

**Board of Education Meeting  
September 10, 2018  
6:30 PM, Stearns Education Center  
Board Room**

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

**Members Absent:** Mr. Covil

**Others:** Superintendent Greene, Attorney Feagan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dill, Director of Accountability Scherping, Finance Officer Lovelace.

**Call to Order and Welcome**

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

**Student Story - Zhu Zhu Walker**

Mike Melton, Exceptional Children's Director, spoke to the Board regarding the background of Zhu Zhu Walker. Zhu Zhu has been accepted to The Model Secondary School for the Deaf, which is the prep school for Gallaudette University in Washington, DC. She has been in the Polk County School District for approximately six years. Zhu Zhu shared a video of herself, her interpreter, and her speech teacher. Within the video Zhu Zhu introduced herself. She spoke of when she moved to Polk County and how her experience at Polk County Schools helped prepare her for her future.

**Approval of the August 13, 2018 Board Minutes**

Mr. Tennant called the Board's attention to a copy of the August 13, 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. Jackson and Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Charters of Freedom - David Streater (Action)**

Superintendent Greene introduced Mr. David Streater, education director from Foundation Forward. Mr. Streater gave the Board handouts explaining the Charters of Freedom program. The initiative is aimed at building robust, free-standing structures in county locations across North Carolina that include the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Mr. Streater conveyed that the Charters of Freedom structures and builds are not monuments because the documents that are included are still living documents. He showed a presentation to the Board that shows what these structures look like and discussed the locations where they have already been built. Mr. Streater requested that the Board consider joining with the Polk County Board of Commissioners in supporting the projects implementation in our county. This would mean that the District would use the structure to enhance the curriculum in the classroom and allow students to visit the site where the Charters would be. Superintendent Greene stated that he believes this initiative is a great tangible way to teach Polk students US History and Civics. Mr. Patterson commented that he had just seen the structure in Murphy and how beautiful it was. Chairman Tennant stated that the Commissioners are tasking a committee that is already established to decide on a location for the structure. Mr. Tennant stated that the Board would be voting to allow the superintendent to make sure this becomes a part of regular instructional activities. Chairman Tennant called for the Board's pleasure on this item. Mr. Patterson made a motion to allow the Superintendent

to pursue the program and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passes on a vote of 6-0. Superintendent Greene expressed appreciation to Dr. Streater for coming.

### **2017-2018 Student Performance Results - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Polk County Testing Results Page

NCDPI Official Test Data

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding the Districts test results. He informed the Board that based on overall grade-level proficiency Polk County Schools is the highest performing school system in the State of North Carolina. Mr. Scherping went over all the results briefly with the Board. He also showed the Board the regional data for student performance, providing information on how Polk County Schools ranks in comparison with the districts around Polk County. Mr. Scherping also discussed School Performance Grades. All Schools in the district had a score of "B". Polk County Schools and one other district, Elkin City Schools, are the only districts with all schools having a "B" score or higher. All schools met growth and one, Polk Central, exceeded growth. Mr. Scherping explained to the Board how these scores are determined, commenting on Polk Central's significant positive growth. Next month there will be a breakdown of performance and growth by subgroups. Chairman Tennant stated that he believes it has been amazing what the district has been able to do.

### **Polk County Annual Report for Students with Disabilities - Mike Melton - Exceptional Children Director (Information)**

Chairman Tennant recognized Exceptional Children Director Mike Melton, who went over Polk County's Annual Report for Students with Disabilities (available to the public online). Mr. Melton pointed out areas in which Polk County met and did not meet the State required targets. Mr. Melton discussed all of the indicators, specifying whether or not the district had met that indicator, and explained why the district did not meet an indicator and where the district had made growth.

### **Afterschool Update - Ronette Dill (Information)**

Ms. Dill spoke to the Board regarding the PEAK Afterschool program. She said that afterschool is open and off to a great start at all four elementary schools and Polk County Middle School. For the last month they have been studying different sporting events. There were some Barrel racers that came to Polk Central to perform for the afterschool students. There are a total of 290 students registered and the average attendance is 155 students a day. The district is still in need of employees to be able to offer spaces for all who have registered. Mr. Greene commented that the administration was committed to serving all students who wished to participate once staffing reached desired supervision ratios. Chairman Tennant called for questions and there were none.

### **National FFA Convention - Aaron Greene (Action)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the trip request. This is a yearly trip and Superintendent Greene recommends it be approved. Ms. Jackson made a motion to approve the National FFA Convention and Ms. Corley seconded the motion. The National FFA Convention was approved 6-0.

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Opening of School/Convocation update - Aaron Greene (Information)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding the district-wide Convocation that happened on August 22. He briefly went over the agenda for the day and the presentation that staff viewed. Relationships and safety were two of the main points that were discussed at the event. An employee health fair and several different trainings were offered in the afternoon. Employees were also recognized for their years of service. There were several "Student Stories" to exemplify the power of relationships and how they impact student learning and

growth as individuals. Past students of Polk County Schools spoke about how their time in Polk County Schools influenced them and helped them grow. Afternoon sessions included Cost of Poverty training, trauma-informed resilience training, and recertification for staff in CPI.

### **Performance-Based Contracting - Dave Scherping (Information)**

Mr. Scherping spoke to the Board regarding where administration is in the process of the Performance Based Contracting program. Schneider Electric has developed and submitted a plan to move forward. In the next couple of weeks the Board and administration will review the contract and decide if the district should go forward with the program. If so Schneider Electric will be hired to conduct an “investment-grade audit” for approximately \$30,000 to spend a couple months going through all of the buildings in the district and develop a more detailed work and energy savings. It will match the broad goals and guidelines of the plan that they have already submitted. The Board will then decide whether to stop at that point or fully implement the process. This would include the legal process, borrowing the money and getting Schneider started on the work. Graham Lewis, from Schneider Electric, stated that the process would help the facilities match the educational excellence the district has already achieved. An estimated \$2.3 million is the amount the district will spend to complete the program. In 12-15 years the district must save \$2.3 million to pay for instituted measures and capital improvements. Mr. Patterson asked about the annual payment amount. Mr. Lewis stated roughly \$230,000 per year. Attorney Feagan asked if it was realistic to believe the district would have the same facilities in 15 years. Mr. Greene said that this question highlighted one of the risks of the program. If the realized savings amount is not \$2.3 million Schneider Electric is required to cover the difference. Attorney Feagan asked what would happen if the district got 7.5 years into the process and the district was not seeing the savings it wanted. Schneider Electric would pay the difference in any loss of savings. Mr. Greene stated that County Commissioners must agree to fund the district at current operational expense levels for the next 12-15 years as a requirement of the program.

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

Ms. Allen made a motion to approve the included student transfer request and Ms. Page seconded the motion. Chairman Tennant called for questions. Mr. Patterson asked for clarification on the reason the transfer was needed. Superintendent Greene responded that it was a transportation issue. The student lives in Polk County but the parent works outside of Polk County and it would be difficult to get the student to and from school. The request was approved 6-0.

### **School Justice Partnerships - Aaron Greene (Info)**

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding School Justice Partnerships. There was a presentation from the NC School Board Association (NCSBA) attached to the electronic agenda. The Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice issued a report and recommended raising the age of those eligible to enter the Juvenile Justice System to 18 as a top priority. They are concerned that doing so might increase the number of young people entering the Juvenile Justice System and would like to take steps to ensure this does not happen. The Administrative office of the courts (AOC) was required by the legislation to “prescribe policies and procedures for chief district court judges to establish school-justice partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local boards of education, and local school administrative units with the goal of reducing in-school arrests, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions.” (N.C. Gen. Stat. 7A-343 (9g)). Superintendent Greene went over the presentation briefly with the board, explaining the proposal and concerns of the NCSBA. This will be discussed more in depth at the NCSBA District 8 meeting coming up later in the month. Attorney Feagan said that the AOC did this proposal but they are not educators. He said that there is a lot of technical information included in this proposal that needs to be evaluated. One of which is the expansion of the Student Resource Officer’s (SRO) duties. Superintendent Greene advised the Board not take any action related to such a partnership agreement at this time. Chairman Tennant asked for questions from the Board and there were none.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

PCHS Smart Period information was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. The first week of school there were 50 students that took advantage of this period for remediation.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Greene updated the Board on the transportation changes put in place due to the World Equestrian Games (WEG). There is a link on polkschools.org that shows road closures, bus changes, etc. He informed the Board that schools will be open at 7am for those students who may need to be dropped off early. The NC Highway Patrol communicated they would be helping by following buses and in any other way that they can. The transportation department will be staging at different areas in the county to have repair or recovery need access quicker. The Pre-K bus in the Green Creek area will not operate during the first week of WEG and parents have been contacted and arrangements made. There are also additional staff that will be riding impacted buses to help watch and keep students protected. There is a possibility that if traffic is at a standstill Mr. Greene may have to call the Board and request to cancel school, but this is very unlikely. Ms. Jackson asked if the additional people that will be on the busses will be staff or parents. Mr. Greene answered that it will be staff members that will have training on signals that will be used for students. Mr. Greene called for questions and there were none.

Chairman Tennant will be at the Annual School Board Conference on the date of the November meeting. There was discussion regarding moving the November meeting. The November Board meeting will be moved to November 19.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding Hurricane Florence and potential weather, and that Administration would be monitoring the situation and responding accordingly regarding the opening of shelters or any schedule changes that might be necessary as a result of bad weather.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board regarding moving the location of the October Board meeting to Polk Central Elementary School.

Chairman Tennant expressed to Board that Superintendent Greene's evaluation needs to be done. Mr. Greene proposed that he send the document that outlines the goals that the Board set for him to the Board prior to the October meeting to facilitate the proces.

### **V. INFORMATION**

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

Pre-K Financial Report Presented to the Board

Monthly Financial Report Presented to the Board

Year to Date Credit Card Report Presented to the Board

### **BOARD TRAINING**

Fall District 8 Meeting September 27, 2018, 4:00 pm-8: 00 pm at West Henderson High School - Chairman Tennant, Mr. Covil, Ms. Jackson, Ms. Allen, and Superintendent Greene plan to attend

Fall Law Conference - October 17-19 in Asheville - Attorney Feagan to attend

**I. PUBLIC INPUT**

Chrelle Booker stated that the meeting was great. She also wanted to trade emails with the members of the Board. Superintendent Greene stated for Ms. Booker to email him and he would forward her email to the members of the Board. Ms. Booker agreed.

**VII. CLOSED SESSION****Closed Session**

At 8:31 PM Chairman Tennant entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a property matter. Ms. Page made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Allen. The motion carried 6-0.

**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 9:17 pm, Mr. Patterson made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Page seconded the motion and it carried 6 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 6 – 0.

**INFORMATION:**

Debora Gilbert	School Nurse	Transferred from Polk County Middle School to Tryon/Saluda Elementary	
Emily Pereira	School Nurse	Transferred from Tryon Elementary School to Polk County Middle School	
Nicole Bradley	Teacher	Saluda	Resigned
Marilyn Hudson	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	Retiring
Madeline Pace	PT Food Service Worker	Saluda	Resigned
Heather Wilson	PT Food Service Worker	Polk Central	Terminated
Candice Morrow	PT Food Service Worker	Polk Central	Resigned

**ACTION:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Licensure Area</b>	<b>Year s Exp</b>
Tracy Wells	6th Grade English Teacher	PCMS	Converse College	Fletcher	Elementary	30+
Ellen Rogers	Teacher Replacing Nicole Edwards	Saluda	UNC Asheville	Saluda	Elementary Ed K-6	3
Wendy Berryhill	Transfer from PT Teacher Assistant to FT Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Mars Hill	Zirconia		
Mackensie Lewis	Pre K Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	North Greenville Univeristy	Landrum, SC		1
Jennifer O'Rear	Teacher Assistant	Saluda	Mars Hill	Saluda		6
Brittany Mrvan	Teacher Assistant	Polk Central	Liberty University	Landrum, SC		Years
Heber Najera	EC Teacher Assistant	PCHS/PCMS	Appalachian State	Columbus		
Marci Cannon	Part-Time Food Service Worker	Saluda	West Virginia University	Saluda		
Haley Robinson	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central		Mill Spring		
Teresa West	Afterschool Group Leader	Polk Central		Columbus		
Brenda Evans	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View		Mill Spring		
Stephanie O'Rear	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda		Saluda		

Shanea Tingling	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon		Tryon		
Carmen Millet	Afterschool Group Leader	Sunny View		Mill Spring		
Shrilla Honeycutt	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon		Tryon		
Sadie Allen	Afterschool Group Leader	Saluda		Saluda		
Christian Etherson	Afterschool Group Leader	Tryon		Tryon		
Nita Dale	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Converse College	Rutherfordton		22
Marchetta Spurlin	Substitute Custodian/Substitute Food Service	All Schools		Saluda		
Dawn Reynolds	Substitute Custodian/ Bus Driver	Tryon		Tryon		
Morgan Hodge	Afterschool Worker	PCMS		Mill Spring		
Carson Forward	Afterschool Worker	Tryon Elementary		Tryon		
Wendy McCoy	Substitute Teacher/Substitute Teacher Assistant	All Schools	Montana State University	Mill Spring	PE K-12	

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no more business to come before the Board Chairman Tennant declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

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Geoffrey M. Tennant, Board Chairman

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Aaron Greene, Board Secretary

AG/TO