

**Board of Education Meeting  
January 8, 2018  
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center  
Board Room**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Superintendent Greene, Attorney Feagan, Finance Officer Lovelace, Director of Accountability and Technology Scherping

**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 December 11, 2017 Board Minutes**

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the December 11, 2017 Board Minutes. He asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**Board Appreciation Month: Recognition of Polk County Board of Education – Superintendent Greene**

Superintendent Greene told those in attendance that January was National Board of Education Appreciation Month. Mr. Greene read a statement to the Board that expressed his appreciation of the Board's valuable service and dedication to excellence. The Superintendent thanked the Board for what they do for Polk County Schools and Polk County students.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Winter PD Wonderland – Ronette Dill**

Superintendent Greene spoke in place of Ms. Dill. 2018 Winter PD Wonderland is scheduled for Monday January 22. There is a brief attached to the electronic agenda that lists some of the professional development breakout sessions that are to be offered. One of the sessions that will be offered deals with the Cost of Poverty Experience. Mr. Greene asked the Board if there were any questions, and there were none. He invited the Board to attend any of the sessions, if they are interested. Chairman Tennant asked if there were any questions for Mr. Greene, and there were none.

**Student Intervention Presentation (Info) – Aaron Greene**

Superintendent Greene wants the Board to be informed of things that are happening in the schools and classrooms. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a state-wide initiative that has been ongoing for a couple of years now. The MTSS framework lets the school system use data, observation, and knowledge of individual students to intervene at the classroom level, the school level, and at the district level. Polk County School's current district MTSS team consists of Ronette Dill, Mike Melton, Jan Crump, Kathy Harding, Jessie Spencer, Josh Hill, and Linda Sage. Jan Crump, Ashley Blackwell, and Brooke Benfield were present from Polk Central Elementary School to present their Continuous School Improvement (CSI) team process and how that process looks at the classroom and school levels. Ms. Crump said that the Polk County Schools are not only concerned with the question of equal educational opportunities, but also equity in the education of each child. Brook Benfield spoke on the five step process to refer a child for academic or behavioral needs. A referral can be made by anyone who is concerned about a child. Once the referral is made, a meeting is scheduled; a meeting is scheduled immediately; data is collected and reviewed; and appropriate interventions are delivered. Once the interventions have been administered, a follow-up meeting is held to judge the effectiveness of the interventions and further steps are discussed. Ashley Blackwell spoke about the different paths of success for the children. She told the Board that Polk Central continues to follow these students from year-to-year to make sure there is no need of change or a different type of intervention/referral. Mr. Covil asked how many children could be involved at a time and Ms. Benfield answered that there are about twenty active children, but teachers and the CSI team are continually monitoring other children. Mr. Patterson asked how long it is after the child is identified until a plan is put in place. Ms. Crump answered that as soon as the referral is made, an appointment is scheduled. The classroom teachers are trying different types of interventions, even before the meeting happens. The CSI team meets to discuss the child every six weeks until the team feels the child is being successful. Ms. Corley asked if parents knew about this great program to keep children from slipping through the cracks. Ms. Crump said that parents were becoming more aware of the process. Some parents are starting to contact the teachers about getting their child into the process. Approximately 70-75% of parents attend the meeting. Mr. Greene asked if this process is something that teachers have always done intuitively. Ms. Crump said, yes, and that is why teaching is a difficult profession because you cannot teach a given lesson in one manner or style and hope that everyone receives the desired information; you must individualize and personalize instruction. Ms. Corley asked if this was the major model of using Title I. Mr. Greene responded that Title I is a good example of this. Most of the time children that are referred to CSI have already been in the Title I program. Chairman Tennant stated that you could use the success from those in the process and build on that to help with the children in the future. Mr. Covil asked if the same children are being served year after year. Ms. Crump told the Board that there are some children who come back year after year, but in those cases it is determined there is a need for an additional referral. Mr. Tennant asked if there were any other questions or comments, and there were none. Mr. Tennant said that this process shows how Polk County Schools really cares about children. Mr. Greene asked Mike Melton, Director of Exceptional Children (EC), if he had anything to say about CSI and/or MTSS. Mr. Melton said that this CSI team is a great example of what the District wants to accomplish with MTSS. It is also helping with the EC program. By the time a child does have an EC referral, there is enough data for the EC department to analyze to determine what needs to happen next.

**Testing Update – Dave Scherping (Information)**

Mr. Tennant turned the floor over to Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping. The Polk County Early College testing has been finished and PCHS will be starting this week. Mr. Scherping passed out a list that told the Board the types of tests that were administered. Some tests are delivered on paper because of the subject matter being taught while the majority of tests are administered on line. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board several aspects of the testing procedure.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Budget Amendment (Action) – Debbie Lovelace**

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment that had been included on 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. Corley made a motion, which Mr. Patterson seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

**2018-2019 Budget Calendar (Action)**

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace presented the 2018-2019 Budget Calendar to the Board for approval. Superintendent Greene stated for a correction to be made on the attached Calendar. It should say 2018-2019, instead of 2017-2018. Chairman Tennant called for a motion regarding the 2018-2019 Budget Calendar. Ms. Jackson made the motion to approve the calendar as presented by the Financer Officer. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**Energy Savings Performance Contract (Info) – Dave Scherping**

Mr. Scherping and Mr. Greene have had a couple meetings with a representative from The Department of Energy for North Carolina. The representative brought information about a program called Performance Contracting to them. Polk County Schools spends about \$60,000 a month on utilities. If the district wants to pursue this option, the Energy Services Company (ESC) will come, walk through our buildings and propose changes that could be made to lower utility costs. ESC will then create a proposal to make these changes, determine the cost of the changes and the projected savings for the district. If the savings are not what the ESC proposed, the ESC must pay the district the difference. The upfront money is obtained through a loan. This is the one time that the school system can take out a loan. The payment of the loan will come from the savings. If the district signs this contract, the district is guaranteed these savings. The Department of Energy suggests partnering with Polk County Government on this contract. There are several steps to this process. Ms. Corley asked if this would interface with building improvements. Mr. Greene answered that is basically what is happening; things that need to be done are being paid for by energy savings. Mr. Scherping explained that in the period of time of the contract, the amount of spending will not decrease. These funds will be going to the power company and the loan payment. Mr. Patterson asked what the payoff time would be. Mr. Scherping answered that it would be according to what changes are made. There are some projects that are short-term payoffs and some are long-term payoffs.

### **Head Start (Info) – Kathy Harding**

Kathy Harding spoke to the Board regarding the Pre-K Head Start review. Ms. Harding handed the review schedule to the Board. January 29-February 2 will be the review. Ms. Harding told the Board that this review will be in two parts. The first part will be a Focus Area Two, to make sure the district is in compliance. The second part is a CLASS Observation, which is a tool that will be used to monitor and assess the effectiveness of teachers and their interactions with the children. On Tuesday from 1:00-2:00 the review committee will be interviewing Board Members. Ms. Corley and Mr. Tennant will be here for that review. Ms. Harding invited all Board Members to come to the interview, if they would like to do so. Ms. Harding went over the Preschool Monthly Summary with the Board. She also reviewed the Program Information Report (PIR) report. This report shows data (health insurance, dental insurance, home, etc.) on children before and after participation in the Pre-K program. Ms. Harding asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the information.

### **Employee Health Fair (Info) – Rachael Haynes-Wood**

Rachael Haynes-Wood invited the Board Members to the upcoming Health Fair. It is scheduled for January 22, 2018. There will be approximately twenty different Polk County vendors there, including blood pressure checks and gym memberships. The district will also be offering a free lunch for employees on that date.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Dave Scherping spoke to the Board regarding updating school calendars due to the recent inclement weather. He gave the Board a copy of three different calendars: Polk County Early College, Saluda Elementary School, and all other Polk County Schools. For Polk County Schools, every school except Saluda and the Early College, 1/8/18 was changed to an optional Teacher Workday and school will now be in session on 2/16/18. Polk County Early College was out on 1/8/18 and will be in school on 2/16/18. Saluda Elementary school has missed two days, 12/8/17 and 1/8/18. Saluda will now be in school on 2/16/18 and 4/27/18. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board about having to switch out the optional work days and required work days. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments from the Board, and there were none. Mr. Patterson made a motion to adopt "Revision 1" of the Polk County Schools Calendars and Ms. Page seconded the motion. "Revision 1" of the Polk County Schools Calendars was adopted 7-0.

### **V. INFORMATION**

#### **Mr. Tennant went over these items with the Board**

1. December Head Start Policy Council Minutes
2. Pre-K Financial Report
3. Monthly Financial Report
4. Month to Date Credit Card Report
5. January 15, 2018 - Optional Teacher Workday, January 22, 2018 - Required Teacher Workday

**BOARD TRAINING**

None

**I. PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

**Closed Session**

At 7:28 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a student matter. Ms. Corley 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. Ms. Page made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Patterson. It was approved 7-0. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:58 PM.

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. Patterson made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and Human Resource Officer in regard to the personnel agenda as submitted. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. It was approved 7-0.

Chairman Tennant called the Board's attention to the discretionary admission application that was discussed in closed session that required Board approval. The Chairman asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve the transfer and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The transfer was approved 7-0.

**INFORMATION:**

Kenneth Tackett	ISS	PCHS	Resigned
Michael Duncan	EC Teacher Assistant	PCHS	Resigned
Robin Bishop	School Security	PCMS	Resigned
Nila Trautman	After School Director	Sunny View	Resigned
Cheryl Doorley	American Sign Language Interpreter	PCMS	Resigned
Debbie Gibbs	Data Manager	PCHS	Retiring
Gwen Cantrell	Food Service Worker	Polk County Middle School	FMLA

Marsha Davis	Teacher	Polk Central Elementary School	FMLA
Polly Kennedy	Teacher	Polk County High School	Parental Leave

**ACTION:**

Susan McRostie	Part-Time Art Teacher	Saluda	
Lori Campbell	Transfer from Part-Time Food Service Worker to Full-Time Food Service Manager	Tryon	
Sandra Simms	Part-Time Food Service Worker	Polk Central	
John "Kenny" Hall	PE Teacher	Polk Central Elementary	
Amber Styles	Substitute Teacher		
Lorraine Moore	Food Service Manager	Sunny View Elementary	Leave of Absence

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

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Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO