

Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: August 27, 2020

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

PRESENT REMOTELY: Mary Blount Williams, Worth Forbes, Benjie Forrest

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

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 4:00 P.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 4:00 p.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.

Jenifer L. Johnson, Public Information Officer, shared PCS Data and School System Practices. The presentation included the following:

- Communications Protocol for reporting school-affected data
- Direct notification to parents of students in classes or buses
- General notification to all parents of affected schools
- Weekly notification of district data of school-affected data

Ms. Johnson also shared the first two-weeks data with the Board members. The data consisted of the following:

- Week 1: 23,244 students, 3600 Employees, 4 Positive School-Effectuated cases, Percent of Overall Population .01%
- Week 2: 23,244 students, 3600 Employees, 6 Positive School-Effectuated cases, Percent of Overall Population .02%

Some discussion occurred between Ms. Johnson and the Board members.

Minutes Recorder: Carol Rankin

Karen Harrington, Director of Student Services, shared the following information with the Board members:

- Training for School Staff, including School Nurses
- School Guidelines for Addressing Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19
- Screening Flow Chart
- Staff Roles Flow Chart
- Isolation Tracking Document/Data

Much discussion occurred between Ms. Harrington and the Board members.

After Ms. Harrington's presentation, a discussion consisting of PCS operating status and the recent increase in Pitt County COVID-19 cases occurred among the Board members. As they articulated their positions and shared data, Chair Flanagan asked Vice Chair Fagundus to assume the Chair duties to allow her to participate in the discussion. Following much discussion, Caroline Doherty made a motion to transition to virtual instruction only for at least 2 incubation cycles starting August 31 through September 25, with reconsideration by the Board on September 21, of the resumption of in-person instruction with a second by Mary Blount Williams. With no additional discussion needed, the motion to approve the transition to virtual instruction only for at least 2 incubation cycles starting August 31 through September 25, with reconsideration by the Board on September 21, of the resumption of in-person instruction failed 2 to 7 with Caroline Doherty and Mary Blount Williams voting in favor and Benjie Forrest, Amy Cole, Anna Barrett Smith, Tracy Everette-Lenz, Chair Flanagan, Vice Chair Fagundus and Worth Forbes voting against.

Discussion occurred among the Board members and Dr. Lenker. Items requested of Dr. Lenker and the Leadership team to considered included the following:

- To work on a plan to provide teachers much needed extra time to plan class material
- Possible bonuses for bus drivers and custodial staff
- Adding bus monitors and thermometers to all buses
- Improve virtual learning
- Look at virtual and face to face teacher responsibilities

Dr. Lenker stated he would work on the requests and come back to the Board at the September Work Session.

Adjourn

Benjie Forrest made a motion to adjourn with a second from Anna Barrett Smith. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The time was 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth M. Flanagan, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary