

**Board of Education Meeting
July 29, 2019
5:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

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

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

Ms. Page called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Ms. Page yielded the floor to Superintendent Greene. Mr. Greene read the following statement in appreciation of Mr. Tennant and his service to the Polk County Board of Education:

“At this time I would ask that we reflect on the life and legacy of Mr. Tennant. As has been said many times since his passing, there is no way to express the breadth, depth, and impact of his service to our community, our students and schools, and this Board of Education. Please rise and join me in a moment of silence for Mr. Geoffrey M. Tennant.”

There was a moment of silence in Mr. Tennant’s honor. Superintendent Greene conveyed his appreciation to the principals that were present to show their support for the Board. Mr. Weis, principal of Sunny View Elementary, spoke to the Board expressing the support and appreciation of all principals within the district. Ms. Corley shared her thanks to everyone for their cooperation in the service for Mr. Tennant. All members of the Board offered thanks to the principals for their support.

Approval of the June 10, 2019 and June 27, 2019 Board Minutes

Ms. Page called the Board’s attention to a copy of the June 10, 2019 and the June 27, 2019 Board minutes. She asked if there were any additions or corrections and there were none. Ms. Page 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.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

Federal Grant Application – Ronette Dill (Action)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the Federal Grant application. She went over the summaries for the Title I, Title II, and Title IV programs planned for the 2019-2020 school year that were attached to the agenda. Since 2015 there has been a decrease of \$62,936 in funding in the combined Title I, Title II, Title IV and RLIS allotments. Ms. Dill stated that the majority of

this funding is used for personnel. When teachers get raises, the teachers that work as a part of federal programs also get raises and this has a negative impact on available funding. Equitable services for private schools are a part of federal programs as well. This year Tryon Seventh Day Adventist School expressed interested in the equitable services, something they have not done in the past. Ms. Dill indicated she had met with the private school's director regarding the process for securing and using federal program funding, but the school has yet to respond with the necessary planning information to include them in this year's cycle. Ms. Dill explained to the Board that Superintendent Greene has to sign off on a set of assurances required for the federal funding before they are sent in to DPI with the budget information and plan outlines. Mr. Greene told the Board that the assurances are the same as they have been in the past. Mr. Greene informed the Board about the latest Read-to-Achieve screener, the Istation program, and some details of the new process and implementation plan. Ms. Page asked the Board's pleasure regarding the Federal Grant Application. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approved the Federal Grant Application as submitted and to give the superintendent permission to sign off on the necessary assurance. Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The grant application was approved 6-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2018-2019 Final Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment that had been handed out at the beginning of the meeting. There was discussion regarding the amendment. Ms. Page called for any other questions and there were none. Ms. Page asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Mr. Ashworth made the motion to approve the final budget amendment and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Head Start Supplemental Funding Request - Kathy Harding (Action)

Kathy Harding presented information to the Board regarding a Head Start Supplemental Funding Request. She is requesting additional funds to address several issues with the preschool playground at Polk Central Elementary. Ms. Harding will be asking the Office of Head Start for \$11,155 for the project. The District's required match would be \$3,718. Ms. Harding briefly went over the information that was attached to the agenda. Ms. Harding asked for permission from the Board to request this money from the Office of Head Start. Ms. Page asked the Board's pleasure in giving Ms. Harding permission to ask the Office of Head Start for the funding. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the request and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0.

Board Policy Updates & Additions - Dave Scherping (Action) 1st Reading

Dave Scherping went over recommended changes in policy 3460 - *Graduation Requirements*, and 3450 - *Class Ranking*. There was discussion among the Board regarding these two policies. Mr. Feagan pointed out the misspelling of "summa", in policy 3450. Mr. Scherping also spent time discussing a new policy offered for adoption, policy 4202/5029/7272 - *Service Animals in Schools*. There was discussion among the Board regarding the details of this policy. Mr. Scherping also went over the included *Service Animal Notification Form*. This information will be requested from the parent/employee who wishes to bring a service animal to a school on a regular basis at least 10 days prior to doing so. Ms. Page entertained motions for approving policies 3460, 3450, and 4202/5029/7272 on first reading. Ms. Corley made the motion to

approve and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. Policies 3460, 3450, and 4202/5029/7272 were approved on first reading.

Surplus Sale - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping presented a list of items and related information to the Board regarding the surplus property sale. The bid opening will be August 12, 2019 and the items must be removed by August 16. Ms. Page asked the Board's pleasure in declaring the items on the list as surplus and to provide for the receiving of bids. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approve the surplus sale plan and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The plan was approved 6-0.

Student Transfer Requests - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene discussed recent student transfer requests with the Board and they agreed to move the requests into closed session for consideration.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Chromebook Lease - Dave Scherping presented a recommendation to the Board regarding the leasing of chrome books. Mr. Scherping handed out information about the lease to the Board. Eight companies responded to the District's request for bids. The companies presented bids for purchasing and leasing. The District committee is recommending an agreement with Trinity for a lease for four years. The annual lease charge will be \$46,646. At the end of four years the equipment will be returned to the company. There are two forms that will need to be completed to being the lease. One form has Superintendent Greene's signature saying that this process is a business essential, that the district is not borrowing the money for something that is not an essential. There is also a certificate of incumbency, showing the information of those that made the motion and seconded the action. Ms. Jackson asked if the district had already gone into the agreement with Trinity because the date within the agreement is listed as 7/18. Mr. Scherping stated that the date would be changed to reflect the true agreement date. Ms. Corley asked what these 700 chrome books would bring the district to in meeting technology needs. Mr. Scherping answered that the district would have Chromebooks for about 50% of the total enrollment at the elementary level, and about 65% of middle and high school students. Ms. Corley asked if some of the foundations could help purchase those. Superintendent Greene stated that they have difficulty purchasing real property due to the depreciation of devices. It was made clear that Council will need time to review the agreement. Mr. Feagan stated that the agreement said that the district would pay for all freight. He also asked about warranty from the manufacture. Mr. Scherping stated the warranty is in the details from the manufacturer. There is a four year "no questions asked" warranty. If a repair is needed, Trinity will send the district a shipping label for the device to be sent back. Mr. Feagan asked if this money is already set aside in appropriations. Mr. Greene answered that this would be part of the yearly capital set aside for technology. Mr. Feagan, Mr. Greene, and Mr. Scherping will meet and go over the agreement before signing. Ms. Page asked the Board's pleasure in approving the lease agreement based on Council's review and the correction of the aforementioned date. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve

the lease agreement with the indicated additions and Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

PCHS HVAC - Superintendent Greene expressed to the Board that the district has been speaking with Graham Lewis of Schneider Electric regarding a “design-build” process for solving the HVAC issues at Polk County High School. Superintendent Greene stated that the district would be working with Polk County government and the LGC regarding a potential loan for this project. Mr. Greene asked the Board if they had any questions and there were none.

Filling Vacant Seat and Role - The Board agreed to discuss the filling of Mr. Tennant’s seat and the election of a new chair in an open session following the closed session for personnel and student matters.

V. INFORMATION – Ms. Page went over these items with the Board

Credit Card Report

Monthly Financial Report

BOARD TRAINING

Staff Development Webinars 8/19/19-8/23/19

NCSBA Annual Conference 11/18/19-11/20/19 - Greensboro, NC

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 6:57 PM Ms. Page entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a student matter. Ms. Allen made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Mr. Covil. The motion carried 6-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Ms. Page called for a motion to return to open session. At 7:17 pm, Mr. Ashworth made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Allen seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

Ms. Page called the Board’s attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Ms. Page 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. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

There was discussion regarding the student transfer requests. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve all four student transfer requests. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. All four student transfer request were approved 6-0.

The Board held a discussion regarding the process of electing a new chair and filling the now vacant seat formerly held by Mr. Tennant. The Board agreed to reflect and continue the discussion at the August meeting.

INFORMATION:

Annette Ireland	Teacher	Tryon	Retired
Lisa Bame	Teacher	Polk Central	Retired
Jennifer Ramsey	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Resigned
Alicia Durand	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Resigned
Bridget Kinnell	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Resigned
Ashley Freed	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Resigned
Wendi Jordan	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Resigned
Rhonda Hill	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Julia Tackett	Teacher	Polk Central	FMLA
Stephanie Champion	Teacher	Tryon	FMLA
Jacob Gibson	Maintenance	Maintenance	Workers Comp

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	College	Hometown	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Carol Triplett	Teacher	Sunny View	Pfeiffer University	Lake Lure	Elementary Ed, Middle Grades	18
Lauren Hamilton	Teacher	Saluda	Gardner-Webb University	Zirconia	Elementary Ed	2
Stephanie Fletcher	Teacher	Saluda	University of TN	Tryon	Elementary Ed	3
Megan Kitchens	EC Teacher	PCHS	University of GA		EC: General Curriculum (K-12)	4
Jennifer Searcy	Teacher	Tryon	University of NC, Charlotte	Campobello, SC	El Ed (K-6), Principal, Eng as a Second Language	13
Pamela Medford	Teacher	Tryon	Gardner-Webb University	Forest City, NC	El Ed (K-6), Principal	3
Lydia Ramsey	Title I Teacher	Sunny View				

Linda "Diane" Guffey	Long Term Substitute	Tryon				
Sylvia Avellaneda	ESL Specialist	Elementary	Isothermal Community College	Tryon		

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Ms. Page declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Board Chairperson

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO