

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

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 8, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.
Patrick County High School Auditorium
215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171**

Present: Mr. Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
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. Darren Biggs, Director of Technology

Absent: Mr. Walter L. Scott, Vice Chairman
Ms. Amy E. Walker

Other staff members: Mr. Jason Wood, Director of Operations
Mr. Derrick Smith, Director of Transportation

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

No. 25631 Opening Ceremonies

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

No. 25632 Presentation

Ms. Marsha Honeycutt Marcela, former teacher at PCHS and special friend to Mr. Rigney was present to present her book “Mr. Rigney, Rigney and Me (...or is it “I””) to members of the Patrick County School Board.

No. 25633 2020 VSBA Academy Award Certificates

Superintendent Gilbert presented the 2020 VSBA Academy Award Certificates to the following:

Mr. Brandon Simmons, Award of Distinction
Mr. Walter Scott, Award of Achievement
Ms. Amy Walker, Award of Achievement
Mr. Ryan Lawson, Award of Recognition
Mr. C. Dean Gilbert, Award of Achievement
Ms. Sara Leigh Collins, Award of Achievement

No. 25634 **Public Comment**

Ms. Raina Brim, speaking on behalf of the Patrick County Friends for Equity and Justice requested the following:

That the Patrick County School Board should establish an Anti-Racism Policy for Students and Employees that should include the following:

1. The banning of the Confederate (Rebel) Flag apparel and paraphernalia in all school buildings and on all school grounds.
2. The banning of racist language.
3. Addressing micro-aggressions (subtle, often unintentional, form of prejudice. Rather than an overt declaration of racism or sexism, a microaggression often takes the shape of an offhanded comment, an inadvertently painful joke, or a pointed insult.) and racially insensitive comments or actions.
4. Straightforward consequences for violating the above items.
 - a. Awareness Conference/Training/Workshop – some type of diversity awareness training.

We believe these items should not be included in Bullying, Dress Code, or Vulgar Language Policies, but included in a separate Anti-Racism Policy.

No. 25635 **Informational Items**

a. October Calendar adjustments

Superintendent Gilbert informed the school board of the necessary October Calendar Adjustments as follows:

- 10/13 – End of 1st nine weeks / Regular School Day (Scheduled as an early dismissal)
- 10/14 – Regular Virtual Wednesday
- 10/21 – Regular Virtual Wednesday/Conference Day – Virtual & In-person by appointment
- 10/22 – Regular School Day (Scheduled as an early dismissal day)

b. Diversity and Equity Committee

Mr. Tony Mosley, Teacher at PCHS, reported on the Patrick County Diversity and Equity Committee which has been meeting since July to discuss ways to better support all PCHS Students. Requesting that school board consider these four (4) recommendations:

1. Special Education Students and English Language Students need the opportunity to attend school four days a week to ensure they are receiving the necessary accommodations and closing the achievement gap.
2. To obtain information about diversity, perceptions of treatment of ethnic groups and minorities, and the perception of confederate apparel, a student survey in grades 6-12 should be conducted.
3. Prohibiting confederate apparel should be added to the dress code.
4. The name and/or the depiction of the Hardin Reynolds Rebels mascot should be changed.

Mr. Mosley also included the positives for PCHS:

- A. PCPS is one of the 5 School Divisions in VA that does not show a discrepancy in suspensions of minorities. Only 5 out of 132 school divisions can say that and PCPS is one of them.
- B. SROs in Patrick County, 94% of the 6-12 students report that they feel safer due to our school resource officers. This is higher than the state average of 85%.
- C. Teacher/Staff Working Conditions Survey show our staff satisfaction is higher than the state average in all areas. PCPS is truly a great place to work!!!
- D. Student Climate Survey. Students report a higher than average Sense of Belonging in our schools and a low perception of being mistreated by staff members.

c. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Covid 19 quarantines and positive cases. (None of the positive cases have been traced back to the school setting.)
- 2. Meal pick-up system still in place.
- 3. Custodians are sanitizing buses on a daily basis.
- 4. Bus drivers are sanitizing buses between the morning and afternoon routes.
- 5. Offer option of four days a week to Special Education and English Language Learners beginning Monday, October 12, 2020.

No. 25636

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes (BDDG) September 10, 2020
- b. Regular Invoices (DI, DK)
- c. Monthly Financial Report
- d. Capital/Maintenance Report Improvement Report (EC, ECG, FB)
- e. VSBA Policy Service

On motion by Mr. Lawson seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the consent agenda.

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

No. 25637

Division Gifted Plan 2020-2025

Ms. Cassell reviewed the 2020-2025 plan for the Education of the Gifted which included updates. The plan will be posted on the website after approval.

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Lawson to approve the 2020-2025 Plan for the Education of the Gifted.

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

No. 25638

Bullying Prevention Month

Acknowledged the VSBA Resolution for October as Bullying Prevention Month.

On motion by Mr. Lawson seconded to Ms. Harrell to adopt the VSBA Resolution declaring October as Bullying Prevention Month.

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

No. 25639

Student Survey Proposal

Mr. Gilbert reviewed with the school board the Diversity and Equity Committee proposal for a student survey to collect data regarding race relations in Patrick County Public Schools. The committee's recommendation is to administer questions to students in Grades 6-12 via Google Form. The survey must be posted for one month and parents have option to opt out of survey.

Survey attached to minutes.

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Lawson to approve the survey to be administered to students after parents have been notified in writing at least 30 days prior according to Policy JOB.

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

No. 25640

Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (A) of the Code of Virginia and a motion by Ms. Harrell and seconded by Mr. Lawson that Patrick County School Board convene in a closed meeting at 6:04 p.m. to consider:

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

1. Personnel Report

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Lawson to come out of closed session at 6:23 p.m.

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

No. 25641

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

No. 25642

Personnel

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Lawson to approve Personnel as amended.

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

No. 25643

Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Scott to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

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

Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman
Patrick County School Board

Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk
Patrick County School Board