

August 8, 2022  
Franklin, Tennessee

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2022, at Liberty Elementary School, 600 Liberty Pike, Franklin. A link to the recording may be found at <https://youtu.be/xYi0tCWm8LQ>.

The following members were present: Chair Robert Blair, Kevin Townsel, Robin Newman, Tim Stillings, Alicia Barker and Allena Bell.

*Others present were:* Dr. David Snowden, Dr. David Esslinger, Susannah Gentry, Leslie Duke, Carol Riordan, Dr. Cheryl Robey, Dr. Pax Wiemers, Celby Glass, Dr. Lee Kirkpatrick, Bo Alexander, Jeremy Maxwell, Lisa Chatman, Amber Whitley, Summer Carlton, Dr. Josh Bracamontes, Mark Anderson, Amy Fisher, principals, other district leadership team members and community.

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Liberty Elementary Principal Mrs. Amy Patton welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Robert Blair called for a moment of silence before being seated.

**III. RECOGNITIONS/GOOD NEWS**

There were no recognitions at this meeting.

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT**

No one addressed the Board during public input at this meeting.

**V. REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS**

1. **Teaching and Learning Spotlight** – “Summer Learning Camp 2022” – This spotlight was introduced by Dr. Decker and presented by Dr. Cinnamon Collins and Dr. Starr Wallace. Results of surveys were taken into consideration for this summer’s learning camp. An addition of snack was added to free breakfast and lunch for the students. Also PE, music and guidance were added instead of an additional free time, and STREAM was added each afternoon for all grade levels. In addition, there were FSSD therapy dogs visiting. A brief video of the camp, created by Amber Whitley, was shown and the Board requested for this to be added to our website if possible. 52 teachers and 17 paraprofessionals manned the camp; 426 students, all of which were identified as priorities, filled the available student spots. Our EL students were invited through parent liaisons if that service was needed. An additional question from the board asked the number of students served through Young Scholars, there were a total of 619 students attending YSI this year. More information is presented in the Summary of T&L Activity for August (on file).
2. **Construction Report** – Presented by Dr. Esslinger (report on file). JES will serve meals in the multi-purpose room until the kitchen renovation/expansion is complete. Final

completion of the PGS gym and the PAC is on the horizon, with the LES renovation which includes their kitchen renovation is next, followed by completion of the FSSD/P&R ballfields behind FMS/PGS during the first part of November.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

Tim Stillings made a **motion** to approve the Board Agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

## **VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **carried 6-0**.

Approved under Consent Agenda (on file) were:

- 1. Minutes of Board Meeting dated July 25, 2022**
- 2. Bids: Food and Culinary Services Department**

## **VIII. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

- 1. Policy Revision: Board Members Legal Status (1.102) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** – Public Chapter 809 revises the qualifications for school board candidates. State law now requires that each candidate must be a qualified voter and resident in the county for one year prior to the qualifying deadline for running. Per the TSBA Director of Policy & Staff Attorney, since this provision appears to solely apply to county districts, it is recommended that if you are in a city or special district, to reach out to your attorney and election commission for clarification as to their interpretation. Our Williamson County Election Administrator, Chad Gray, interprets this new Public Chapter as also applying to our district. The legislation is effective as of September 2022 and will apply to the next election in 2024. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Tim Stillings made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Board Members Legal Status (1.102)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed 6-0**.

- 2. Policy Revision: Bids and Quotations (2.806) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** – The TSBA Director for Policy has recommended the revisions for Policy 2.806. More school boards will be able to increase their bidding threshold based on Public Chapter 1016. We currently have a threshold at \$25,000. The threshold can further be increased to \$50,000 if the district has a centralized purchasing authority with a full-time purchasing agent and the Board votes to increase the limit. Additionally, a new state law changes bidding requirements for insurance providers. Per Public Chapter 719, services from insurance providers are exempt from bidding requirements. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Bids and Quotations (2.806)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

- 3. Policy Revision: Instructional Standards (4.1011) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - TSBA has updated their model policy to clarify that complaints of alleged violations of TCA 49-1-302 regarding prohibited concepts are required to comply with the complaint process outlined by the TN Department of Education's temporary emergency rule. Please note that the regulation below will change as the Department of Education implements a permanent regulation. Once the Department releases a final regulation, we will send any recommended changes. Additionally, TSBA has added clarifying language regarding how complaints may be submitted if materials are allegedly in violation of Public Chapter 1085. We have used the TSBA model policy to update our policy regarding instructional standards and complaints, as well as adding Policy 4.402 and updating Policy 4.403, for the Board's consideration. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Tim Stillings made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Instructional Standards (4.1011)** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

- 4. Policy Revision: Library Materials (4.403) – New Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - Per TSBA Director of Policy & Staff Attorney: "TSBA revised existing model policy 4.403 to focus solely on library materials and included the new requirements placed on school districts as outlined in Public Chapter 744. On further review, TSBA has made an additional edit to this policy to ensure that the roles of the materials review committee and the Board are clearly defined. Clarifying these roles in policy 4.403 will better prepare school districts for when the State Textbook Commission and Instructional Materials Quality Commission releases its guidance on this topic by December 1<sup>st</sup> per Public Chapter 1137. Please see attached the updated version of policy 4.403. TSBA recommends that all Boards adopt this version of 4.403." The previous policy 4.403 has been renumbered to 4.402 and also presented for consideration. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Library Materials (4.403)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

- 5. Policy Revision: Use of the Internet/Intranet (4.406) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - Per TSBA Director of Policy & Staff Attorney, TSBA has updated their model policy 4.406 to align with the requirements of Public Chapter 1002. This new law requires Boards to have a policy in place regarding complaints about how vendors provide access to online content. The law requires districts to have a policy specifically allowing these complaints and stating how they will be handled. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Tim Stillings made a **motion** to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the revisions to **Use of the Internet/Intranet (4.406)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

- 6. Policy Revision: Employment of Retirees (5.119) – New Policy - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - Due to the increased vacancies of teaching positions across the state, the General Assembly passed Public Chapter 821 – allowing an additional option for employment of retirees to fill these roles. To clarify the options for employing retirees, TSBA has created model policy 5.119. Additionally, information on retirees has been removed from 5.200, 5.201, and 5.701 to help provide clarity. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Kevin Townsel made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Employment of Retirees (5.119)** as presented. Tim Stillings **seconded** the motion. Upon discussion, it was noted that there is a sunset provision in PC 821 which limits employment to three years and the retiree needs to be renewed each year. The motion **passed** 6-0.

- 7. Policy Revision: Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers (5.200) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - As in the description for new policy 5.119, information on retirees has been removed from **5.200**, 5.201, and 5.701 to help provide clarity and placed in 5.119 for clarification on the options for employing retirees. TSBA has provided this guidance due to the increased vacancies across the state with passage of Public Chapter 821 by the General Assembly. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers (5.200)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

- 8. Policy Revision: Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers (5.201) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - As in the description for new policy 5.119, information on retirees has been removed from 5.200, **5.201**, and 5.701 to help provide clarity and placed in 5.119 for clarification on the options for employing retirees. TSBA has provided this guidance due to the increased vacancies across the state with passage of Public Chapter 821 by the General Assembly. In addition, Public Chapter 678 requires districts to include additional information when providing notices of non-renewal in certain instances. If a teacher is non-renewed due to the lack of funding for the position, the non-renewal notice must include that information as the reason for the non-renewal. Model policy 5.201 has been updated to include that requirement. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers (5.201)** as presented. Alicia Barker **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

9. **Policy Revision: Substitute Personnel (5.701) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - As in the description for new policy 5.119, information on retirees has been removed from 5.200, 5.201, and **5.701** to help provide clarity and placed in 5.119 for clarification on the options for employing retirees. TSBA has provided this guidance due to the increased vacancies across the state with passage of Public Chapter 821 by the General Assembly. There were no changes requested by the Board upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. The administration recommended approval.

Robin Newman made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Substitute Personnel (5.701)** as presented. Allena Bell **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

10. **Policy Revision: Reporting Child Abuse (6.409) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** - With the June policy updates, revisions have been provided for this policy. Public Chapter 841 narrows the category of individuals who must receive training on child abuse. In the past, state law required all school personnel to receive this training, but moving forward, this training will only be required for employees working directly with students. We have updated policy 6.409 to align with this revised standard. Additionally, Public Chapter 781 allows employees to first report to the Department of Children's Services and law enforcement if an alleged instance of child abuse involves someone employed by, previously employed by, or otherwise affiliated with the school district. The district's Child Abuse Coordinator must still be notified; however, in those particular instances, they are not required to be notified until the other entities are contacted. The administration recommended approval.

Allena Bell made a **motion** to approve the second reading of the revisions to **Reporting Child Abuse (6.409)** as presented. Tim Stillings **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

11. **Policy Revision: Attendance (6.200) – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** - Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-3007 changes the tiers of the progressive truancy plan. Under this new law, Tier I applies to all students to provide school-wide prevention-oriented supports. TSBA has provided updates to this policy to align with these changes. Along with these revisions, per Public Chapter 878, state law no longer permits the denial of a driver's license due to poor student academic performance. Accordingly, TSBA has updated their model policy to reflect this change. The administration recommended approval.

Alicia Barker made a **motion** to approve the first reading of the revisions to **Attendance (6.200)** as presented. Robin Newman **seconded** the motion, which **passed** 6-0.

## IX. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

- Dr. Snowden thanked the administrators and rest of the leadership group, and all departments, teachers and staff for their planning all summer in order for a smooth start to the school year. Our Transportation Department is working out bugs for pick up and drop off times, new routes and traffic patterns, but overall had a good first day and a half.
- **Opening Day and Professional Learning Days** - On August 1st our Opening of Schools Program went well, with personnel attending at designated times in our new Performing Arts

Center. Each session began with a recording from the Franklin Tomorrow's Breakfast with the Mayor, introductions and welcome with several speakers, culminating with Mr. Ken Williams as our keynote speaker. The board was thanked for their attendance and support of our employees at our Opening this year – all board members were able to attend at least one of the sessions. They always have what is best for our students in mind, and provide their support of our faculty and staff and it is very appreciated.

District-wide (grade or subject specific) and school-based professional learning, with an administrative day finished the week, with students for a partial Friday. In addition, Meet-and-Greet was held on Wednesday, August 3rd from 3:30 – 6:30 with teachers and school administration ready to welcome students and families! Dr. Decker has received positive feedback from all schools on the Opening Day and professional learning sessions and will use comments for future learning opportunities. Mrs. Newman notes that it was great to have our personnel in our PAC for the opening session. Dr. Snowden said that future keynote speakers will be in the district all day as the leadership portion mid-day was well received.

- **First Student Day** – Students back ½ day on this Friday, August 5, with return to full days on Monday. Kindergartners will come one day the week of August 8th and begin full time on the following Monday, August 15.
- **Labor Day Holiday** – Following an early dismissal day on September 2nd, the district and offices will be closed September 5th.
- **Conferences and meetings update:** Carol has provided the Board upcoming opportunities for Board development.

## X. UPDATES

**Teaching & Learning** – Dr. Mary Decker, Associate Director for Teaching & Learning, provided the following (on file):

- Demographics Report for August 2022

**Finance & Administration** – David Esslinger, Associate Director for Finance & Administration, provided the following (on file):

- Personnel Change Report July/August 2022
- Investment Report
- Revenue and Expenditure Reports
- Sales Tax Revenue Comparison Report for August

## XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The tax collections are up 5.6% compared to last year.
- Mr. Stillings congratulated his fellow board members for their re-election. Mr. Stillings, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Newman were all re-elected with the August 4<sup>th</sup> election. Justice Bivins will preside to give their Oath of Office at the September meeting.
- Mrs. Laura Stendel was recognized and thanked for running as a candidate for FSSD board

member in the August election.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

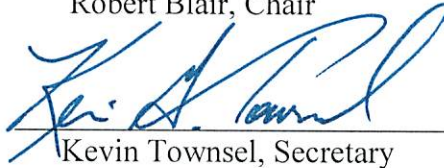
Chair Blair adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Robert Blair, Chair

9/12/22  
Date

ATTEST:



Kevin Townsel, Secretary

9/12/22  
Date