

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

**MINUTES FOR CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.
Patrick County High School Auditorium
215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171**

Present: Mr. Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
Mr. Ryan S. Lawson
Ms. Amy E. Walker

Electronic
Communication: Ms. Shannon Harrell
Mr. Walter Scott

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

Other staff members: Mr. Jason Wood, Director of Operations
Mr. Terry Harris, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

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

No. 25656 Opening Ceremonies

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

Superintendent Gilbert advised the school board that two members were absent and it would be necessary to approve the member's participation by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting location by electronic communication.

No. 25657 Electronic Communication – Ms. Shannon Harrell (BDD)

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Lawson to allow Ms. Shannon Harrell to participate in school board meeting from home for personal reasons. (Isolation)

Ayes: Lawson, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None
Not Present: Harrell, Walker

No. 25658 Electronic Communication – Mr. Walter Scott (BDD)

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Lawson to allow Mr. Walter Scott to participate in school board meeting from home for personal reasons. (Isolation)

Ayes: Lawson, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None
Not Present: Harrell, Walker

No. 25659

Public Comments:

The following spoke in favor of allowing the VHSL Guidelines – VHSL Recommendations, Back to play, PCHS Region 6, Executive Order Update, VHSL Spectators:

Mr. Derrick Williams
Ms. Candice Fulcher
Mr. Christian Reynolds (student – senior)
Mr. Adam Wright

Other Comments:

Mr. Stephen Jackson
Mr. Eric Bolt

No. 25660

Comments:

Superintendent Gilbert updated the school board on clarification of “spectators” and “participants” in Governor’s new orders:

1. Reduction from 250 to 25 spectators for in-person gatherings.
2. Twenty-five spectators do not include participants in these events.

The reduction in public and private gatherings to 25 individuals applies to “spectators” and does not include participants at those events. The Governor’s order defines “participants” as players, coaches, officials, school event staff and school administration critical to the operations of the contests, media, law enforcement, and medical services. Cheerleaders, pep bands, etc., and other student support groups, are counted as spectators in the limit of 25 allowed at events.

Athletic Director Mr. Harris reviewed the Regional Return to Play Criteria as follows:

It is recommended that coaches/sponsors follow phase II guidance for extracurricular activities when the region is experiencing high burden or transmission levels based on the 7-day regional metric, or the locality is experiencing high or highest values on any core measure using the CDC School Metrics Dashboard. Coaches/sponsors will use phase III guidance for extracurricular Activities when the region is experiencing moderate, low, or minimal burden and transmission Levels (7-day metric) and the locality is experiencing moderate, low, or lowest risk (CDC School Metric).

No. 25661

VHSL Guidelines

Each board member commented on the VHSL Guidelines.

Ryan Lawson – still in support of the VHSL guidelines, and districts around are playing

Walter Scott – step in right direction – take a step at a time until we can get back to normal

Shannon Harrell – Return to sports – guidelines are in place – safe as possible – in best interest to allow that choice whether to participate or not. Situation we did not expect to be in. The positives outweigh the negatives.

Amy Walker – Still feel based on our region it is too much of a risk. It is a very difficult decision to make. Sports will not be the only activity allowed to participate. Hard to single out one particular group.

Brandon Simmons – Referred to survey that was taken – teachers and parents preferred the blended schedule. Over 100 people quarantined right now. Recreation sports not approved.

Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Harris reviewed the guidelines again with school board.

No. 25662

VHSL Guidelines

On motion by Mr. Lawson seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the VHSL Guidelines and opt in Winter Sports.

Ayes: Harrell (Electronic), Scott (Electronic), Lawson
Nays: Simmons, Walker

No. 25663

Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Ayes: Harrell (Electronic), Lawson, Scott (Electronic), Simmons, Walker
Nays: None

Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
Patrick County School Board

Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk
Patrick County School Board