

**Board of Education Meeting
September 9, 2019
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

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

Members Absent: None

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

Approval of the August 12, 2019 Board Minutes

Mr. Covil called the Board's attention to a copy of the August 12, 2019 Board minutes. Corrections to the distributed Board packet minutes were made prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Covil entertained a motion to approve the minutes as corrected and presented. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Polk County Early College Student Presentation - Coastal Trip

Due to scheduling conflicts the Polk County Early College Student Presentation was postponed until the November Board meeting.

Maintenance Staff

Superintendent Greene introduced Robert Gilbert, Director of the maintenance staff. Robert Gilbert introduced his staff; Darren Green, Assistant Director, Kerry Ford, Copey Rhodes, and Jacob Gibson. The maintenance team serves eight different sites, over 520,000 square feet, and over 200 acres of land. The District's buildings range in age from 1917 to 2014. Each time they are called to assist, regardless of the day or time, this team responds quickly and professionally. Mr. Greene publically recognized the Maintenance Department for their hard work and read a brief statement commending them for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Gilbert offered his appreciation to his department for their hard work and all they do for the District. Mr. Covil and the board conveyed their appreciation to the Maintenance Department as well.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

2018-2019 Student Performance Results - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene presented student and school performance results to the Board. He discussed both pages that were linked to the agenda. The Polk County School District is the second highest performing school district in the state of NC for the 2018-2019 academic year. The presentation included regional data for student performance, providing information on how Polk County Schools ranks in comparison with the districts near Polk County. Mr. Greene also discussed School Performance Grades. Ms. Corley wants the District to know how proud the Board is of the District. Ms. Corley asked if the District is cutting back on testing. Superintendent Greene responded that the state seems to be working toward doing away with local option formative benchmarks and monitoring testing that districts give to monitor where students are academically. Mr. Ashworth commented that he used to live and work around Chapel Hill Carrboro and that people move into that county and pay high property taxes specifically for the education system. For Polk County Schools to be competitive with them is amazing and is a testament to the District's hard work.

PEAK After School Update - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the PEAK After School Program. She reviewed the information on the brief that was attached to the electronic agenda. She spoke in more detail about the SUMMIT program. This is a program funded by a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation to provide high quality enrichment programs and mentoring at the PEAK After School locations. Grant funds will also be used to provide activities, clubs and experiences to help build community and a sense of belonging for the students, as well as the adult mentors.

Overnight Field Trips - Aaron Greene (Action)

1. National FFA Convention
2. Cross Country Meet

Superintendent Greene briefly went over the information provided regarding the overnight field trip requests. The Board agreed to vote on both trips together. Attorney Feagan stated that in one place in the policy it states that athletics are not included in field trips but in another place it includes athletics. Superintendent Greene stated that the District will use the higher standard in the policy. Ms. Jackson asked about the deposit due for the FFA trip. She wanted to know if there was a previous 8th grader that wanted to go, would the deposit include their fee since it was due in May. Mr. Greene responded that typically it is the upper classmen that attend the trip, but if a lower classman wanted to they would project the amount. Mr. Ashworth made a motion to approved the National FFA Trip and the Cross Country Meet presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0. Mr. Greene informed the Board that if the Cross Country team does well they will need to attend the finals, in which case the six week notice rule will not apply.

NC Early Childhood Foundation Proclamation - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene stated that Dr. Miller from Greene County, who is on the advisory Board for the NC Early Childhood Foundation, has requested all Superintendents in the state to sign the attached proclamation regarding early childhood student attendance. Mr. Greene wanted to get the Board's approval before he proceeds in signing and endorsing the proclamation. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Greene to proceed with the proclamation.

iStation Update - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding iStation. Ms. Dill told the Board that the District is where it needs to be in the process. The District has 36 out of 39 teachers that have completed the required one hour webinar. She shared the training slides that show what she presented to teachers with the Board. All iStation testing is done online. Ms. Dill has requested that teachers have conferences with parents to explain the results. There has been some Title I funding set back to purchase Reading 3D if the District feels the need to add this resource at a later time. Attorney Feagan asked if iStation was still in suspended mode. Ms. Dill stated that the final contract is still pending review but the district has been instructed to continue with training and the use of the program. iStation is not getting paid during the review.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Facilities Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

1. Saluda Elementary Project

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the steam line and boiler room project at Saluda Elementary. The steam line has been replaced and the boiler room is being completed now.

2. PCHS Project

Mr. Greene met with Graham Lewis from Snyder Electric and the county to address the Polk County High School HVAC issue. Phil Perry, an engineer at DPI, has verified that there is a problem with negative air pressure, approximately 4,000 cubic feet per minute. The original plans for the PCHS called for a four pipe system but it was reduced to a two pipe system in the final phases before construction. Mr. Perry recommends that the district upgrade to a four-pipe system. A “design-build” project seems to be the less expensive way to go. There would be a RFQ sent out for this project. A benefit with this approach is that there will be a fixed price and guaranteed construction in one year. Contractor profit percentages will not be known until later in to the RFQ process. The County has indicated their willingness to partner with the District on a long-term loan of approximately \$4 million. Mr. Covil asked when the profit percentage would be decided. Mr. Greene responded that the District would receive this information as a part of the RFQ process.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Policy 4202/5029/7272-Service Animals in Schools – This policy was tabled at the August Board meeting and is still being discussed. It will be presented again at the October or November Board meeting. Attorney Feagan stated that Service Animals are a big topic on the national COSA website.

Chromebook Lease Agreement – The Chromebook lease agreement has been completed and Chromebooks have been ordered.

FFA Officer Retreat – This approved retreat was canceled due to weather.

Board Meeting Meals – Superintendent Greene asked the Board how they felt about going outside of Polk County for the purchase of meeting meals due to lack of availability in the county. The Board agreed that it was okay to go outside the county.

Remembering Geoffrey M. Tennant – Superintendent Greene spoke with Ms. Tennant about how Mr. Tennant is being honored. Mr. Greene has asked everyone wishing to honor him in some public way to speak with him before anything is done. Mr. Greene asked the Board about the prior conversation of naming the Board Room after Mr. Tennant. Ms. Allen stated that she like the idea of a framed picture with a plaque. Mr. Greene stated they could hang a large picture and potentially name Board room the Geoffrey M. Tennant Board Room. Ms. Jackson asked if there would just be a picture or naming the Board Room. Ms. Allen said she would like to see both done. Ms. Corley said that naming the Board Room and having the picture would give the connection between the two. Ms. Page mentioned a tasteful oil painting. Ms. Allen stated that she liked the idea of naming the Board Room after Mr. Tennant. Mr. Covil stated that he does not want to overdo it because he knew Mr. Tennant. Mr. Greene is going to come up with several ideas/combinations and bring them to the November meeting for the Board to discuss.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Vaccinations – Polk County Schools was on a list saying that 10% of entering kindergarteners were not vaccinated. These numbers were not correct due to incorrect reporting and incomplete data. The District’s true number after the first 30 days of school for students not vaccinated is 2.5%.

Enrollment – Enrollment is up 1.3% for the current school year. The district went from 2097 students to 2125 students not counting Pre K. This is the first increase in enrollment in a decade.

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

Preschool Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Year to Date Credit Card Report

BOARD TRAINING

September 26, 2019, 4:00-8:00 District 8 Meeting - Macon County - Mountain View Intermediate School

October 16-18, 2019, 2019 Fall Law Conference - Asheville - Attorney Feagan to attend

November 18-20, 2019, NCSBA Annual Conference - Greensboro

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Parent Jamie Scruggs spoke to the Board regarding her son and his service dog, Boss. Boss and his trainer were in attendance as well. Jamie informed the Board of the purpose and capability of the dog as well as giving an update on Boss' training. The trainer helped clarify the role of a Service Dog and answered several questions related to the dog's use and integration in the school environment.

Keith Holbert was in attendance and expressed to the Board and communicated he felt that they were doing a great job with our students and schools.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:00 PM Mr. Covil entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and attorney client privilege. Ms. Corley made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. 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 8:30 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion and it 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. Mr. Ashworth 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.

There was brief discussion regarding the appointment of a new Board of Education Member to fill the vacant Columbus Township seat. Ms. Corley made a motion to appoint Danielle Gibbs and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion was approved.

INFORMATION:

Julia Tackett	Teacher	Polk Central	Transfer from fifth grade to Kindergarten
April Crowder	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Transfer from Kindergarten to Pre K
Jackie Medford	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Transfer from Pre K to Media and Technology Assistant
Wendy Berryhill	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Add Bus Driving to duties
Tawana Cunningham	EC Teacher Assistant/Bus Monitor	PCHS/PCMS	Resigned
Daniel Painter	Temporary Maintenance	Maintenance	Position Ended
Megan Ledford	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	Terminated
Kristen Panks	Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher	PCHS	FMLA

ACTION:

Name	Position	School	College	Hometown	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Mackensie Lewis	Kindergarten Teacher	Tryon	North Greenville University	Landrum	Elementary Education	1
Jessica May	Social Studies Teacher	PCMS	UNC Asheville	Flat Rock	Elementary Education	1
Emilina Smith	Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant	All Schools	South College	Canton		
Sherri Young	Part-Time Occupational Therapist	All Schools	State University of NY	Flat Rock		30+
Kathryn Jenkins	Permanent Part-Time EC-Teacher Assistant	PCHS	UNC Charlotte	Columbus		9
Stefanie Tyler	Part-Time Kindergarten Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Liberty University	Tryon		3
Jay Gardner	Bus Driver					Years
Savannah Cashion	Temp Custodian/Bus Driver	Tryon	Warren Wilson College	Tryon		1

Sandra Trottier	Part-Time Dishwasher	Tryon		Rutherfordton		23
Carol Brown	Part-Time Food Service	PCHS		Saluda		2
Maria Burnett	Part-Time Food Service	PCHS		Mill Spring		10
Jackson Edwards	Part-Time Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon		Columbus		Years
Blake Rackley	Part-Time Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda		Saluda		Years
Michaela Franklin	Part-Time Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View		Rutherfordton		2
Kathryn Morris	Part-Time Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View		Rutherfordton		Years
Susan Livingston	Temporary Teacher	Polk Central	University of SC	Taylors, SC	License is Pending	28
Trinah Falgoup Kulp	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools		Tryon		
Larah Waters	Part-Time SUMMIT Community Volunteer Coordinator	All Schools	UNC Chapel Hill	Columbus		2
Leah Foster	Full-Time Kindergarten Assistant/Bus Driver	Polk Central		Columbus		8
Amanda McComas	Part-Time Kindergarten Assistant	Sunny View		Mill Spring		
McKenzie Staley	Part-Time Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central		Columbus		

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Covil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

 Mr. Covil, Board Chair

 Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO