

## **Special Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** January 5, 2021

**PRESENT:** Chair Melinda Fagundus, Vice Chair Tracy Everette-Lenz, Amy Cole, Don Rhodes, Anna Barrett Smith, James E. Tripp Jr.

**PRESENT REMOTELY:** Caroline W. Doherty, Worth Forbes, Benjie Forrest

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Ethan Lenker, Dr. Steve Lassiter, Jennifer Johnson, Matt Johnson, Debra Baggett, Dr. Kristi Rhone, Karen Harrington

**IN-HOUSE COUNSEL:** Emma J. Hodson

**TIME:** 11:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Carolina Room, The Kathy Taft Center, 2010 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834, via livestream and via ZOOM

Chair Melinda Fagundus opened the Special Called Board meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Carolina Room via livestream and via ZOOM. Chair Fagundus called roll and all Board members were present as indicated above.

The only item on the Agenda was a discussion of COVID-19 related issues. Dr. John Silvernail, Pitt County Health Director, shared a current breakdown of Pitt County COVID related data, as reported by the North Carolina Department of Human and Health Services, and other information. Much discussion occurred between the Board members, Dr. Lenker and Dr. Silvernail.

Dr. Felicia Mosley-Williams, Manager, School Health Program, stated that 21 school nurses covering 39 school sites were overwhelmed working to manage the increasing caseload of 150 staff members and 193 student COVID related issues, as of yesterday Monday, January 4, 2021, either quarantined or positive for the virus. Some discussion occurred between Dr. Mosley-Williams and the Board members.

Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to temporarily move instruction on-line to allow the amount of infection that exists currently and is coming into school, to diminish with a second from Vice Chair Everette-Lenz.

Benjie Forrest made a motion to table the motion until further notice with a second from Worth Forbes. After some discussion, the motion to table the motion failed 6 to 3, with Amy Cole, Benjie Forrest and Worth Forbes voting in favor and Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline Doherty, Don Rhodes, James Tripp,

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

Jr., Chair Fagundus and Vice Chair Tracy Everette-Lenz voting against. Much discussion on the main motion continued.

After Emma Hodson, In-House Counsel, requested a brief pause, Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to General Statute 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection (a)(3) to consult with our attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege with a second from Don Rhodes. After some discussion, Ms. Smith rescinded her motion to go into closed session.

Benjie Forrest made a second motion to table the main motion until the January 11, 2021, Board meeting under new business with a second from Worth Forbes. After more discussion, the motion to table the motion until the January 11, 2021, Board meeting failed 6 to 3, with Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline Doherty, Don Rhodes, James Tripp, Jr., Chair Fagundus and Vice Chair Everette-Lenz voting against and Amy Cole, Benjie Forrest and Worth Forbes voting in favor.

After much discussion, Benjie Forrest moved the previous question. The subsidiary motion passed unanimously.

The Board then voted on the main motion to temporarily move instruction on-line to allow the amount of infection that exists currently and is coming into school, to diminish. The motion failed 5 to 4, with Amy Cole, Benjie Forrest, Caroline Doherty, Don Rhodes and Worth Forbes voting against and Anna Barrett Smith, James Tripp, Jr., Chair Fagundus and Vice Chair Everette-Lenz voting in favor.

#### Adjourn

Don Rhodes made a motion to adjourn with a second from James Tripp Jr. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The time was 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Melinda Fagundus, Chair

---

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary