

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

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, Aug 27, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.
Patrick County High School Auditorium
Stuart, VA 24171

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

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

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

No. 25613 **Opening Ceremonies**

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

No. 25614 **Public Comment**

Comments:

1. Nancy Peters - Teachers doing an amazing job. Learning style of kids are different. Hard to keep on task. Students having trouble with chrome, I have no knowledge of Chrome. Think they would be better in classroom.
2. Justin Adams – If health conditions allowed being in school would be the preferred method of instruction. Health and safety are the top priorities. Proposal that we remain in virtual/remote instruction until October 13, 2020, the end of the first nine weeks.
Other considerations – when school reopens, virtual instruction will change. Virtual instruction will drastically change for the 30% that chose the virtual model. Currently delivering approximately 1000 breakfasts and lunches five days per week to homes. When school reopens, home deliveries will no longer be possible. Masks and social distancing continue to be top concerns for staff members and families.
Given our current health statistics and transmission in the county, we believe that staying with the virtual/remote learning option is what is best and safest for everyone
3. Trish Cassell, grandmother of three, cannot do this. Chrome books have trouble with, this is not it -overwhelming – not working
4. Jason McGhee – Fourth Grade students – Not going well - Both parents work, essential workers, virtual is too much
5. Alice Willingham - All should wear masks, check temperature, hot water for hand washing, ventilation, Covid-19 serious illness.
6. Isaiah Nickelston – welding class need to be able to have the physical touch be in school
7. Angela Rose – Has a ninth-grade student and college student that need to be helped with assignments – teachers are working with three different platforms trying very hard to help students anyway they can. Many hours are spent by teachers.

Mr. Gilbert – Revisit blended and virtual schedule. This is an issue I struggle with daily. The current health data is 31 active cases and one in quarantine. Parents make a good point. His recommendation is to stay with the Virtual Plan until the end of the first quarter and discuss at the October 8, 2020 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Walker commented on the Facebook survey she had taken. Support was to open school.

Mr. Scott – How many students on buses? Mr. D. Smith – we can have 21 on buses. We can accommodate – students should wear masks and sit where driver assigns them.

Mr. J. Wood – we have masks for all students and face shields, if needed. If cannot wear mask call Mr. Jason Wood at school board office.

Mr. Scott would like to form a committee to be informed the way that school is going. Need two members. This would be a temporary committee to know what is happening in schools. Meet once a week.

No. 25615 **Re-Opening Committee**

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Scott to form a temporary committee called the Re-Opening Committee to meet once a week to discuss the current re-opening. This committee would consist of Ms. Walker, Mr. Scott and Mr. Gilbert and other members of the administrative staff.

Ayes: Harrell, Lawson, Scott, Simmons, Walker

Nays: None

Comments from school board members included the following:

1. All teachers are working harder than ever – planning, recording – must be available for students
2. Problem with assignments not logged in as completed.
3. Mental health
4. Zoom – lots of problems with this
5. Option of all paper – cannot do virtual

No. 25616 **Blended A/B – Virtual Schedule**

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Ms. Harrell for students to have the option of the A/B schedule or virtual beginning on September 14, 2020. Masks will be mandated for all and on school buses, with exception if needed.

Ayes: Harrell, Scott, Simmons, Walker

Nays: None

Present: Lawson

No. 25617 Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Walker to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Ayes: Harrell, Lawson, Scott, Simmons, Walker

Nays: None

Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
Patrick County School Board

Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk
Patrick County School Board