

## **Board Minutes**

**DATE:** March 1, 2021

**PRESENT:** Chair Melinda Fagundus, Vice Chair Tracy Everette-Lenz, Amy Cole, Caroline W. Doherty, Benjie Forrest, Don Rhodes, Anna Barrett Smith, James E. Tripp Jr., Worth Forbes (via ZOOM)

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

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

**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Carolina Room, The Kathy Taft Center, 2010 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834 and via <http://go.pittschools.org/livestream1>

### 1. Start of Meeting

A. Chair Melinda Fagundus called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and due to a member electronically present, took roll call. Tracy Everette-Lenz, Amy Cole, James Tripp, Don Rhodes, Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline Doherty, and Benjie Forrest were present, while Worth Forbes was present via Zoom.

B. James Tripp led the Board members in the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

### 2. Routine Business

#### A. Adjustments to the Agenda

Chair Fagundus asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Caroline Doherty made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with a second from Anna Barrett Smith. After a roll call vote, the motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

#### B. Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Chair Fagundus then recognized Jennifer Johnson, Public Information Officer, who presented the Spotlight on Teaching and Learning. Ms. Johnson shared the following updates:

- Battle of the Books winners; JH. Rose and Wintergreen

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- Girls' State Champion Volleyball Team; D.H. Conley High School
- State Champion Swimmers; Madeline Smith and Emma Hastings
- North Carolina High School Journalist Finalist; Tierney Reardon
- NCSPPRA Blue Ribbon Awards; 12 received for PCS District Communications
- Special days for March; School Breakfast Week, Read Across America and Daylight Savings

Ms. Johnson introduced Karen Harrington, Director of Student Services, who shared that March 7-12, 2021, was School Social Worker Week and that during the Sock and Gloves Drive partnership with the City of Greenville over 5000 items were collected.

### C. Public Expression

There was no public expression received.

### 3. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda items included the following items:

- February 1, 2021, Board Meeting minutes
- February 15, 2021, Board Work Session minutes
- February 1, 2021, Closed Session minutes
- February 15, 2021, Closed Session minutes
- Personnel Report for March 1, 2021
- June 30, 2020, Audit Report
- 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #2
- Academic Calendar for 2021-2022
- PCECHS Calendar for 2021-2022
- Innovation Calendar for 2021-2022

Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda with a second from Caroline Doherty. After a roll call vote, the motion to approve the items on the consent agenda passed unanimously.

### 4. New Business

#### A. Physical Inventory Project

Chair Fagundus recognized Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, and Dr. Lenker, Superintendent, who presented information to the board regarding a proposed contract with Hayes Software Systems. Hayes will perform a physical inventory of the Board's technology assets. The full price of the contract is either \$178,325 if incoming assets are received bar coded or \$181,025.00 if not. After some discussion, Don Rhodes made a motion to approve the contract with Hayes Software with a second from Tracy Everette-Lenz. After a

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roll call vote, the motion to contract with Hayes Software Systems passed unanimously.

#### B. Resolution and Related Documents to Secure Local Obligation Bond C. Funding for A.G. Cox Renovation

Chair Fagundus recognized Emma Hodson, In-House Counsel, who presented information related to the renovation and expansion of A.G. Cox Middle School. Ms. Hodson shared that the County Commissioners must pledge A.G. Cox Middle School as collateral to secure the funding necessary to complete the project. Ms. Hodson also shared that the lender providing the funding has asked that the Board approve a resolution conveying the A.G. Cox property to the County Commissioners, a Construction & Acquisition Agreement, and a Lease Agreement. Benjie Forest made a motion to approve the Resolution, Construction & Acquisition Agreement, and Lease Agreement, with a second from James Tripp. After a roll call vote, the motion to approve the documents to secure the local obligation bond passed unanimously.

#### COVID Update

Chair Fagundus recognized Dr. Ethan Lenker, PCS Superintendent, who shared COVID-19 updates for the district with the Board. Dr. Lenker shared the following information:

- House Bill 82
- Senate Bill 37
- United States Department of Education letter dated February 22, 2021
- Updated 2020-2021 Academic Calendar extending virtual Mondays for the remaining of the school year
- Early Start 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Dr. Lenker discussed the possibility, that if the State allows districts to start school early, PCS may update the start of school to August 16, 2021.

Dr. Lenker also thanked Dr. John Silvernail, Pitt County Health Director, and Van Smith, Executive Vice President at Vidant, for their collaboration with Pitt County Schools to vaccinate over 1300 employees last week.

Next, Dr. Lenker shared that earlier in the day senior staff hosted a visit from DPI leaders, which included a visit to the Technical Academy at Pitt Community College and the Early College at ECU. Dr. Lenker shared that the State Superintendent chose PCS due to it being one of the largest school districts to hold in-school instruction since day one of the pandemic. Dr. Lenker stated that the visit was a testament to our teachers, community, and support from our Board and the senior leadership staff.

5. Closing Comments

The Superintendent, Board Members, and Chair Fagundus shared closing comments.

6. Closed Session

Vice Chair Tracy Everette-Lenz moved to go into closed session pursuant to Section 143.318.11(a)(3) of the North Carolina General Statutes for the purpose of consulting with the Board's attorney and to preserve attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Anna Barrett Smith. After a roll call vote, the motion to go in to Closed Session passed unanimously. The time was 7:30 pm.

7. Return to Open

At 7:48 a.m., Anna Barrett Smith made a motion to return to Open Session with a second from Caroline Doherty. After a roll call vote, the motion to return to Open Session passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn

Chair Fagundus called for a motion to adjourn which was made by Caroline Doherty and seconded by Benjie Forrest. After a roll call vote, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The time was 7:49 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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Melinda Fagundus, Chair

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Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary