

Board of Education Meeting
October 8, 2018
6:30 PM, Polk Central Elementary School Media Center

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dill, Director of Accountability Dave Scherping, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Tennant called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

NCFFA Presentation

Chairman Tennant recognized Mr. Chauncey Barber and Ms. Ashley Gilbert and two members of the current Polk County FFA Chapter. Mr. Barber talked to the Board about how the FFA had been raising money to buy a new farm truck. The Polk County High School FFA and Agriculture Program purchased a Ford F250, four doors, four wheel drive, flatbed truck. The Polk County FFA Chapter wrote a grant, with the help of Ms. Dill, to the NC tobacco trust fund. Mr. Barber introduced Mr. VonCanon the Western Region Agricultural Education Coordinator. Mr. VonCanon presented the Polk County FFA Chapter a check for \$4,800. The tobacco trust fund was established in the early 2000s with the federal government's Tobacco Buy Out Program. They establish funds to help farmers transition away from growing tobacco. Every other year for the last seven years, the NC FFA has been a recipient of some of those funds. This year, 35 schools across the state of NC received some of that funding, and Polk County High School was one of them. This money was used to help purchase the new farm truck. Superintendent Greene relayed his appreciation to Mr. VonCanon for his support of the program.

Approval of the September 10, 2018 Board Minutes

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the September 18, 2017 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 7-0.

Comments by Jan Crump

Chairman Tennant called upon Ms. Jan Crump to make remarks. Ms. Crump welcomed the Board of Education, colleagues, and community members to Polk Central Elementary School. She invited the Board members to visit Polk Central at any time. She conveyed her appreciation to the Board for their support of Polk County Schools and its students and staff.

Chairman Tennant took a moment to express his gratitude to all the principals, staff, students, and communities for all the hard work last year. Polk County Schools ranked first in the state for

student performance on EOGs and EOCs. This achievement is a tremendous tribute to all staff, every student, and every parent involved with Polk County Schools.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

School Improvement Plans: (Action)

All school improvement plans were attached to the electronic agenda for review. Each school principal and a selected Improvement Team representative briefly presented the goals and highlights of their school improvement plan. Mr. Greene presented the District Improvement Plan to the Board. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments after each presentation. School Improvement Plans will be voted on after closed session once the safe school plans are discussed.

Subgroup Performance - Dave Scherping (Information)

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding subgroup performance grades. The subgroup performance grades are located via a link on polkschools.org. In the past there had to be 30 students of a particular designation to constitute a subgroup. This has now changed to a requirement of 30 scores, not students. The size of the school population dictates the number of subgroups. One of the subgroups is called English Learners. Chairman Tennant asked for clarification since it used to be “English as a second language” (ESL), and Mr. Scherping verified it is the new title for ESL. Schools with at least one subgroup having a performance grade of F are identified as “Targeted Support and Improvement” (TSI) Schools. If a school is a TSI school and stays a TSI school for several years the school will become a “Continuous Support Improvement” (CSI) School. Polk County High School received an “F” for Students with Disabilities. There were 2,645 schools in NC last year that received performance letter grades. Of those 1,740 of them are TSI. Polk County High School is on the TSI-CU Watch List this year. CU stands for “continuously underperforming”. PCHS had 33 scores in this subgroup and less than 10 of those students were on the Extend 1 Test for Severely Cognitive Deficient Students that are required to be tested. These students had no opportunity to pass or have a growth measurement on this test. PCHS was measured continuously underperforming by about 17 students that have Individualized Education Plans. The second link is a regional summary of the subgroup performance grades. The low performance of Students with a Disability subgroup is a consistent trend on the regional comparison. Mr. Patterson asked what these scores are telling us. In the past the district gave tests to show what level the individual students were performing. The federal government wants a measure across the country that shows what percentage of each grade is on grade level. The District’s goal for this subgroup is to make sure they are getting the skills and competencies to be able to go out and function in life. This reporting is a result of conditions set forth via the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA). Because PCHS is on the TSI-CU Watch List, someone from the district must attend the NC Star training. Mr. Scherping stated he wanted to make sure the Board knew about these scores.

Two FFA Trip Proposals- Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding both of the attached FFA field trips. The requests meet all guidelines. Chairman Tennant would like for the following sentence to be rewritten so that it reads correctly: “Additionally, we have arranged for female teachers from

other schools to assist with chaperoning our female students and our male chaperones will provide a similar service for their male students.” The Board agreed to vote on both trips at the same time. Chairman Tennant asked the Board’s pleasure for the trips. Mr. Patterson made a motion and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The FFA Land Judging Field Trip and the FFA Vet Science Competition were approved on a vote of 7-0 with corrections.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Safe Schools/Crisis Plans - Aaron Greene (Action)

Details of the Safe Schools/Crisis Plans are discussed in closed session.

Voting Delegates - Aaron Greene (Information)

The Board agreed to have Chairman Tennant as the designated NCSBA voting delegate for Polk County School District.

Performance Contracting Update - Dave Scherping (Information)

Mr. Scherping added a page to the electronic agenda titled Energy Contract. Mr. Scherping met with the third party reviewer, McKim & Creed. They reviewed the proposal from Schneider and gave their technical review of the documents submitted for performance contracting. Mr. Scherping went over some of the items in the proposal that McKim & Creed agreed with. Bipolar Ionization as a means of energy savings is an area that the Board may need to discuss further once a full analysis of energy savings measures is completed. It is now time for the Board to move on to the investment grade audit (IGA) of the program. The completed IGA agreement should be presented at the November Board meeting. Mr. Scherping and Attorney Feagan will go through the contract to bring back to the Board. The Intent to Award announcement will need to be done close to the end of October. This will say that the district is making good progress on the project and the Board has the intention of signing the contract at its November meeting. This will result in the Board agreeing that \$29,923 will be paid to Schneider Electric for the IGA to be conducted. Graham Lewis spoke to the Board about how this plan will help when asking commissioners for funding, showing that the District has used funds wisely.

District 8 NCSBA Meeting - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene conveyed his appreciation to the Board members that went to the District 8 meeting. The Board received a Silver Bell award for cumulative training hours. Chairman Tennant stated how the two sessions he attended were very informative. There were several ideas brought back that hopefully will benefit the district. Ms. Allen and Mr. Covil agreed that their sessions were very informative as well.

Policy Subcommittee - Dave Scherping (Information)

Mr. Scherping informed the Board that there were more policies that needed to be reviewed and updated. The policy subcommittee agreed to meet on November 1 at 6:00pm. Attorney Feagan asked if the policies were primarily revisions. Mr. Scherping responded that he assumed they were fairly similar to what the district has had in the past.

Discretionary Admission Application - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene addressed the Board and respectfully withdrew the application. The students have been attending Polk County Schools and have moved. The students will continue

to attend Polk County Schools this year. If they continue to live outside Polk County next school year, they will fill out an application for admission.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene passed out an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the School Based Health Center for the Board to read over. Chairman Tennant asked Attorney Feagan for his advice on the matter. Attorney Feagan answered that the MOU seemed fine with him. The Board agreed to bring the MOU back to the November Board meeting for approval to give members time to read over it.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None

V. INFORMATION-

Chairman Tennant went over these items with the board

1. September Head Start Policy Council Minutes
2. August Pre-K Monthly Report
3. September Pre-K Monthly Report
4. Pre-K Financial Report
5. Monthly Financial Report
6. Year to Date Credit Card Report

BOARD TRAINING

1. Fall Law Conference - October 17-19 in Asheville - Attorney Feagan to attend
2. 2018 NCSBA Annual Conference - 11/12/18 - 11/14/18 - Greensboro - Chairman Tennant to attend

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:15 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, safe schools, and school improvement plans. Mr. Patterson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Corley. 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 9:10 pm, Mr. Covil made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion and it carried 7 to 0.

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. Ms. Page made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer, in regards to the personnel agenda. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chairman Tennant called the Board’s attention to the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans that require Board approval and confirmed that details regarding the safe schools and crisis plans for the district and schools had been detailed and discussed in closed session. The Chairman asked the Board’s pleasure regarding a motion. Ms. Corley made the motion to approve the School Improvement Plans/Crisis Plans and Mr. Patterson seconded. It was approved 7-0.

The Board of Education voted 7-0 to continue the employment of Ms. Mary M. Greene as the Director of the Polk County Early College. The Board is cognizant of the fact that Ms. Greene is the spouse of the Superintendent, Mr. Aaron H. Greene. Ms. Greene is supervised by Mr. Dave Scherping, the Director of Accountability and Technology, and not her husband. The Board affirms that it is aware of all of the information noted above.

INFORMATION:

For your info:			
Heber Najera	EC Teacher Assistant	PCMS/PCHS	Resigned
Christin Varnes	Substitute Teacher/Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Resigned
Stephanie O’Rear	Afterschool Worker	Saluda	Terminated
Jennie "Peggy" Umphlett	Afterschool Worker	Polk Central	Resigned
April Crowder	FMLA	Polk Central	Teacher Assistant
Debra Fowler	FMLA	Polk Central	Teacher

ACTION:

Wendy McCoy	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Mill Spring
Eric Walker	Custodian/Bus Driver	Tryon	Tryon
Holly Jolley	PT Food Service Worker	PCES	Tryon
Trina Burnett	PT Food Service Worker	PCES	Mill Spring
Karen Ramirez	Afterschool Worker	PCES	Columbus
Brandon Ridings	Afterschool Worker	Sunny View	Columbus
Elizabeth Taylor	Afterschool Worker	Saluda	Saluda

Megan Fleming	Substitute EC Teacher Assistant/ Bus Monitor	PCMS/PCHS	Columbus
Lina Olarte	Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Columbus
Christy Loman	Part-Time Food Service Worker	PCMS	Rutherfordton
Marchetta Spurlin	Part-Time Food Service Worker	Tryon	Saluda
Carl Hansley	Substitute Teacher	PCHS	Hendersonville
April Crowder	Leave of Absence	Polk Central	Teacher Assistant

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO