

**PATRICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
104 Rucker Street – P.O. Box 346
Stuart, Virginia 24171**

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 10, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Patrick County High School Auditorium
215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171**

Present: Mr. Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
Mr. Walter L. Scott, Vice Chairman
Ms. Amy E. Walker
Ms. Shannon R. Harrell

Mr. C. Dean Gilbert, Division Superintendent
Ms. Andrea J. Cassell, Assistant Superintendent - Instruction
Ms. Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk

Absent: Mr. Ryan S. Lawson

Other staff members: Mr. Jason Wood, Director of Operations
Ms. Lynne E. Hylton, Technology

Mr. Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

No. 25664 Opening Ceremonies

- (a) Pledge of Allegiance (IEA)
- (b) Moment of Silence (IE)

No. 25665 Public Comment

Ms. Raina F. Brim – Diversity and Equity Committee, was present to update the progress of this group. Since July, the group has been engaged in monthly meetings, to discuss issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion of all students.

These areas of concern they are asking the school board to consider some actions to support all students:

1. Anti – Racism Policy
2. Dress Code
3. Consideration of students with 504 plans to be able to attend school – 4 days a week – along with “at – risk” students (students failing two or more subjects to be able to attend school four days a week.

Ms. Alice Willingham, VEA Representative for Patrick County

Staff increasingly concerned about safety

Patrick County and Pittsylvania school divisions having in school classes. Eight others consider the risk too great.

Students coming to school due to possible exposure from family or immediate household members.

Risk to students and staff too great.

Teachers working harder than ever.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Gilbert's report included the following:

1. First, I do want to take a moment to clarify a couple of items. As reported by Taylor Boyd in The Enterprise yesterday, the school system did survey staff members and parents. The headline is misleading since it indicates that the majority of people surveyed favor sending students back to school which according to the statistics in the article is not the case with the current CDC guidance. The results of the surveys do indicate that people do favor sending the students back when guidance changes to allow this to happen.
2. In addition, there was an article about the sales tax ordinance and what would be done with the revenue from the ordinance, since this is dedicated to school renovations. During the 2019-2020 school year, the school system took part in a facility study completed by a third party. The final report details what items at each school need to be repaired or replaced within the next ten years. It is our intention to follow the recommendations of the facility report.
3. Patrick County Public Schools is continuing to operate on the AA/BB Hybrid schedule. We have continued to work through positive COVID cases and exposures. Even though we have seen a rise in the cases involving the schools, we still have no indication that the virus has been spread within the school setting. This is due to mitigation strategies that have been put in place and are being followed by the staff and students. The situations we have dealt with involved people being exposed outside of the school setting.
4. The end of the second nine weeks is scheduled for December 18th. This will mark the end of the first semester for the high school students. The main SOL testing for the semester is scheduled to end tomorrow, December 11th, however we will have some makeup and retakes to administer. December 18th will be an early dismissal day for the school division. Staff will return to work on January 4th for a workday. Students are scheduled to return to class on January 5th, 2021.
5. As stated, we have seen a rise in cases in the county that has affected the school system since the Thanksgiving break. With the Christmas break in the near future, school system personnel are extremely concerned that we may be in line for another surge in cases the first couple of weeks after the break. Given what we have seen these past nine days, we think it would be prudent to consider moving the school system back to a complete virtual modality from January 5th to January 15th. The school system would then return to the current hybrid plan with students returning to in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 19th. This would allow for a 14-day period between the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays and students returning to school. The School Board is scheduled to meet on January 14th, 2021 and could discuss extending the virtual learning modality should the current community transmission situation dictate a decision on how to proceed. In short, it is the recommendation of the administration that Patrick County Public Schools return to virtual learning from January 5th to January 15th, 2021.
6. Current statistics for school system: 44 active cases, 16 staff members quarantined, 60 students quarantined. As stated previously, we have had no indication of any COVID transmissions in the school setting.

Mr. Wood indicated that meal delivery would be in place for all that sign up for this. Delivered over 1000 meals per day.

After a lengthy discussion by school board members each expressing their opinion of going virtual until January 19, 2021.

Superintendent Gilbert again made his recommendation for schools to go to virtual until January 19, 2021.

No. 25667 **Virtual – January 19, 2021**

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Simmons for schools to remain virtual until January 19, 2021.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons,
Nays: Scott, Walker
Absent: Lawson

Tie Vote – Did not carry

No. 25668 **Consent Agenda – Item a**

Item a was pulled for correction.

On motion by Mr. Simmons seconded by Ms. Harrell to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes as corrected.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons, Scott, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25669 **Consent Agenda – Items b, c, d**

On motions by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Walker to approve Items b, c, and d of the consent agenda.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons, Scott, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25670 **Budget Amendment**

Mr. Gilbert informed the school board that three grants had been received by the school system and that the school budget needs to be adjusted to reflect these additional funds.

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the budget amendment as requested.

Copy of budget amendment attached.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons, Scott, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25671 **School Resource Officer’s MOU**

The Patrick County Sheriff’s Office has supported the school system by providing an SRO in each of our schools. The state law changed and this must be done every two years to update the MOU.

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Harrell to approve the School Resource Officer’s MOU as requested.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons, Scott, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25672 **School Board Meeting Schedule – Calendar Year 2021**

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Ms. Harrell to approve the School Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2021.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons, Scott, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

Copy of schedule attached to minutes

No. 25673 **School Calendar – School Year 2021-2022**

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the School Calendar for School Year 2021-2022 as presented.

Ayes: Harrell, Simmons, Scott, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

Copy of school calendar attached to minutes

No. 25674 **Closed Session**

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (A) of the Code of Virginia and a motion by Ms. Harrell and seconded by Mr. Scott that Patrick County School Board convene in a closed meeting at 6:35 p.m. to consider:

- a. §2.2-3711 (A)(1) for discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of employees of the school board.

- a. Monthly Personnel Report

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Scott to come out of closed session at 7:00 p.m.

Ayes: Harrell, Scott, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25675 **Certification of Closed Session**

WHEREAS, the Patrick County School Board had convened a closed meeting of the date pursuant to an affirmative record vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Patrick County School Board that such closed meeting was conducted with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Patrick County School Board hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public businesses were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Ayes (by Roll Call): Harrell, Scott, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25676 **Personnel/Addendum**

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Ms. Walker to approve Personnel/Addendum as amended.

Ayes: Harrell, Scott, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

No. 25677 **Adjournment**

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Ms. Harrell to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Ayes: Harrell, Scott, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson

Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
Patrick County School Board

Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk
Patrick County School Board