

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

**MINUTES FOR EMERGENCY CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Friday, August 7, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.
Patrick County High School Library
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. 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. 25597 **Opening Ceremonies**

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

No. 25598 **Reopening Plans**

Superintendent Gilbert reported to the school board that he was recommending switching to all virtual from blended for the present time. Mr. Gilbert informed the school board as of today Friday, August 7, 2020 the VDH (Virginia Department of Health) had eight (8) new cases in Patrick County. We have 10 employees quarantined and some students also quarantined. We do not have enough substitutes to cover the classes. Mr. Gilbert recommended going to a virtual start for all students at the beginning of school year and to re-evaluate at the September 10, 2020 meeting.

Ms. A. Cassell, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, reported that plans had been made for both virtual and blended. Teachers have been trained in Google Classroom and Canvas lessons. We are prepared for virtual school to begin Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Mr. Gilbert informed the school board that all staff had reported back to work. Contracts are for 200 days for most instructional personnel. Students must attend school for 180 days or 990 teaching hours. School systems receive funds based on enrollment.

Mr. Gilbert's recommendation is to continue to work through our problems with COVID-19 until Labor Day and re-evaluate. Go virtual as we need to get students started as soon as possible.

During virtual bus drivers will deliver meals to designated students. Also, three buses will be ready for mobile hot spots where needed.

Schools need to be closed for twenty-four hours after exposure and then cleaned.

Discussions at meeting:

1. Mr. Gilbert recommended beginning school with all virtual until after Labor Day– suspected cases in building.
2. Board members concerned about negative effects of virtual learning - debated virtual versus in-class instruction.
3. Lack of internet – Hot spots have been ordered for families but must have internet. Families can pick up materials at school. Hot spots are at each school parking lot. Three buses are set up as hot spots to be used throughout county.
4. Accountability will be important for students and teachers this school year.
5. Delicate situation in the opening of schools.
6. Cannot live life on ifs and buts.
7. Speech Therapy and physical therapy can be done by Zoom.
8. 29% signed up for virtual – some classes on blended could have 3-5 students.

No. 25599 On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Mr. Simmons to go to school virtually and re-visit on August 21, 2020.

Mr. Scott amended his motion to go to school virtually until Thursday, August 27, 2020 and to re-evaluate on that date.

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

No. 25600 Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Ms. Scott to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 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