

**Board of Education Meeting
November 19, 2018
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

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, 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.

Chairman Tennant recognized Superintendent Greene to speak in regards to Mr. Patterson. Mr. Greene noted Mr. Patterson's 48 years of service to education, many of those with the Polk County Schools. Mr. Greene read a brief letter of recognition for Mr. Patterson speaking of the many ways he has helped staff, students, and the community during his years of service with the Polk County Schools.

Mr. Patterson expressed his appreciation to the Polk County School System and conveyed he knew when he started with Polk County Schools that it was where he was going to stay. Mr. Patterson stated he hoped Polk County Schools are a little bit better off because of him. Chairman Tennant described Mr. Patterson as a "Lifer," one who has given almost a half century of his life to students and schools in all capacities. Chairman Tennant expressed his appreciation to Mr. Patterson for all that he has done for education. Chairman Tennant presented Mr. Patterson with a plaque from the Polk County Board of Education and Polk County Schools.

Recognition of the 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairman Tennant presented each of the 2018-2019 Teachers of the Year with a plaque. Chairman Tennant presented plaques to JJ Waddell from Polk Central Elementary School, Leslie Rhinehart from Polk County High School, Matthew Putnam from Polk County Middle School, Kevin Burnett from Saluda Elementary School, Ginger Turner from Sunny View Elementary School, and Donna Godley from Tryon Elementary School. Leslie Rhinehart, the District TOY, was presented an additional plaque. After the awards were presented, the group was asked to gather in the Stearns' hallway for a group picture before leaving.

Approval of the October 8, 2018 Board Minutes

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the October 8, 2018 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 7-0.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

NCCAT Teacher Leader Institute - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill presented information about the NCCAT Teacher Leader Institute. She said that 11 Polk County teachers went to this training. Ms. Dill had attached a brief to the electronic agenda with a program description and a list of the included sessions. At the end of the week, each teacher chose an action plan/project to work on at each school. The group has met once to finish up a book study and will meet again at the end of the school year. Ms. Dill asked Ms. Waddell and Ms. Rhinehart speak to the Board regarding the Teacher Leader Institute training that they attended. Ms. Rhinehart spoke of how this training was very worthwhile and how it would be very beneficial to young teachers just starting out. Ms. Waddell stated that it was worth it even though she was out of the classroom for a few days. Ms. Waddell briefly told the Board about the project that she is working on in her classroom. Ms. Dill stated that Teachers from every school in the District attended this training. Mr. Greene told the Board that funding for this training was provided by an Appalachian Regional Grant that also helped pay for substitutes.

Title I Distinguished Schools - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the Title I Distinguished Schools conference that Saluda Elementary and Tryon Elementary representatives attended. There were 15 schools in North Carolina honored at this conference. There is a link included on the electronic agenda to the polkschools.org website and the Tryon Daily Bulletin stories about these honors. Mr. Greene gave credit to the Title I staff for the work they do.

PEAK Update - Ronette Dill (Information)

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board and briefly went over the attachment that was on the electronic agenda. She explained that PEAK is still in need of employees to be able to serve all the students needing placement. Additional grant funding from the Polk Community Foundation has been provided for supplemental activities. Approximately half of that funding will pay for a salary for a PEAK Coordinator, Mary Meyland-Mason. She has been very instrumental in getting the Communities for Children Program started at Saluda Elementary. One goal of this additional funding is to get this program started at the other elementary schools in the county and also at Polk County Middle School in the future. All participating volunteers will go through a background check and other training before working with students.

Continuous Improvement Process - Ronette Dill (information)

Ms. Dill spoke about the Continuous Improvement Process. The request for accreditation for Polk County Early College and Polk County High School was submitted earlier this year. DPI indicated they were waiting on the release of school performance data to begin. A conference call was scheduled for today but Ms. Dill did not receive the call. Ms. Dill will continue to follow up to ensure the process is started soon. All schools presented their School Improvement plans at the November Board of Education meeting and they were approved. These plans will be posted on the website. Data visits will be scheduled soon to look individual at student data, school data, sub-group data and where schools are. Mr. Greene will share the schedule with the Board once principals and schools sign up for a day and time.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

2018-2019 Budget

1. Budget Resolution - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

The 2018-2019 Budget Resolution was included in the electronic agenda for review prior to the Board meeting. Ms. Lovelace told the Board that in Fund 4 she budgeted for the lease of two new buses that the district will get this coming year. Chairman Tennant asked Ms. Lovelace if the number that she was referring to is 6000- System-wide support and that was confirmed. Mr. Greene commended Ms. Lovelace on her work on the budget resolution. Mr. Covil made a motion to adopt the 2018-2019 Budget Resolution and Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments and there were none. The Budget Resolution was adopted on a vote of 7-0.

School Safety Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

1. School Safety Tip Line: 828-894-7020

Superintendent Greene presented information to the Board about the School Safety Tip Line. Mr. Greene demonstrated the use of the tip line so that the Board could hear the message and see how quickly the recorded message was sent back to administrators. He explained to the Board that the voice messages will go to three administrators at the central office - Mr. Greene, Mr. Melton and Mr. Scherping. Mr. Greene said the State is working on the development of a safety app and that he has requested to be on the committee to discuss its development and deployment.

Policy 7100 - Recruitment Selection of Personnel: - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding Policy 7100. The Policy Committee wanted to have this discussion with the entire Board. The following statement was added by the NCSBA Policy Service as a suggested change: "However, the superintendent or designee may forgo publicizing a vacancy if the position will be filled through a lateral assignment, reassignment, or promotion of a current employee or if exigent circumstances necessitate that the position be filled immediately." Mr. Feagan clarified that the policy service writers put this statement in the policy. Ms. Allen stated that the change is pretty broad. Mr. Covil said that it goes against everything the Board has done in the past and that he couldn't vote for the policy with that statement. Mr. Patterson said that he understood what the Advisory Council meant by this but he didn't agree with it either. There has always been a posting so that everyone had the same access and opportunity to vie for positions. Superintendent Greene said that he believes this would put the superintendent and the superintendent-Board relationship at risk. Mr. Patterson said that he believes if this is left in the Policy the Board would have no say on internal applicants at all. Chairman Tennant spoke and said that in years past the superintendent kept the Board involved. Historically, employees expect to be able to apply if there is an internal job available. Ms. Corley stated that the Policy Committee knew the Board would have strong feelings regarding this policy, and that is why they wanted to bring it to the entire Board for review. Mr. Greene stated that if it was the pleasure of the Board he would strike the indicated change and submit the policy for approval without the new language. The Board agreed to strike the suggested change to Policy 7100 that was recommended by the NCSBA Policy Service.

Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting - Aaron Greene

1. Investment Grade Audit Contract (Action)
2. Energy Savings Agreement (Information)
3. Schedules and Exhibits (Information)

Mr. Greene spoke to the Board regarding the Investment Grade Audit Contract, Energy Savings Agreement, and the Schedules and Exhibits. Superintendent Greene, Mr. Scherping, and Mr. Feagan have met and reviewed the attached documents. The Board now has to decide if they want to fund the services of the ESCO to look at the District and the energy savings measures that could be employed. Mr. Feagan commented that the District would spend just under \$30,000 for the ESCO to do the Investment Grade Audit. The Energy Services Agreement cannot be finalized until after the investment Grade Audit is completed. Mr. Covil asked Graham Lewis of Schneider Electric if after the audit is complete the ESCO could end the project. Mr. Lewis said that they could end the project but then the District would not owe the \$30,000. Mr. Patterson asked Mr. Lewis if they had a plan for Polk County Middle School. Mr. Lewis answered that their plan was to look at modifying the control system and explore bipolar ionization. Mr. Covil asked Mr. Greene if he thought the district would still get historical levels of funding from the County Commissioners since the district would be saving money. Mr. Greene felt confident that the Local Government Commission (LGC) would put pressure on the local commissioners to live up to the agreement once approved. All conversations Mr. Greene has had with local government have been positive. Chairman Tennant asked Mr. Lewis how long it would take to complete the audit. Mr. Lewis said the goal is to have it completed by the March Board meeting but the latest would be April and hopefully begin project work during the summer of 2019. Chairman Tennant called for a motion to enter into the contract for the Investment Grade Audit. Mr. Covil made a motion that Polk County Schools enter into the contract for the Investment Grade Audit and Ms. Corley seconded the motion. Mr. Covil commented that he believes the district will learn a lot for the money spent even if the Board decides to stop the agreement once the audit is completed. Chairman Tennant stated that he believes it is a good investment for the District. Mr. Feagan stated that the contract runs for four months and the ESCO must have the list in 90 days. Mr. Lewis stated that it may be sooner than the 90 days. Mr. Feagan commented that the Energy Savings Agreement is straightforward but the schedule is not as easy to understand. Chairman Tennant called for any questions or comments from the Board and there were none. The Board voted 7-0 to enter into the Investment Grade Audit Contract.

The Emergency Services Agreement will be based on the findings from the Investment Grade Audit. If the ESCO chooses not to proceed with the execution of an Energy Services Agreement, the Board will not be obligated to pay the cost of the Investment Grade Audit. The Board may also elect not to proceed with the execution of the Energy Services Agreement in which case the negotiation is terminated upon the payment of the fee for the IGA.

School-Based Health Center MOU - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene brought the School-Based Health Center MOU to the Board for Approval. Mr. Covil asked about item #7 under the District's responsibilities and who would be on the Board that is referenced. Mr. Greene responded that the Board has not been developed yet but Polk County Schools would have a large presence. Chairman Tennant called for

questions or comments and there were none. Chairman Tennant called for a motion that the school based health center MOU between the Polk County Schools and Blue Ridge Health be approved. Ms. Allen made and motion and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion to approve the MOU between Polk County Schools and Blue Ridge Health was approved 7-0. Chairman Tennant told the Board that at the annual conference most of the workshops he attended were involving school health centers. He indicated many districts spoke of how helpful the school based health centers were. Superintendent Greene expressed his gratitude to Mr. Feagan for reviewing the MOU and making suggestions for edits. The name of the health clinic will be The Wolverine Clinic.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding substitute teachers and how they are required to have a four-year degree. He has requested the Board examine the requirement so that the district will have a larger pool from which to choose substitutes.

Superintendent Greene commented on the recognition of milestone years for staff. There will be a newsletter going out to all staff and all who have reached a milestone year will receive a lapel pin for that milestone.

Polk County High School has requested that the December Board meeting be held there. The Board agreed to meet at PCHS in December.

Superintendent Greene walked in a Discretionary Admission application. He handed it out to the Board Members. Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure of voting on the application or taking it to closed session for discussion. The Board chose to go ahead and take the vote. Chairman Tennant called for a motion that the request for transfer of student to another county be granted. Ms. Jackson made a motion to grant the request and Mr. Patterson and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding missed days. He requested that the Board begin thinking about which days they would like to take for make-up days.

V. INFORMATION-

Chairman Tennant went over these items with the board

Thanksgiving Break - 11/21/18-11/23/18

October Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

October Pre-K Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

BOARD TRAINING

Superintendent Greene is to check with Campbell Shatley regarding ethics and FMLA training.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:29 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a property matter. Ms. Jackson 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. At 8:07 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.

The Board went back into closed session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. The Chairman called for a motion to return to open session after the discussion. Ms. Jackson made a motion and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

INFORMATION:

Name		School	Position
Jennifer Edwards	FMLA	Tryon Elementary	Teacher
David McEntyre	FMLA	PCMS	Custodian/Bus Driver
Andrew Gillespie	Substitute Teacher	Resigned	
Nathan Bradley	Part-Time Custodian	Resigned	PCHS

Lisa Burnett	Full-Time Food Service Worker	Resigned	Tryon
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ACTION:

Name	Position	School	College	Hometown	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Tawana Cunningham	EC Teacher Assistant/Bus Monitor	PCHS/PCMS	UNCA	Tryon		9
Stephanie Jarvis	Part-Time Food Service Worker	PCMS		Mill Spring		
Marchetta Spurlin	Part-Time Food Service Worker	Tryon		Saluda		20
Amy Fox	Part-Time Food Service Worker	Tryon		Bostic		5
Carol Brown	Afterschool Worker/Food Service Worker Substitute	Saluda		Saluda		2
Ivey Upton	Afterschool Worker	Sunny View		Mill Spring		
James Rennie	Substitute Teacher	PCHS	US Naval War College	Rutherfordton		
Carl Hansley	Substitute Teacher		Southern Connecticut State University	Hendersonville		10
Nancy Holland	Substitute Teacher		USC Upstate	Spartanburg, SC		
Carmen Millett	Bus Monitor Substitute	All Schools				
Kevin "Dale" Owens	Substitute Teacher		Western Carolina	Columbus		

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO