

Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 11, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Betsy Flanagan

PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Vice Chair Melinda Fagundus, Amy Cole, Tracy Everette-Lenz, Anna Barrett Smith, Benjie Forrest, Worth Forbes, Mary Blount Williams, Caroline W. Doherty (joined at 6:05 P.M.)

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ethan Lenker, Jennifer L. Johnson

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: 3rd Floor Board Room, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 West 5th Street, Greenville, NC 27834 and via ZOOM

1. Start of Meeting

Chair Flanagan called the Special Called Board of Education meeting to order on Monday, May 11, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in the 3rd Floor Board Room, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 West 5th Street, Greenville, NC 27834 and via ZOOM.

2. Discussion of Graduation 2020 Option

Dr. Ethan Lenker, PCS Superintendent, started the discussion with the following:

- A survey was conducted for students and parents
- Discussions have occurred with principals
- Discussions have occurred with Board members
- Live graduation ceremonies are preferred
- Face-to-face graduation ceremonies
- As many students as possible per graduation
- Livestreaming option
- Recorded graduation ceremonies

Dr. Lenker then asked for direction from the Board members. To facilitate the meeting, Benjie Forrest referenced option 1 from the May, 4, 2020 Board meeting graduation presentation and made a motion, with a second from Worth Forbes, to proceed with live graduations at each individual high school.

Discussion between Dr. Lenker and the Board members included the following.

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

- Attempt to have all high school graduations the first week of June
- Hold graduation ceremonies in the morning to avoid possible weather activity
- Follow the governor's guidelines for out-door events
- Have optional days, due to weather events
- Allow students to walk across a stage with pomp and circumstance
- Provide students and employees face masks
- Hope to allow student photos without face masks
- 2-4 attendees per senior
- Board members, Dr. Lenker and senior staff would attend as many graduations as possible
- Larger schools may have up to four ceremonies, depending on the number of attendees allowed
- Graduation considerations for medically fragile students

Dr. Lenker stated if circumstances to hold graduations changed and holding a live ceremony could not occur, graduation may have to be changed to a drive-in graduation ceremony.

After some discussion, Chair Flanagan polled the Board members individually and the vote passed unanimously to proceed with live graduations at each individual high school.

3. Adjourn

Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to adjourn with a second from Benjie Forrest. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Time adjourned was 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth M. Flanagan, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary