

**Board of Education Meeting
December 17, 2018
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center Board Room**

***Audit Committee Meeting prior to the Regular Meeting @ 6:00.**

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

Members Absent: None

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

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Welcome by Polk County High School Principal Dr. Brandon Schweitzer

Principal Brandon Schweitzer welcomed everyone in attendance. Dr. Schweitzer informed the Board about two fundraisers Polk High School has been doing during the past few weeks.

Recognition of the 2018 Christmas Card Artists

Chairman Tennant recognized the five system-wide student Christmas card artists whose artwork was chosen for the 2018 Polk County Schools' Christmas cards. They included: Angela Price, Katelyn Hudson, Sasha Walker, Itzel Avellaneda-Cruz, and Chloe Bezzek. Mr. Tennant presented each artist with a Christmas ornament gift and a box of their own Christmas cards. Mr. Thomas spoke to the Board regarding the Christmas card program and the impact at the high school. After Chairman Tennant presented these items to the students, Ms. Dill took a group picture of them. Mr. Tennant thanked the group and their families for attending the meeting and for the contribution of their artwork.

Approval of the November 19, 2018 Board Minutes

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the November 19, 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 6-0.

Swearing in of the Elected and Re-Elected Board Members: Geoffrey Tennant, Sherry Page, Judy Jackson, Mike Ashworth (Action)

The Clerk of Court then administered the oath of office to Mr. Geoffrey Tennant, Ms. Sherry Page, Ms. Judy Jackson, and Mr. Mike Ashworth. Each of the elected members took the oath of office individually and all affirmed to fulfill the constitutional and statutory obligations contained in their oath of office.

Mr. Greene welcomed Mr. Ashworth as a new member and thanked him for his willingness to serve as a part of the Polk County Board of Education.

EC Teacher of the Year – Mike Melton

Chairman Tennant called upon Mike Melton, Director of Exceptional Children, to recognize the EC Teacher of the year. Mr. Melton recognized Maria Mason-Freeman as the EC Teacher of the Year. Mr. Melton then called upon Dr. Brandon Schweitzer to speak on behalf of Ms. Mason-Freeman. Dr. Schweitzer said that Ms. Freeman has been an unbelievable asset to Polk County High School. Ms. Mason-Freeman thanked the Board for letting her serve as transition coordinator.

Annual Election of Board Chairman & Vice-Chair (Action)

Chairman Tennant turned the gavel over to Superintendent Greene for the annual election of the Board Chairman. Mr. Greene asked for nominations. Ms. Jackson made a recommendation to re-elect Mr. Tennant as the Board Chairman and re-elect Sherry Page as the Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Covil. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Greene turned the meeting back over to Chairman Tennant.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

2017-2018 Audit Presentation - Mike Wike (Action)

The Chairman turned the floor over to Mr. Mike Wike, of Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, to go over the 2017-2018 Audit findings for Polk County Schools. Mr. Wike began by letting the Board know that in regards to all aspects of the audit, Polk County Schools had received an unmodified report, meaning that there were no findings, and that the audit was a “clean” one. Mr. Wike briefly went over the audit report with the Board, and went over the audit report in more detail with the audit committee prior to the Board Meeting. Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding cuts that Polk County Schools had not expected when the Budget was made and informed the Board that new funding or staff reduction would be required to offset losses from state and federal sources. Chairman Tennant called for a motion to approve the 2017-2018 Audit. Ms. Corley made the motion to approve the audit as presented. Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Smart Period - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Schweitzer spoke to the Board about the “Smart Period” that the High School has implemented. He stated the currently this period has 100 students a day taking advantage of the extra help. He remarked that while initial results are positive more student performance data will be needed to truly gauge program effectiveness.

Electronic Report Cards - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Schweitzer spoke to the Board regarding the use of electronic report cards. Presently, parents can still opt to receive a mailed paper report card. Currently there are 62 report cards being mailed. In addition to offering paper mailings, PCHS has worked with parents to help them access online reports. There have been over 100 parent requests for assistance to log into PowerSchool and understand it and all have been addressed.

Fall 2018-2019 Testing Schedule - Dave Scherping (Information)

Mr. Tennant turned the floor over to Director of Accountability and Technology Dave Scherping. Mr. Scherping attached a Fall 2018-2019 Testing Schedule to the agenda for the Board to review. Mr. Scherping told the Board that the dates on the attached memo are incorrect due to the inclement weather. The last five days of a semester is when End of Course tests, NC Final Exams and the CTE Exams are to be given. It will depend on the updated calendar as to when the last five days of the semester will be. Polk County Early College started testing 12/17/18 in hopes that the calendar will extend to 12/21/18. For Polk County High School, Monday 1/14/19 will be the beginning of testing, if the updated calendar is approved.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment that had been included on the agenda. There was a decrease for the first month ADM in state funds. This is an amendment the District always encounters, but usually earlier in the year. Mr. Covil asked if it was always a decrease in funding. Ms. Lovelace said that it was dependent on ADM, and this is what had occurred with this reduction in funds. Chairman Tennant called for any questions and there were none. Chairman Tennant entertained a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Page made a motion which Mr. Ashworth seconded. The motion was approved 7-0.

Policy Updates First Reading - Dave Scherping (Action)

Mr. Scherping explained to the Board that he separated the policies that needed updating into two groups. Today the policies that the policy committee would like to take as the North Carolina School Board Association policy as presented are up for first reading. Superintendent Greene and Mr. Scherping submitted the following policies for first reading: 2121, 3420, 3430, 4125, 4333, 5025, 6125, 6401/9100, 6450, 6450, 7130, 7610, 7730, 7920, 8305, 9110, 1310/4002, 4152, 5030, 6305, 6315, 7405, 3200, 3565/8307, 4316, 4328, 5070/7350, 6421, 7240, 8300, 8510, 1700, 3640/5130, 4700, 5071/7351, 6442. There was brief discussion regarding these policies. Attorney Feagan stated that most of the changes in these policies were prompted by federal changes. He also stated that Board Members should be aware that they cannot accept gifts from anyone that can influence a contract. Attorney Feagan asked about policy 8300 paragraph 6. He thought the statement "each employee responsible for handling school system funds or funds of individual schools shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, board policies, administrative procedures, and any applicable procedures, requirements, or guidelines established by the finance officer." He asked Mr. Scherping if this would be too broad. Mr. Scherping answered that the district wants everyone who will be handling money to following this policy. Superintendent Greene Spoke regarding the training those employees receive if they will be handling money. Ms. Allen made a motion to accept the above listed policies on first reading and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments from the Board and there were none. The above mentioned policies were approved on first reading on a vote of 7-0.

Duke Energy Easement PCHS - Aaron Greene (Action)

Superintendent Greene handed out a copy of an easement requiring Board approval and a map of the property for the Board to review. This Duke Energy easement is needed to have power run to the PCHS campus building site the Instructional Technology Program uses to build small houses and other projects associated with the program. Attorney Feagan read over the easement and made corrections to limit the easement to the area that is necessary and made it clear that it would be underground. Mr. Covil asked why Duke Energy needed an easement to run power on the district's property if they are the ones requesting it. Mr. Feagan answered that he was not sure what Duke Energy's criteria is but they are requesting this one to be done. Mr. Covil asked if they could come to the pole on the Districts' property and run power to another property. Mr. Feagan answered that they cannot do that because of the language Mr. Feagan added to the easement. Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure in regard to the easement requested by Duke Energy. Ms. Corley made a motion to approval the easement requested by Duke Energy. Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for any questions or comments from the Board and there were none. The easement was approved on a vote of 7-0.

Wolverine Health Center Update - Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board about the upcoming completion of the Wolverine Health Center. The HVAC work has been finished and now the final construction items can be completed. Superintendent Greene wants to have an open house on the night of the Board Meeting, 1/14/19 to celebrate the opening of the center. At 5:30 there would be a general reception, a ribbon-cutting and tour of the health center at 6:00pm, and then follow with the regularly scheduled Board Meeting in the Media Center at 6:30. Everyone agreed to hold the January Board meeting at Polk County Middle School following the Wolverine Health Center opening ceremony.

Calendar Flexibility Resolution - Chairman Tennant (Information/Action)

NC School Boards Association 2019-2020 Legislative Agenda

Instructions on School Calendar Flexibility Packet

Chairman Tennant spoke to the Board regarding the calendar flexibility resolution. The North Carolina School Board Association wants to help the District and Board gain calendar flexibility. The NCSBA has attached a proposed bill that the district would use to lobby Sen Ralph Hise and Rep. Cody Henson in conjunction with the NCSBA. The NCSBA would like for the Polk County School Board to adopt some type of resolution to this effect. Ms. Corley asked if there would be a down side to the calendar flexibility. Chairman Tennant stated the he believes there is no down side, but the tourism lobby would oppose such a bill. High school labor is the primary source for tourism industry employment. On the positive side, if the county has inclement weather, they would have the option to start earlier and have more time to make up days. Attorney Feagan stated that the Board needed to decide whether to use the full flexibility

language or remain with the August 10 version of the resolution. The Board also needs to decide whether or not to include the county commissioners to support the resolution. Mr. Ashworth asked what the likelihood was of this to happen. Mr. Greene answered that there have been many bills proposed but none gaining traction. Attorney Feagan stated that it never would hurt to try again. Ms. Corley made a motion to take part of the resolution process, support full flexibility, and for Superintendent to approach the County Commissioners to be a part of the process. Mr. Covil seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Greene wanted to let the Board know that the district did not prepare Board briefs this month due to the closeness of the Board meetings and the inclement weather.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent spoke regarding a mini library to be placed at Stearns Park for people to exchange books. It has been discussed to be placed at the playground area. There is no action needed on this item. Chairman Tennant asked the Board if they would like for Superintendent Greene to proceed with the placement of the mini library. All were in agreement for Superintendent Greene to pursue the mini library placement at Stearns Park.

At the February Board meeting, Superintendent Greene would like to have Board Ethics and FMLA training prior to the meeting. The Board agreed that date would be suitable. Superintendent Greene instructed the Board Assistant to schedule the training.

Superintendent Greene presented an award to Chairman Tennant. The NCSBA Academy for School Boardsmanship presented Chairman Tennant an award of distinction for the completion of school board training for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the current school calendars. He explained the days that the District is recommending be used to make up the days schools were originally designated as "make up" days in case of inclement weather. He went over the Polk County Early College calendar, Saluda School calendar, and the remaining Polk County Schools' sites calendar. The dates 1/2/19, 1/18/19, 2/19, 3/4/19, 4/22/19 are the days that the district is proposing the Board have schools be in session. Mr. Scherping did explain that there is a possibility if more days are missed due to weather, there may need to be a decision about Spring Break or adding days on to the end of the school year. Ms. Corley asked about doing digital make-up if needed in the future. Superintendent Greene answered that he didn't believe there would be a benefit to digital make up. One identified challenge is not having internet and computer access throughout the county. Mr. Ashworth asked for clarification that if needed schools could continue into the following week after school is supposed to be out. Mr. Scherping stated that the law students can go no later than the Friday closest to 6/11/19, which would be 6/14/19. Superintendent Greene said that if there is more weather the District could bring the calendar committee back in to look at available options and bring recommendations back to the Board. Ms. Jackson asked about the possibility of adding an hour to the end of the day to bring the hours back up. Mr. Greene said that some districts have done that before with questionable results. Children have a hard time focusing for the amount of time they are already in school and when you add time it gets even more difficult. Ms. Page asked about Saturday school. If Saturday School is used as a make up day it must be on the Saturday of the week that

the day was missed. Ms. Allen asked if parents and staff could be notified that there is a possibility of Spring Break and end-of-the-year make-up days. There was discussion among the Board regarding 180 days of education. The Board believes that Polk County Schools needs to be in school for 180 days for students to have the best education possible. For the Polk County Early College, the district is proposing to take 12/20/18, 12/21/18, and 1/2/19 for make-up days. The Early College did not have the make-up days built in to the calendar due to restriction in working with ICC's calendar. They are currently short a few days overall. Saluda Elementary School has missed six days so far. The same five days that were used for the other Polk County Schools was used for Saluda but they are also still short one day. The district proposes to hold a decision on the remaining day until later depending on the weather. Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure in adopting all three version two calendars. Mr. Covil made a motion to adopt all three version-two calendars and Mr. Ashworth seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions and comments and there were none. Mr. Scherping will be sending the version-two calendars out via text and email on 12/18.

Mr. Scherping went over another policy for first reading. Policy 6140 needs to be updated. The following will be added into the policy, "Schools will prohibit the sale of foods and beverages to students in competition with the school nutrition program from midnight until 30 minutes after the dismissal of school." Mr. Feagan asked if this will impact the policy on beverage/vending sales. Mr. Scherping stated that he believes it will not impact that policy. All machines are turned off until 30 minutes after dismissal. Chairman Tennant asked the Board's Pleasure in Policy 6140 for first reading with the added sentence. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve policy 6140 on first reading and Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions and comments and there were none. The policy was approved 7-0 on first reading.

V. INFORMATION-

Chairman Tennant went over these items with the board

November Head Start Policy Council Minutes Presented to the Board

November Pre-School Monthly Report Presented to the Board

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Month to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

Christmas Break for Students: December 21, 2018- January 1, 2019. December 21 is a half day and students return to school on January 2, 2019

BOARD TRAINING

Core Training for School Board Members - January 7-January 8 or January 10-January 11 - Raleigh, NC – Ms. Ashworth is going to attend.

2019 Equity NC Event - February 21-February 22 - Raleigh, NC

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 8:22 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. At 9:35 pm, Ms. Jackson 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. The Board chose to vote on personnel in two sections. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer, in regards to the first section of the personnel agenda. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. The Chairman asked the Board’s pleasure on the second portion of the personnel agenda. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve the second portion of the personnel agenda and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board discussed a core diploma for Kasandra Kaluahine. Administration affirmed that the student met all necessary academic requirements to receive a North Carolina high school diploma. Ms. Jackson made a motion to grant Ms. Kaluahine the core diploma and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

INFORMATION:

Morgan Hodge	Afterschool Group Leader	PCMS	Resigning
Jacquelyn Davis	FMLA	Tryon Elementary	Teacher

ACTION:

Personnel Agenda 12/17/18						
Name	Position	School	College	Hometown	Licensure Area	Years Exp
Eric Morlino	Carpentry Teacher	PCHS		Mill Spring	Carpentry 6-12	11
Elizabeth Taylor	Add Substitute Teacher Assistant to job duties	Saluda		Saluda		

April Crowder	Unpaid Leave	Polk Central	Teacher Assistant			
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VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO