

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** December 7, 2020

**Present:** Chair Melinda Fagundus, Vice Chair Tracy Everette-Lenz, Amy Cole, Benjie Forrest, Caroline Doherty, Worth Forbes, Anna Barrett Smith, Betsy Flanagan, James E. Tripp Jr., Don Rhodes

**Also Present:** Dr. Ethan Lenker, Dr. Steve Lassiter, Dr. Kristi Rhone, Debra Baggett, Jennifer L. Johnson, Matt Johnson, Karen Harrington, Jeff Smith, Jennifer Stalls

**Absent:** Mary Blount Williams

**Attorney:** Emma J. Hodson

**Time:** 6:30 P.M.

**Place:** Kathy Taft Center, the Carolina Room

### 1) Start of Meeting

#### A) Call to Order

Chair Flanagan called her last Board of Education meeting to order in Regular Session on December 7, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. in the Carolina Room. Chair Flanagan also acknowledged that new members, Donald Rhodes and James Tripp were present and would be sworn in shortly.

#### B) Pledge of Allegiance

Carolina Doherty led the Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### C) Moment of Silence

Carolina Doherty led the Board members in a Moment of Silence.

#### D) Board Minutes Approval

Chair Flanagan asked for approval of the Board minutes presented. Anna Barrett Smith, with a second from Amy Cole made a motion to approve the following:

- November 2, 2020, Board Meeting minutes
- November 16, 2020, Board Work Session minutes
- November 16, 2020, Closed Session minutes

#### E) Swearing In of New Board Members

Chair Flanagan then invited Sara Beth Fulford Rhodes, Clerk of Superior Court for Pitt County, to come forward and conduct the oath ceremony for the recently elected board members. The Board members taking an oath were as follows:

- Melinda Freeland Fagundus
- Benjie Forrest
- Thompson Forbes
- James E. Tripp, Jr.
- Don Rhodes

#### F) Election of Chairperson

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Superintendent, presided over the election of the Chairperson, by requesting nominations from the floor. Anna Barrett Smith nominated Melinda Fagundus as Chairperson with a second from Caroline Doherty. Benjie Forrest made a motion to close the nominations. The nomination of Ms. Fagundus as Chairperson passed unanimously.

#### G) Election of Vice-Chairperson

Newly-elected Chair Fagundus presided over the election of the Vice-Chairperson by requesting nominations from the floor. Caroline Doherty nominated Tracy Everette-Lenz as Vice Chairperson with a second from Amy Cole. Benjie Forrest made a motion to close nominations. The nomination of Ms. Everette-Lenz as Vice-Chairperson passed unanimously.

### 2) Special Recognition:

Chair Fagundus recognized, on behalf of the Board, out-going Chair Betsy Flanagan,

for her dedication to the students and staff of Pitt County Schools during her last 4 years. Chair Fagundus presented Ms. Flanagan with a plaque recognizing her service to Pitt County Schools and her personalized gavel. Board members were allowed time to speak directly to Ms. Flanagan and thanked her for her strong leadership and guidance through 2020 and the pandemic.

### 3) Routine Business:

#### A) Adjustments to the Agenda:

Caroline Doherty made a motion to approve the Agenda, with a second from Anna Barrett Smith. The motion to approve the Agenda as presented passed unanimously.

#### B) Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Public Information Officer, Jennifer L. Johnson, shared the following with the Board members:

- PCS Finance Department has earned National Recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The department has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019
- 2020-2021 Educator of Excellence for Exceptional Children was awarded to Karen Poole, Lead Physical Therapist
- District Updates and Newsletter Site
- High School Testing Information
- NCDHHS Guidelines Updates

#### C) Public Expression received Electronically:

Ms. Johnson, then read the one Public Expression received via email to the Board members.

### 4) Consent Items for Approval:

Worth Forbes made a motion to approve the consent items as presented, with a second from Benjie Forrest. The consent items included:

- Personnel Report for December 7, 2020
- 2020-2021 Beginning Teacher Support Plan
- 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #1

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### 5) New Business

#### A) Request for Approval of HVAC Ionizers Purchase

Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, shared the bid document showing Hoffman & Hoffman as the low bidder for 835 HVAC Ionizers at \$247,102.00. Ms. Baggett requested Board approval of the purchase using CARES Act Funds. After some discussion between Ms. Baggett, Matt Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, and the Board members, Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to purchase the ionizers with a second from Caroline Doherty. With no further discussion needed, the motion to purchase the ionizer passed unanimously.

#### B) C.M. Eppes Middle School Contract and Change Order Recommendations with Muter Construction

Mr. Johnson then discussed the C.M. Eppes Middle School Renovations and Window Replacement contract and change order options with the Board members. Mr. Johnson stated that the North Carolina Department of Insurance has notified PCS that the insurance claim of \$3,478,261.59, has been approved. Mr. Johnson explained the change order options, which consisted of the following:

- Alt A-1 Metal Decking/TPO Roofing -\$121,000
- Alt A-2 A Frame Metal Roof \$196,000
- Alt A-3 LED Lighting \$21,500
- Alt A-4 6th Grade Wing Elevator \$246,500
- Alt E-2 Additional Electrical Outlets \$22,000

After much discussion, Benjie Forrest made a motion to move forward with the following

change order options and cost with a second from Caroline Doherty:

- Add Alternates A-2, A-3, E-2
- Original Project Value \$2,622,000.00
- Add Alternates \$239,500.00
- Muter Contract Value \$2,861,500.00
- Additional A/E Design Fees \$16,765.00
- Total Project Cost \$3,144,889.97, plus Design, Clean-up, Mitigation, Temp, Abatement Fees and Demo Cost
- Additional cost for PCS \$256,265.00

The motion to approve Option 1, which included the items above, passed unanimously.

C) J.H. Rose High Schools Fire Alarm Replacement Contract  
Mr. Johnson then discussed replacing the fire alarms at J.H. Rose High School using Article 40 and 41 sales tax allotment. Mr. Johnson shared that Williams Fire Sprinkler Company was the low bid at \$271,711.00, and requested approval from the Board members so the replacement will start during Winter Break. After some discussion, Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to approve the contract with Williams Fire Sprinkler Co to replace fire alarms at J.H. Rose High School at a cost of \$271,711.00, with a second from Vice Chair Everette-Lenz. The motion passed unanimously.

D) Plasma Games Grant Approval  
Jennifer Stalls, District STEM Coordinator and K-12 Science Curriculum Specialist, shared with the Board members that PCS had received a Plasma Games grant for \$144,000.00. Ms. Stalls also shared this grant would benefit middle and high school virtual and face to face students. Ms. Baggett stated since the amount was over \$90,000.00, she was requesting Board approval to spend the funds before the December 30, 2020, deadline. After some discussion, Caroline Doherty made a motion to approve the Plasma Games grant expenses with a second from Anna Barrett Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Closing Comments:

Closing comments were made by Dr. Lenker, Board Members, and Chair Fagundus.

7) Adjourn:

Benjie Forrest made a motion to adjourn with a second by Caroline Doherty. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Time adjourned was 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Melinda F. Fagundus, Chair

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Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary

Minutes Recorded by Carol Rankin