith & Wyke and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments. Ms. Corley asked for clarification that the district would be making a three year commitment. Chairman Tennant answered that yes it is a three year commitment. Ms. Lovelace stated that the RFP states that the district can change if they need to. The motion passed 7-0.

2019-2020 School Calendars - Dave Scherping (Action)

1. 2019-2020 PCEC Calendar

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the PCEC Calendar. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board that Isothermal Community College does their calendars on a calendar year. So the 2020 ICC calendar is not completed yet. The administration has used the information available and developed a 2019-2020 calendar for PCEC. This calendar is not bound by NC Calendar laws. The Board is to review this calendar for action in May.

2. 2019-2020 All other Polk County Schools Calendars

The Board of Education had a chance to review the three calendar options over the past month. Mr. Ashworth indicated that his family and others he had heard from liked option one. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve Calendar option one for the 2019-2020 Polk County Schools Calendar and Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion passed 7-0.

Energy Savings Performance Contracting - Dave Scherping (Information)

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the Energy Savings Performance Contract. Mr. Scherping updated the Board on the calendar of events that had taken place and those that are going to take place. The administration met with Schneider Electric on March 18 and went over the final plan for the proposal. The administration also met with the commissioners on March 18 and informed them that at their next meet the district would be bringing the resolution for signing. Superintendent Greene met with County Manager, Mr. Pittman, and discussed the long-range facilities plan for Polk County Schools. On March 21 the facilities committee met and discussed the project. Mr. Greene discussed with the facilities committee some opportunities that emerged from discussions with County Government. One concern that the administration has with the Energy Savings Performance Contract is that it doesn't get some of the necessary "big" projects done. The facilities committee and the administration have decided not to move forward with the project at this time. The administration met with Schneider Electric and Graham Lewis to let them know the decision to pause the project and look into the other opportunities that have surfaced for the district. Schneider Electric came back with another proposal. Mr. Scherping handed out information from Schneider Electric. Schneider Electric is offering an opportunity for the district to bring them into the larger facility projects for them to oversee each project and measure the energy savings. If the district decides to handle things this way all projects will be put out to bid. Superintendent Greene and Mr. Pittman are meeting on a regular basis to discuss this project. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments. Superintendent Greene stated that he believes the county is very interested in whatever the district can do to free up operations money. Mr. Ashworth asked if the potential \$4.5 million

capital loan from the county covers the energy savings portions of the project. Mr. Greene answered that it would not. Mr. Greene indicated what might be proposed would be doing things like the septic system renovation with a loan from the county and doing LED lighting with the operations money. Mr. Covil to know if the payback under the contract would come from sales tax money. Superintendent Greene affirmed this. Mr. Covil asked if the County Commissioner believes that if the district goes above \$4.5 million would the sales tax money still be able to cover the loan. Mr. Greene states that the county manager understands that the district needs to be conservative on the loan amount to make sure that the debt does not hinder the district in years to come. Mr. Greene spoke of his appreciation of Schneider Electric and their willingness to work with the district. Mr. Scherping stated that some of the projects have lead times that need to be started relatively quickly.

Personnel Reduction Plan - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Budget Reduction Plan. Individual employees affected by the plan are to be discussed in closed session. Chairman Tennant called for questions and there were none. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the budget reduction plan that was included on the electronic agenda and Ms. Page seconded the motion. Mr. Covil asked for clarification that the plan is voted on and then the individuals are discussed later. Superintendent Greene affirmed, but said that if the Board disagreed with the recommendations the plan would still be in place but the individuals could change. Ms. Corley asked if the reduction included meals. Mr. Greene said that this reduction has nothing to do with food service operations. Mr. Greene reiterated that the reduction is not what is wanted but what has to be done. The budget reduction plan was approved 7-0.

Easement-Town of Columbus - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene presented an easement request from the Town of Columbus to the Board. The Town of Columbus is redoing their sewer line. This planned sewer line needs to come across the Locust Street property near one end of the property. Mr. Greene passed around a visual description of the easement request for the Board to see. Attorney Feagan stated the easement would be across the bottom part of the vacant lot. It would be 16.5 ft wide. There would be some temporary construction areas around the edges that will go away once it is completed. Mr. Covil asked if the District could get a tap on the property. Superintendent Greene stated that the pump at the old bus garage will be replaced. Attorney Feagan said that it could be considered and he doesn't see anything wrong with asking for it. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the easement upon the condition that the Town of Columbus provides Polk County Schools or its successors or future property owners with one free sewer tap. Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion passed 7-0.

Science Olympiad Trip (PCMS) and National Land Judging Trip - Aaron Green (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding both the Science Olympiad trip and the National Land Judging trip. He reminded the Board that there would be a plane trip involved in the Land Judging trip. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve both the Science Olympiad Trip and the National Land Judging Trip. Ms. Corley seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion passed 7-0.

Fund Balance Loss Appropriation - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace spoke to the Board regarding the Fund Balance Loss Appropriation. She stated that she received a letter from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services requesting she do a corrective action plan for budget amendments due to the loss of appropriation last year. This must be sent in to NCDHHS to let them know that the district has budgeted appropriately each year. Superintendent Greene stated that this requirement is the reason for the budget amendment approved earlier in the meeting. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the Fund Balance Loss Appropriation and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Spirit Week - Rachael Haynes-Wood (Information)

Rachael Haynes-Wood spoke to the board regarding spirit week. Due to the long stretch of time with no days off before Spring Break, Ms. Haynes-Wood wanted to do something special to help lift spirits. Ms. Haynes-Wood showed the board a t-shirt that was given to every employee of the district. Each Board member will also receive one. She shared a video with the Board showing what went on in the district during spirit week. Each day was titled differently with different fun activities. Superintendent Greene offered his appreciation of Ms. Haynes-Wood and Ms. Odel for their hard work in making this week happen.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke about the long range facilities plan and provided updates related to the previous performance contracting discussion.

Superintendent Greene wants to wait on the 2019-2020 Capital Budget submission until the district knows about the projects and the amount of local capital funding that will be available.

Superintendent Greene stated that Administration was still compiling and analyzing next year's figures for participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and what CEP will likely cost before bringing that recommendation to the Board.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding a request from a concerned citizen. This citizen wanted the District to look into and research getting seatbelts on school buses. There are a variety of issues that arise with seatbelts on buses. The monitoring of students to ensure they are wearing seatbelts is one. Mr. Greene said that he would be bringing more information and proposals for buses with seat belts to the Board as new buses are ordered. Currently in NC, only 1.1% of buses on the road have seatbelts. The cost difference for belts on an activity bus is around \$10,000.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding committee assignments. He wanted to see if the Board wanted to reassign all committees or put Mr. Ashworth into the slots that were vacated by Mr. Patterson. The Board agreed to add Mr. Ashworth into the slots vacated.

V. INFORMATION-

March Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board
March Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board

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Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board
Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board
Credit Card Report Presented to the Board
Special Olympics 4/11/19 at PCMS
NC Pre-K Annual Committee Meeting 4/10/19, 11:30-1:00 in Stearns Education Center Board Room

BOARD TRAINING

Guns in Schools Webinar-April 23, 2019 - Geoffrey Tennant and Judy Jackson are attending
NCSBA Public Policy Conference- NCSBA Assembly Hall - April 30 - May 1, 2019
School Violence Prevention Webinar-May 14, 2019

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:17 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, student matter, and a property. Ms. Page made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. 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 9:40 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page 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. Jackson made the motion to deny the request of unpaid leave that was on the second portion of the personnel agenda. Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion regarding the student transfer request. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Mr. Ashworth. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Tennant asked the Board’s pleasure in regard to a motion regarding the Personnel Reduction Plan. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the plan as presented and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7-0.

INFORMATION:

Woody Cowan	Teacher	Tryon/Sunny View	Retiring
Angela Hall	Teacher	Sunny View	Retiring
Lynn Carlson	Teacher	Polk Central	Retiring
Mary Butler	School Nutrition Director	Central Office	Retiring
Debora Gilbert	School Nurse	Tryon/Saluda	Retiring
Kayla Edwards	FMLA	Polk Central/Sunny View	Nurse
Kim McCool	FMLA	Tryon Elementary	Teacher
Heather Bailey	FMLA	SunnyView Elementary	Teacher Assistant
Rachel Goettert	FMLA	Stearns/PCEC	EC Admin Asst/ICC Liason

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	College
Virginia Bowyer	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

 Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

 Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO