

**Board of Education Meeting  
August 13, 2018  
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center  
Board Room**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others:** Superintendent Greene, Attorney Feagan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dill, Director of Accountability 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 June 25, 2018 Board Minutes**

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the June 25, 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. Jackson made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Title I, Title II, and Title IV Application Summaries - Ronette Dill (Information)**

Ms. Dill offered a summary of the Title I, II, and IV plans for the Board. Title I is continuing to be used as a "targeted assistance" program. Title II funding is used to reduce class size and Title IV funding is for high quality training for school personnel on effective and trauma informed school practices. Chairman Tennant called for questions and there were none.

**Title I, Title II, and Title IV Assurances - Ronette Dill (Action)**

Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure in authorizing the superintendent to sign the assurances for Title I, Title II, and Title IV so that they can be submitted to DPI for federal funding. Mr. Patterson made a motion and Ms. Corley seconded the motion allowing Superintendent Greene to sign the assurances. The motion passed 7-0.

**Read to Achieve Update - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the Read to Achieve Program. Elementary schools are now finishing up Summer Reading Camps. Students that did not pass the third grade reading test and were administered the Read to Achieve test but did not pass it are attending the summer reading camp. They will be administered the Read to Achieve test one last time at the end of the week. There are less than 20 students taking the test. Once the school year starts, students that are in fourth grade, retained in third grade reading, will have extra reading instruction and will have another opportunity before November 1<sup>st</sup> to show proficiency in third grade reading. If they do not show proficiency, they are labeled a fourth grader retained in third grade reading. Mr. Covil clarified that the students were testing this week and had one more opportunity after this administration. Mr. Scherping stated that he was correct. Chairman Tennant called for questions and there were none. Mr. Greene asked if there were a small number of students in the reading camps. Mr. Scherping answered that there would be less than 20 students testing this week.

**Pre K Half Days - Ronette Dill (Information)**

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the first week of school for the district's Pre K Program. The Pre K Program will operate on half days for the first week of school to allow time for home visits required from Head Start and NC Pre K, and for professional development for staff. The shorter days also give Pre K students time to adjust. Chairman Tennant called for questions and there were none.

**PCHS "Smart Period" - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)**

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer, principal of PCHS, spoke to the Board regarding the PCHS "Smart Period". Dr. Schweitzer went over his presentation with the Board, briefly explaining the concept of "Smart Period." Since clubs and other activities take up a lot of Advocate time students do not get the extra time they need in some cases. The school day has been restructured to allow for a slightly longer advocate period. Smart Period will only happen four days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday during Smart Period there is a built in structure to allow every staff member to attend professional development from 7:40-8:30 in the morning. Dr. Schweitzer plans on sending out additional and more detailed information to the Board. He welcomed questions and opinions from the Board. Mr. Greene spoke and said that Dr. Schweitzer had done much research and had spoken to several other schools over the last year regarding this change.

**PCHS Report Cards - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding a new system for PCHS report cards. Currently all schools send their report cards home with their students except for PCHS. The students take home interim reports and their report cards are mailed each six weeks. PCHS wants permission to hand deliver the interim and report cards to the student except for the final report card at the end of the semester. The last report card of the semester will be mailed home. Mr. Patterson asked what percentage of parents use the PowerSchool portal. Mr. Scherping said that he could get that information. Mr. Greene stressed to the Board that if this proposal is approved and there is a student that has dropping grades or who is failing a class the parent should be contacted by the teacher. Mr. Covil said that he would like for an option to be left open for those who would like for them to be mailed. Dr. Schweitzer indicated he would wait to begin this process until he could gather more information.

**PEAK Program 2018-2019 - Linley Foster (Information)**

Linley Foster presented to the Board information regarding the PEAK afterschool program. Last year a pay-for-service model was implemented which had not been done in many years. This year Polk County Government has allocated a significant amount to support the program. All students this year will attend at no cost to the family. There is a scale of ranking to determine priority placement for PEAK. The goal is for every student to be able to attend afterschool and to adjust staff to have adequate personnel and supervision. Mr. Greene asked if the program would go back to having tutoring and enrichment activities as there were in the past. Ms. Foster said that it should go back to what it was. Mr. Covil asked if day camp would go back to the county for the summer. Mr. Greene and Ms. Foster both answered that yes it would. Ms. Corley asked if going back to the model with more tutoring will help support students achievement more than last year. Mr. Greene answered that it will be two-fold. There will be funding for a teacher to tutor the students as well as the counselor to supervise the children. Mr. Greene spoke of his appreciation to the county for the support. Mr. Patterson asked if the program included middle school. Mr. Greene answered that this is a K-8 model. Pre K students will still have to pay but the district will work with them. Mr. Tennant asked if there were any other questions for Ms. Foster and there were none.

**NC Cardinal - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Mr. Scherping spoke regarding a program that the public library brought to him this summer called NC Cardinal. Currently if a student wants to use the online resources through the library the student and parent must go to the library and apply for a library card. The NC Cardinal is a virtual library card. Polk County Schools would share certain student information with the public library. This would allow the student to access

all library resources using their virtual library card. The student could also go to the library without a parent, and access resources without having to apply for a card. Mr. Scherping requested the board's feedback on how they would like for student information to be shared. There is a choice between and "opt-in" policy and an "opt-out" policy. The District can have the parents either choose to "opt-in" to the program or "opt-out" of the program. Chairman Tennant stated that he likes the "opt-in" option. Ms. Page and Mr. Covil agreed. Ms. Corley stated that the Public Library is part of the NC State Government so she feels differently. The District sends other student information to NCDPI and other governmental agencies. She feels that parents would like to see the District be connected to the Public Library. Mr. Scherping says that a concern, that if the "opt-in" option is selected, some families will not take the extra effort to "opt-in". Ms. Corley said that she believes that some students get left behind because some parents don't see the value at the time. Mr. Patterson wanted to make sure that parents would be able to have the child's name removed before the information went to the Public Library System. Chairman Tennant explained his fear of information getting out that could get places that it does not need to be. He would rather do the "opt-in" version. Attorney Feagan stated that the District has a duty to protect student information through Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The safest option would be to "opt-in" so that the parent has consented to release their student's information. Superintendent Greene spoke and said that if the "opt-in" model was chosen the District could market the program aggressively to parents explaining the value and how important the program is. Attached was a copy of a memo of understanding from another county. It explained that instead of sending the information to the library system, the district will bring the library system into its system. The Board agreed that the "opt-in" model would be the best model for the district as long as there is aggressive marketing for the program.

#### **ECATS - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke regarding the ECATS program. It was discussed at a previous meeting that the District would be using new software for the exceptional children's program. This new ECATS software rollout has been postponed due to issues at NC DPI.

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

#### **Out of District Tuition Approval - Aaron Greene (Action)**

In the absence of Ms. Lovelace, Mr. Greene spoke about out-of-district tuition. The proposed amount for this tuition is \$2160.00 per child. Mr. Covil asked if the tuition had increased or decreased. Mr. Greene answered that the tuition has increased slightly from last year. Mr. Patterson asked how many students were paying tuition. Mr. Scherping answered that currently there is only one student paying tuition. He also spoke of a parent who paid tuition last year that had offered their appreciation of the Board for the opportunity for her child to attend Polk county Schools. Mr. Covil made the motion to approve the proposed amount and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The proposed out of district tuition was approved 7-0.

Superintendent Greene added that there is a payment plan that can be set up, if needed, for the student.

#### **Administrative Retreat - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Mr. Greene spoke about the administrative retreat with the Board. During the two days, each director had time to speak and there were also several team-building activities. Monday's activities were at FENCE and Tuesday's activities were at Stearns. The theme for this year's retreat was "Relationships Matter".

#### **Student Transfer Request - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure of taking action on the transfer request at this time or discussing the request in closed session. The Board agreed to take action. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the transfer request that had submitted in their closed session packet. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The transfer request was approved 7-0.

**Construction Update - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene gave an update on construction that has been taking place over the summer. He spoke briefly regarding each item that listed on the electronic agenda. Chairman Tennant asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the construction update and there were none.

**PCMS School-Based Health Center - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board and introduced Ms. Tammy Greenwell from Blue Ridge Health. Mr. Greene went over the brief that was attached to the electronic agenda. The School Based Health Center will be located in the ISS room at Polk County Middle School. This would require some construction to get the room ready. This health center would treat all students in the Polk County Schools District. The Turner-Tennant Foundation has generously offered to fund the physical plant and equipment needed for this program. This program will work with the district's school nurse program. Ms. Greenwell spoke to the Board about what she would like to see happen with the school-based health center. Blue Ridge has 5 school-based health centers in Henderson County. Blue Ridge Health has a sliding scale for services. At 100% poverty level there is no charge for services to students. Ms. Greenwell asked the Board if there were any questions. Mr. Greene said that he has spoken at length with the superintendent of Henderson County Schools. They are including a school-based health center in plans for the new school that they are building. Other service providers in the area have been contacted regarding this program. Blue Ridge is the only provider interested in partnering at this time. Mr. Greene asked for the Board's approval to move forward in the implementation process. January is the time frame the district is looking at to start seeing patients. Ms. Corley stated that as an educator, this is what they dreamed of, having community collaboration. Ms. Allen asked what the behavior health addresses or encompasses. Ms. Greenwell answered that it is a therapist, usually a licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical addiction specialist, who can counsel students. This does not include psychiatry or medication prescribing. Ms. Corley commented that the parents would always be in charge. Mr. Greene commented that staff could also be seen at the school based health center. Mr. Covil asked how the services would be paid for and billed. Ms. Greenwell answered that a permission form will be sent home with the students. All insurance is accepted and if there is no insurance, a sliding fee scale is determined. Attorney Feagan asked how the parent is involved. The permission form is sent home with the child, if the form is completed and signed, the child will be seen. If the parent tells the health center that they do not want the child seen, the only services the child will receive are emergency services since health center staff will be the first responders at the school. Every year, a student, parent, and staff survey is completed to find out what is going well and what may need adjusting. Another important aspect in the program is the involvement and cooperation with the school nurse. The school nurse needs to understand the program and the functioning of the health center with the school. Mr. Covil asked if there would be a Physicians Assistant on staff every day. Ms. Greenwell stated that probably not every day to start off with. There will be behavioral health worker, a nurse, and/or a LPN on site every day. Chairman Tennant called for an informal vote from the Board for Mr. Greene to proceed. All members agreed for Mr. Greene to proceed with the program.

**Performance-Based Contracting Update - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the proposal for performance-based contracting. There will be an interview process with the submitting company in the upcoming week. They have outlined a \$2.3 million project. During the interview process the company will be giving the district reasons to proceed with the project. If the Board agrees for the district to proceed, a loan for the proposed amount will be taken out. Payments are guaranteed by savings realized from implemented energy-saving measures. If not, the company is obligated to make up the difference. The district is now to the part of the process that a third-party reviewer needs to be selected. A company out of Asheville, McKim & Creed, has presented a proposal of about \$3,000 to do the review of this project. The District is asking the Board's approval to hire McKim & Creed for this process. This will be the first time the district has spent any money on this project. Chairman Tennant called for any questions and there were none. Ms. Corley made a motion to approve the district to proceed with hiring

McKim & Creed for the third party reviewer for the amount of \$3000. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. Mr. Covil asked what the loan payment would be each year. Mr. Greene and Mr. Scherping answered between a 12-15 year payback. An annual payment of \$200,657 is what is being calculated as of right now. The anticipated savings are \$226,000. Schneider Electric has done 687 other projects similar to this one and has a 93% rate of correct estimation on the savings. The motion was approved on a vote of 7-0.

#### **Air Keepers - Dave Scherping (Action)**

Mr. Scherping had a meeting with Steve O'Neil, the executive director of Earthshine Nature Programs. He is working with Polk County Recreation on air quality monitoring. They currently have a monitoring station in Columbus but are having issues at the location. They would like to move the monitoring station to Polk County Middle School. There is an agreement that would need to be signed if the Board agrees to allow this change. The station would require access the internet through the district. The monitoring station would be attached to Polk County Middle School with a cable to connect to the internet. Mr. Tennant called for any questions. Attorney Feagan stated that there would be no cost and Mr. Scherping agreed that there would be no charge. Attorney Feagan stated that there has been some concern with the gas compression station being built near PCMS. Citizens have requested the company contact Polk County Schools regarding putting the monitoring station at the middle school. Mr. Greene made a recommendation that the Board approve allowing the air monitoring station be placed on the Polk County Middle School building. Ms. Page made a motion to allow the Earthshine Nature Program to place an air monitoring station on the building of Polk County Middle School and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the final counts on employee attendance for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Greene said that the outcome was about the same as presented previously and qualifying schools would receive awards for their results.

Superintendent Greene submitted a recommendation in response to the request to rename the Tryon Elementary School Gymnasium the Harthorne Wingo Gymnasium:

“The request lacks consistency with Polk County Board of Education Policy 9300. However, I find his story compelling and potentially motivating to Polk County Students and the community. Therefore I would recommend that the district work with interested community members to honor him, his story and his accomplishments by taking the following action:

- Place a bronze plaque on the internal foyer wall at the entrance of Tryon Elementary School Gym building in honor of Harthorne Wingo summarizing his story and accomplishments as a student athlete of Tryon High.
- Create a display and trophy case or shelf structure for the 1965 Tryon Tigers team with items and artifacts to be placed under or near the plaque to further place Mr. Wingo's story in context.
- Work with Mr. Metcalf and interested community members to allow the holding of a charity event featuring the Harlem Wizards at Polk County High School in December of 2018 to raise funds on behalf of and in honor of Harthorne Wingo.
- Also work with Mr. Metcalf in interested community members to develop a presentation about Harthorne Wingo's story and accomplishments and make it available for students and the public.”

Chairman Tennant asked the Board's pleasure of the Superintendent's recommendation. Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the recommendation and Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions or comments from the board and there were none. The motion to accept the recommendation of the superintendent passed on a vote of 7-0

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **V. INFORMATION**

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

2018-2019 School Year: First Student Day for All Polk County Schools (Except Early College) will be August 27, 2018.

2018-2019 School Year: First Student Day for Polk County Early College: August 8, 2018.

Polk County Schools Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Head Start Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Year to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

Polk County Schools Convocation - August 22, 2018, at Polk County High School

#### **BOARD TRAINING**

NCSBA District Meetings:

Fall Law Conference - October 17-19 in Asheville

Fall District 8 Meeting September 27, 2018, 4:00 pm-8: 00 pm at West Henderson High School

2018 NCSBA Annual Conference - 11/12/18 - 11/14/18 - Greensboro - Mr. Tennant to attend

#### **I. PUBLIC INPUT**

Bill Metcalf, along with others, spoke to the Board regarding their disagreement with the Board's decision to approve the superintendent's recommendation which was different from their proposal. Mr. Metcalf offered several reasons that he did not agree with the Board's decision regarding his proposal of naming the Tryon Elementary Gymnasium the Harthorne Wingo Gymnasium. Mr. Covil requested the reading of Policy 9300 aloud so that everyone in attendance would know part of the basis for the Board's decision. Superintendent Greene read policy 9300. Bill Brock, and Steven Massey also spoke to the Board and their disappointment regarding the proposal. Chairman Tennant expressed his thanks to each person for their input.

#### **VII. CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Closed Session**

At 8:24 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, student matter and a property matter. Ms. Page made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. 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 9:50 pm, Ms. Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Corley seconded the motion and it carried 7 to 0.

Upon returning to open session Chairman Tennant called the Board's attention to those matters on the regular personnel agenda. 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 per the personnel agenda as submitted. Ms. Page seconded the motion and the Board voted in favor of the motion 7 – 0. A property matter was discussed regarding an easement between Tryon Elementary School and Duke Power. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the easement and Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**INFORMATION:**

Nicole Edwards Kemp	Transfer from Polk Central Pre-K Teacher to Polk Central 3rd Grade Teacher		
Matt Guffey	Transfer from Chorus at PCMS/PCHS to Choral Theater Teacher at PCHS		
Brooke Scoggins	Transfer from Pre-K Teacher at Polk Central to 5th Grade Teacher at Tryon Elementary		
Karen Rhodes	Transfer from 8th grade ELA Teacher to Early College English Teacher		
Brian Taylor	Transfer from Business Teacher at PCMS to Business Teacher at PCHS		
Deanna Durham	Transfer from Business Teacher at PCHS to Business Teacher at PCMS		
Josh Money	Transfer from TA at Saluda to Instructional Tech Assistant at Polk County Early College		

Jacqueline Medford	Transfer from Full-Time Custodian/Pre K Assistant at Tryon to Full-Time Pre K Assistant at Sunny View		
Tammy McIntyre	Transfer from TA at Polk Central to Part-Time Receptionist at Stearns and Part-Time Title I Tutor at Tryon		
Theresa Caldwell	High School Math Teacher	PCHS	Resigned
Amanda Austin	7th Grade Science Teacher	PCMS	Resigned
Alfred Waters	Carpentry Teacher	PCHS	Resigned
Dottie Wilson	Teacher Assistant	Tryon	Resigned
Sue Belden	Secretary	PCMS	Resigned
Madeline Pace	Food Service Worker	Saluda	Resigned
Deborah Cogan	Substitute Teacher		Resigned
Austin Williams	Substitute Teacher		Resigned
John Hardin	Substitute Teacher		Resigned
Jerry Starnes	Substitute Teacher/ Substitute Teacher Assistant		Resigned
Kelli Duncan	Substitute Teacher/ Substitute Teacher Assistant		Resigned
The following have vacated their regular afterschool group leader position			
Charles Weis	Sunny View		
Bailey Loman	Sunny View		
Mary Meyland	Saluda		



Roanna Green	Saluda	
Bridget Kinnell	Polk Central	
Savanna Bowyer	Polk Central	
Morgan Brooks	Polk Central	
Reagan Heatherly	Tryon	
Nancy Johnson	Tryon	
Matt Loman	Tryon	
Marisol Chavez	PCMS	
Lucas Ewing	PCMS	
Anne Godley	FMLA/Parental Leave	Tryon Elementary School
David McEntire	FMLA	PCMS
Stephanie White	FMLA	Tryon Elementary School
Kimberly McIntyre	FMLA	PCMS

**ACTION:**

Stephanie Blanton	Fourth Grade Teacher	Sunny View Elementary
Alston Rikard	Social Studies Teacher	PCMS
Eilene Corcoran	Science Teacher	PCMS
Robert Livingston	Math Teacher	PCHS
Jennifer Carney	Chorus Teacher/Assistant Band Director	PCMS
Laura Howald	Pre K Teacher	Polk Central
Jessica McEntyre	Pre K Teacher	Tryon
Lindsey Burnett	Transfer from Pre-K TA in Saluda to Pre-K Teacher at Sunny View	
Kelly Welch	Temporary Third Grade Teacher	Tryon
Crystal Lawter	Transfer from Full-Time Pre K TA at Sunny View to Full-Time Receptionist at PCMS	

Yvonne Bruce	Transfer from Receptionist to PowerSchool Operator/Secretary/School Treasurer at Tryon	
Rhonda Brown	Transfer from Full-Time TA at Tryon to Full-Time Receptionist at Tryon	
Gloria Logan	Part-Time Food Service Worker	PCHS
Elisabeth Blanton	Temporary Part-Time Reception Substitute	All Schools
Ellen Rogers	Transfer from Part-Time Teacher Assistant to Full-Time Teacher Assistant	Saluda
Amanda Huddleston	Futt-Time Pre K Teacher Assistant	Saluda
Lori Muse	Transfer from Afterschool worker to Full-Time Teacher Assistant	Tryon
Hannah Rimer	Full-Time Teacher Assistant	Tryon

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO