



Tri County Area Schools  
Tradition • Character • Achievement • Success

## TRI COUNTY AREA SCHOOLS

### Regular Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Fennessy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Fennessy also welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Agenda amendment – Motion to remove the 2020-2021 Sports Wrap-Up presentation and add Action Item #10-Proposed TCEA Contract. Motion by Ford, second by Gould to approve the agenda as amended. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations:** Motion by Powell, second by Ford to go into Closed Session at 7:03 p.m. for the purpose of Negotiations. Roll Call Vote: Princer-Aye, Campbell-Aye, Powell-Aye, Gould-Aye, Bice-Aye, Ford-Aye, Fennessy-Aye. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0).

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:33 p.m.

**GOOD THINGS:** Superintendent Cumings started by thanking our staff for what they provided to students at the end of the year – boat races, grad walk through, recognition, positive relationships, etc. Our 2021 retirees were also celebrated during the “Good Things” portion of the meeting. Our retirees include from the Middle School, teacher Lars Andersen, who built a strong computer class and introduced robotics, teacher Brenda Johnson, who made PE fun at a difficult age, and Social Worker, Carl Craft, who has always had a huge heart for students. From MacNaughton Elementary, teacher, Vida Andres, who’s goal was always to grow kids socially and academically, and teacher, Gwen Mathis, who shared her incredible creative mind with all of us. We will miss her videos. From Sand Lake Elementary, teacher Polly Bolt, who started the STEM program at Tri County, and always wanted better opportunities for students. Also retiring from Sand Lake is paraprofessional, Yvonne Jordan, who is a gifted reading instructor and really connected well with students. Paraprofessional, Melissa Dailey, also retired this year, who knows how to make kids smile, and always had a special connection with her students. From the High School, Lori Goodyke, Administrative Assistant, retired as well. Lori provided high quality work, with her quiet demeanor. Our 2021 retirees will definitely be missed for all the love, care, and attention they provided our students throughout their careers. We will always be TC family!

### PRESENTATIONS

Proposed TCEA Contract – Superintendent Cumings shared that the district and the TC Education Association had reached an agreement on a 3-year contract. The contract includes a 1.25% increase to the salary scale each year, as well as other compensation initiatives, state hardcaps on insurance, changes to some language, and some increases to schedule B. Mr. Cumings personally thanked board members Jill Fennessy and Janet Powell, as well as the Education Association members who helped negotiate this 3-year contract.

**Berrien Springs Partnership Contract Renewal – Link Learning:** Superintendent Cumings provided information regarding our partnership with Berrien Springs to provide online learning through the Link Learning program, currently housed at the Edgerton building. He shared that less than 10% of students that attend Link Learning are Tri County students. This programs reaches students we would not be able to serve. The 5-year contract renewal includes an increase in the service fee each year, includes payment of a building rental fee, and includes a \$15,000 one-time signing bonus, and a \$5,000 bonus at the end of the 5-year contract. Superintendent Cumings is recommending the board to approve the new 5-year contract.

**Extended Continuation of Learning Plan (ECOL) -** Superintendent Cumings reported that there were no new updates to the ECOL plan for the 2 days attended in June. This will be the final ECOL report for the board. Recommend approving the ECOL plan in place.

**Second Reading – Neola Policy Spring Updates –** Member Gould provided a second reading on the remaining Neola policies in the 2021 spring update. Policies include 7450, 74558321, 8330, 8400, 8450.01, 8450.05 (was removed), 8500, and 8510. The policy committee also revised policy 0144.01. This concluded the second reading.

**Administrative Report:** Superintendent Cumings provided updates on current legislation, stating that the budget may be pushing out, but legislative members are all over the place, and we're hearing a lot of different numbers coming out right now. Bond updates included work on the new elementary, where footings have been poured and walls are going up. Tree removal has also begun to create a path from Amy School Rd to the lagoon site for the new lift station. Mr. Cumings also reported that he had had a good meeting with Mike Falcon, from the Village of Howard City, regarding the sewer contract. Other bond news included work on Science lab design, and options for retention ponds at the new elementary site.

Superintendent Cumings also shared that summer school is in full swing. Currently, there are 350 students signed up to attend. He also commented that his office had finished up grant items today, and are busy wrapping up the fiscal year.

Superintendent Cumings concluded his report by announcing the hire of Steve Seward as the district's new Director of Curriculum. Steve will bring Adaptive Schools training in-house, and will do some consulting work on his own time. We are very excited to have Steve join our team, and he is excited to get started.

### **Board Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:** Member Campbell reported the committee prior to the meeting, where they reviewed the fund balance as it pertains to enrollment. He reported that no state budget is available yet, the current debt levy of 4.381 went down to 2.435, discussed the line of credit, \$1,000,000, that was not used last year, discussed a 2-year contract extension with GRBS, and Berrien Springs. The next meeting is to be determined.

**Facilities Committee:** Member Princer shared the committee met on June 9, 2021, where they received information regarding items shared by member Campbell, as well as many other items including summer cleaning and maintenance, sinking fund projects underway, purchase of indoor air quality monitor, bond project updates, and an update on the bus camera project. The committee will take a break in July and will resume meeting in August.

**Policy Committee:** Member Gould stated the reviewed and completed the first reading for the policies previously read earlier in the meeting. The Policy committee will not meet until the fall updates are available, or a need arises for policy review.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda items Only:** No one spoke to this.

**ACTION ITEM # 1 - Consent Agenda.** Motion by Princer, second by Campbell to approve the consent agenda as presented, which included minutes from the May 10 Regular meeting and Closed Session, Minutes from the May 24, 2021 Special Meeting, End of Year Retirements: Carl Craft-Social Work, Yvonne Jordan-Paraprofessional, Resignations: Robert Fix-MS English, Kari Sixbury-Paraprofessional, Ashley Blohm-Paraprofessional, and Accounts Payable of: \$1,403,302.01. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #2 – TRANSPORTANT BUS CAMERA SYSTEM PURCHASE.** Motion by Campbell, second by Gould to approve the purchase of the Transportant Bus Cameras as recommended. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #3 – HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE RESOURCE PURCHASE.** Motion by Gould, second by Ford to approve the purchase of Science resources as presented. Motions CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #4 – 2021-2022 HANDBOOK APPROVAL.** Motion by Ford, second by Gould to approve the 2021-2022 handbooks as presented. (Does not include updated eligibility) Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #5 – BERRIEN SPRINGS PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT RENWAL.** Motion by Campbell, second by Princer to approve the 5-year contract renewal with Berrien Springs as recommended. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #6 – 2021-2022 MHSAA MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION.** Motion by Campbell, second by Princer to approve the 2021-2022 MHSAA Membership Resolution as recommended. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #7 – SAN LOAN RESOLUTION.** Motion by Gould, second by Ford to approve the SAN Load Resolution as presented and recommended. Roll Call Vote: Powell-Aye, Campbell-Abstain, Princer-Aye, Bice-Aye, Gould-Aye, Ford-Aye, Fennessy-Aye. Motion CARRIED (6-1-0)

**ACTION ITEM #8 – TCAS EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN – UPDATE.** Motion by Campbell and second by Ford to approve the TCAS Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan – Update as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #9– POLICY ADOPTION – AS LISTED.** Motion by Gould and second by Ford to approve the Policy Adoption as listed in the presentation. Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

**ACTION ITEM #10 – PROPOSED TCEA CONTRACT.** Motion by Powell, second by Campbell to approve the 3-year contract as presented and recommended. Motion CARRIED (6-1-0) Member Gould abstained.

**Public Comment – Action items Only:** No one spoke to this.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Member Ford shared information regarding the MCSBA fall meeting, which will be held on September 27, at Montabella, where dinner and in-service training will take place. She also reported that she had attended the MAISD's Biennial Election as the district's representative, where Kurt Peasley was elected. She commented that it was good to see people in-person.

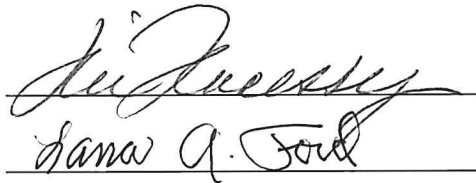
Member Campbell gave kudos on the graduation ceremony, which went very well. He also shared that the girls' soccer team made it to district finals, but lost in the final match. He informed the board that long-time soccer coach, Vic Matulis is retiring this year, and then shared that Rich Pease has passed away. He shared that the Lion's Club will be putting a bench in the park honoring him.

**ADJOURMENT:** Motion by Powell, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.  
Motion CARRIED (7-0-0)

Approved by:

Jill Fennessy, President

Lana Ford, Secretary

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive script. The top signature is for Jill Fennessy, and the bottom signature is for Lana A. Ford. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines.