

Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: July 20, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Betsy Flanagan, Vice Chair Melinda Fagundus, Amy Cole, Tracy Everette-Lenz, Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline W. Doherty, Benjie Forrest, Worth Forbes

PRESENT REMOTELY: Mary Blount Williams

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

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

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

Chair Betsy Flanagan opened the Special Called Board meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Carolina Room in the Kathy Taft Center located at 2010 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834. Chair Flanagan called roll, all Board members were in attendance.

Caroline Doherty made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented with a second from Anna Barrett Smith. With no discussion needed, the Agenda as presented passed unanimously.

Dr. John Silvernail, Pitt County Health Director, was present to answer questions concerning Pitt County Schools opening and COVID-19. Dr. Silvernail shared information from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website. The information he shared included the following:

- Uptick in COVID-19 cases in Pitt County since late May
- Pitt County averages 20 new cases a day
- About 200 active cases in Pitt County at a time
- 25-49 age group is most common age group
- 75+ age group is highest death rate
- No death in Pitt County under the age of 50
- Positive Testing has lowered to 6-7%
- Children are at a low rate of getting sick

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

Much discussion occurred between Dr. Silvernail and the Board members. Dr. Silvernail's professional opinion was, with CDC and DHHS guidelines being followed, PCS could open schools safely.

Consent Agenda

Chair Flanagan presented the Consent Agenda and requested approval from the Board members. The only item on the Consent Agenda was the July 13, 2020 Student Transfer Hearings Board Panel Decisions. Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Melinda Fagundus. With no discussion needed, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed 7 to 2 with Benjie Forrest and Worth Forbes voting against.

Device and Software Purchases

Superintendent Dr. Ethan Lenker and Virginia Gaynor, Exceptional Children's Department Director, shared needed device and software purchases using CARES funds with the Board members. After some discussion, Caroline Doherty made a motion to approval the device and software purchases with a second from Worth Forbes. The motion to approve the device and software purchases passed unanimously.

PCS Reopening Plan

Dr. Kristi Rhone discussed employee leave and COVID-19 with the Board members. Some discussion occurred between Dr. Rhone and the Board members.

- High Risk Conditions
- CDC High Risk Protective Actions
- PCS Responses to Employees
- NCDHHS' Screening Flowchart for COVID-19

Dr. Rhone stated employees with high risk conditions should contact HR to discuss leave options. Much discussion occurred between Dr. Rhone and the Board members.

Dr. Steve Lassiter, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services, presented the Pitt County Schools reopening plan with the Board members. The presentation included the following .

- Learning Options Defined
- Parent/Teacher Continuum of Support for enrolled students
- Week 1- Learning Zone A will learn at school and Learning Zone B will learn remotely

- Week 2 - Learning Zone B will learn at school and Learning Zone A will learn remotely
- Each school will follow a daily student check-in process

After many questions from Board members and the advisement of Dr. Silvernail and the PCS administrative leadership team, Benjie Forrest made a motion to proceed with the Plan B option for students with a second from Caroline Doherty. After some discussion, the motion to approve the Plan B option for students passed 8 to 1 with Mary Blount Williams voting against.

Adjourn

Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to adjourn with a second from Caroline Doherty. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The time was 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth M. Flanagan, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary