



01 27 2016 Special School Board Meeting 2 00 PM

For ADA assistance, contact the Office of Equity and Compliance, 534-0781, at least 3 business days before the meeting. A voluntary invocation may be offered the opening of the School Board meeting by a private citizen. The views or beliefs expressed in the invocation have not been reviewed nor approved by the School Board, and the Board is not allowed, by law, to endorse the religious beliefs or view of this, or any other speaker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call Meeting to Order

Acceptance of Agenda

1. [C-1 Accept the Agenda for the January 27, 2016 Special School Board Meeting](#)

Motions:

Recommend acceptance of the Agenda for the January 27, 2016 Special School Board Meeting. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Tim Harris

Second: Dick Mullenax

Hunt Berryman - Aye

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Tim Harris - Aye

Dick Mullenax - Aye

Hazel Sellers - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

Special Recognitions

Public Comments on Agenda Items

2. [C-2 SPEAKERS](#)

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Consent Agenda

New Administrator Announcements

Consent

Regular

Administration General Items

3. [R-3 AdvancEd Final Exit Report and Recommendations for District Accreditation--Dr. Wade Davis, Lead Evaluator and Mr. Randall Cook, Associate Lead Evaluator](#)

Minutes:

AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world. They are a non-profit, not-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of Pre K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. They do this by driving education improvement through accreditation, research and innovation, policy and advocacy, and technology. They serve and partner with 32,000 schools and school systems that employ more than four million educators and enroll more than 20 million students -- across the United States and 70 other nations. The team is comprised of educators who must judge specific characteristics and the ability to perform.

Dr. Wade Davis, Lead Evaluator and Mr. Randall Cook, Associate Lead Evaluator, from AdvancED gave supporting information and details surrounding the findings during their team visit. Mr. Cook commended the School Board's leadership and praised them for not micromanaging. He stated their leadership is a factor in the positive results. He also commented that Polk County was the most progressive and visionary school boards he had ever seen.

Accreditation is universal in the key elements that are required regardless of where the school is located such as:

- Impact of Teaching and Learning
- Capacity of Leadership

- Use of Resources

Three hundred classrooms were visited and 595 stakeholders were interviewed from teachers, staff, and community members etc. They presented items that could use improvement but are not mandatory and also items that are high priority changes that must take place in the next five years.

Achieving District-wide accreditation signals that each school must meet AdvancED's standards of quality. The team also told board members which areas the district could improve, including:

- Site-based mentoring programs
- Structured professional learning communities
- Increased opportunities for professional development.

In addition, they are giving the district two years to address four improvement areas which are:

- Design and implementation of system-wide grading and reporting practices.
- Ensure each student has an adult advocate.
- Use data to monitor progress toward district goals and student learning objectives.
- Add infrastructure to support technology needs throughout the district.

Polk received higher-than-average scores from AdvancED for expectations, support, equity, active learning and management in classrooms. The district received lower-than-average scores in progress monitoring and digital learning but were advised by the team that this is not unusual. On AdvancED's Index of Education Quality, Polk scored 266.86, compared with the average of 278.34.

Public Hearing

Superintendent's Report

4. [Superintendent's Report](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent LeRoy explained this is an exciting opportunity for our community to acknowledge that the entire Polk County School District has been recommended for accreditation.

She extended her gratitude to the School Board Members for their ability to be visionaries and look at the big picture as they endeavor to develop and empower the students of Polk County.

A special thanks to the AdvancEd team for all of their hard work:

- Lead Evaluator -- Dr. Wade Davis.
- Associate Lead Evaluator -- Mr. Randall Cook.
- AdvancED team -- composed of educators from Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and Virginia.

Her heartfelt appreciation goes to the District Staff that played a direct part in making this visit a success:

- District Accreditation Coordinator -- Kenneth Reddick.
- District Accreditation Assistant Coordinators--Buddy Thomas and Ann Tankson.
- Teachers, principals, district support personnel, executive staff and cabinet members.

She reiterated her sincere thanks to the schools. Without the dedication of the School District Leaders and the teachers this would not have been possible. She commended the dedicated staff members across the community and looks forward to the continuous improvement process.

Special District Support Personnel who helped in the Accreditation Process:

- The entire Instructional Technology Department especially Kitty Sawyer, Laura Sawyer, Craig Cook and Russ Bowie.
- The Regional Secretaries.
- The entire Professional Development Staff.

The Superintendent also thanked her Senior Staff for their continuous involvement and support since this process began. This has been a huge endeavor and involved long, tiring work hours on behalf of our staff as well as the AdvancED team.

Attorney's Report

Auditor's Report

Board Members' Report

5. [Hunt Berryman, District 1](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Berryman thanked the Superintendent for bringing the district wide accreditation process to the Polk County School District. This will help the community to see that the work that is being done has been validated even though there is room for improvement. He thanked all of the staff that was involved as well as community members that participated in interviews, etc. with the accreditation process. He gave a special thanks

to Ann Tankson, Kenneth Reddick, Buddy Thomas and the AdvancED Accreditation team for all of the work that went into this visit.

6. [Lori Cunningham, District 2](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Cunningham stated she is proud and honored to be a part of the Polk County School Board. She stated she agrees with Dr. Davis that the School Board is quite visionary because they do not look at just today or tomorrow, but at short term and long term goals. She stated she feels that the School District is on track to improve and transition and will move forward with an attitude of continuous improvement. She commented that Polk County has very talented and empowering teachers throughout the School District who put forth everything they have in an effort to make sure each child can learn and who apply themselves and the School District is blessed with caring and dedicated staff members; from the bus drivers to the cafeteria worker to the librarians, they are often the one piece of love and support the student's need. Today is a historic day in Polk County to have achieved this recommendation for accreditation. She thanked everyone who has been a part of the team both internally and externally to make this day possible.

7. [Hazel Sellers, District 3](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Sellers extended her thanks to the AdvancED team and to the Superintendent for bringing this process to the School District. Until this event, she had only participated in the accreditation process on the high school level as a School Board Member. She said she is very excited and the Board is focused on the students and improving their learning. It is very gratifying to be notified by an experienced group such as AdvancED the various ways the School District can improve. She stated she is certain the leadership team will be able to fulfill the suggested areas of improvement.

8. [Dick Mullenax, District 4](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Mullenax stated he would like to echo the sentiments shared by his fellow Board Members and gave his thanks and appreciation for the professional attitude displayed by AdvancED. He also commended them on their vast expertise. He stated this process has involved a tremendous amount of work in many different areas. He commented he is

thrilled that we have attained this level of recommendation and is happy to have this bird's eye view our School District's performance. He looks forward to implementing ideas and programs to make it better.

9. [Kay Fields, District 5](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Fields discussed what a large undertaking the process of district wide accreditation is. She explained that it takes a team effort to make it possible, to that end, she thanked Kenneth Reddick, Buddy Thomas, and Ann Tankson. She also conveyed her appreciation to the entire AdvancEd team on behalf of the School Board for all of their hard work in such a large school district. She stated the best is yet to come and we have the right leadership and the commitment and passion in place to fulfill the areas that were that were determined to be lacking. She thanked Superintendent LeRoy for bringing this vision to the School Board.

10. [Lynn Wilson, District 6](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson commented this is a historic, monumental event. He commended the Superintendent and thanked both her and her staff as well as all employees throughout the School District who worked so hard to make this possible. He commented that he is very interested in following through with Dr. Davis's recommendations for areas that need improvement. He commented the importance of always striving to be the best you can be. He congratulated the Polk County School District on the recommendation for District Accreditation.

11. [Tim Harris, District 7](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Harris discussed the great deal of effort and time that goes into the accreditation process from both the internal and external (visiting team) aspects. He shared his appreciation for all who contributed to this effort for making Polk County a better place to live and receive an education.

Public Comments Addressing Items Not on Agenda

12. [SPEAKERS](#)

Minutes:

L.D. Wilcox discussed his appreciation for the improvements the School District is making. He also shared his enthusiasm for the accreditation recommendation that was achieved today. He reminded the Board that the School District that they must not become complacent. Negative student behaviors must be addressed early so that they do not get out of hand.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 23rd day of February, 2016.

Kay Fields, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent