

12 11 2017 Work Session 1 30 PM

NEW BUSINESS

1. [1:30 - 2:00 PM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson stated it is a tremendous privilege to serve as Board Chair for the Polk County School Board. His focus is on listening carefully to each of the Board Members and their concerns and acting on those issues and, of course, working with the Superintendent. He believes that working as a team will bring better outcomes.

Mr. Townsend suggested it might be helpful to have a public meeting to present what the law says the Board can and can't do. He believes interested teachers, staff, and Legislators will attend to learn more on the parameters the Board and District face.

Mr. Bridges clarified that a work session could be held after the 2018 ratification to inform everyone what can and can't be addressed. Mrs. Byrd would have to be very closely involved because bargaining is the role of Superintendent and her staff. We could go over the in's and out's of Chapter 447 as it comes to bargaining and the role of the Legislative body.

Mrs. Cunningham requested that the 2020-2021 calendar be presented in the fall of 2018. She also asked if the January 23, 2018 School Board meeting could be moved to January 9th or 22nd. She commented that there is a special event coming that the Board will be invited to attend.

After a brief discussion, the Board Members decided to keep the January 23rd meeting as scheduled.

Before the Discussion portion of the Work Session, Mr. Wilson reported that after a careful review of the By-Laws and after having a discussion with Superintendent Byrd, it was agreed to implement a small technical change in the format of the Superintendent's part of the work session. It was brought to his attention that some years past (not recently) the district was cited by the auditors for not being in full compliance as it relates to our work sessions. While this wouldn't place the Board in orange jumpsuits, it could become a financial problem where the district would see lower credit ratings, higher interest rates, or place the district squarely in the crosshairs of several government agencies. He wants to make sure we are in full compliance of our bylaws and he would also like to have a work session soon to review them.

One of the changes is that the by-laws suggests that the Board Chair, Vice Chair or Elected Official preside over all meetings of the Board. As we turn that part of the meeting over to the superintendent, we may be violating our by-laws.

Mrs. Fields asked Mr. Wilson to clarify the concern. He stated the district has been cited in the past for not treating Work Sessions as School Board Meetings.

Mr. Wilson did review the New Board Chair information provided by FSBA.

2. [2:10 - 2:20 PM School Board Services' Direct Employee Contract Update](#)

Attachment: [School Board Services Attachment \(2\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson reported he has met with Wes and Carolyn who are happy with the current structure of their contracts. If the Board wishes to discontinue the practice of renewing the automatic rollover of their 3-year contract, it could be temporarily (allowing time to review options) or permanent. He would like to start reviewing and collecting contracts in January. As the process evolves, more work session discussions will be necessary.

Tonight's vote would simply discontinue the practice of automatically renewing their contracts but still have contracts in place running until 2020.

Sara Beth Reynolds likes the idea of having a date certain. She doesn't want to lose the two employees but needs to be fair to constituents.

Mr. Wilson will continue to place the discussion on a work session until the process is complete; remember this is a negotiation.

3. [2:20 - 2:30 PM School Board Committee Assignments](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson announced Committee Assignments:

- Audit Committee, Mrs. Cunningham
- Central Florida Public School Board Coalition, Mrs. Reynolds; Mr. Harris will serve as alternate
- Claims Committee, Mr. Wilson
- Polk County Head Start, Mr. Harris
- Polk Education Foundation Board of Directors, Mr. Townsend
- Polk Vision Education, Mr. Townsend;
- Sales Tax Oversight Committee, Mrs. Fields; Mrs. Cunningham will serve as alternate.

The following require Board vote, so we will indicate who may be interested in serving for purposes of nomination. Nominees:

- Central Florida Leadership Congress, Mrs. Reynolds
- Polk County Value Adjustment Board, Mr. Wilson; Mrs. Sellers will serve as the alternate
- Polk Vision Board of Directors, Mrs. Fields

OLD BUSINESS

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

4. [2:30 - 2:40 PM Review REVISED Agenda of December 11, 2017](#)

Attachment: [12 11 2017 School Board Agenda Revised.pdf](#)

Minutes:

C-43: District Office -Upgrade/Replace HVAC System

Mr. Harris said this is a long term issue. We have outgrown this location and it would be better to curtail the expenses on this property and look to relocate all district offices to one site. We have multiple satellite offices across the county.

C-14: INVO Healthcare Associates

Mrs. Cunningham asked what two elementary regions are to be covered. Dr. Steinke reported it is really for all elementary schools but specifically Michelle Townley's and Mr. Bellamy's areas.

Dr. Steinke will email the list of targeted schools to the Board Members.

E-56: Settlement Agreement with Acceleration Academy - \$250,000.00

Mr. Townsend would like to have a copy of the technology plan sent to Tallahassee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 5

5. [2:40 - 3:00 PM 2016-2017 Internal Funds Annual Audit](#)

Attachment: [06-30-17 Required Communications - Polk CPS Internal Account.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06-30-17 Financial Statement - Polk CPS Internal Account.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Jennifer Christiansen with Carr, Riggs and Ingram, presented the results of the Annual Audit. This is an annual requirement; they audit 100% of our schools and several departments. The district received a clean audit finding.

Ridge Technical College received a material weakness on the process they used for course collection but this was due to the software (FOCUS) and is being corrected for next year.

Item 6

6. [3:00 - 3:10 PM Policy Updates](#)

Attachment: [Policy Update Docs 12-11-17 wk session.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Neola policy updates summary 12-11-17 wk session.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wendy Dodge stated that Policy 5111: Homeless Students is a replacement policy; Policy 5225: Absence of Religious Holidays is a technical update; and Policy 7540: Technology Replacement is also a replacement policies.

A public hearing is set for the January 23, 2018 Board meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 7

7. [Financial Statements for Period ending September 30, 2017](#)

Attachment: [Sept 2017 Board Financial Packet FINAL.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Byrd announced she would like to schedule a full work session in March to cover the budget and budget concerns. The Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) has offered the services Jim Hamilton.

Item 8

8. [Investment Report as of 9/30/17](#)

Attachment: [Sep 30th, 2017 Summary of Earnings-Board Meeting.pdf](#)

Item 9

9. [Head Start Grant Services Report](#)

Attachment: [2017 HS financial report Jan-Oct.pdf](#)

Attachment: [nov Board Summary.pdf](#)

Meeting adjourned at 3:09. Minutes were approved and attested this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent