

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

**Minutes for Regular School Board Meeting  
Thursday February 11, 2021  
5:30 p.m. – Patrick County High School Auditorium**

The Patrick County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Patrick County High School, 215 Cougar Lane, Stuart, VA 24171.

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

Electronic  
Communication: Ms. Shannon R. Harrell

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  
Mr. Jason A. Wood, Director of Operations

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

**No. 25698 Opening Ceremonies**

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

Superintendent Gilbert advised the school board that one member was 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. 25699 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.

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

**No. 25700 School Board Appreciation Month**

Superintendent Gilbert recognized the following school board members and clerk:

Ms. Shannon R. Harrell, Blue Ridge District  
Mr. Brandon J. Simmons, Dan River District  
Ms. Amy E. Walker, Mayo River District  
Mr. Ryan S. Lawson, Peters Creek District  
Mr. Walter L. Scott, Smith River District  
Ms. Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk

**No. 25701      Announcements**

Acknowledged the following Virtual Conferences:

Virtual Hot Topic Conference – March 17, 2021-April 13, 2021

**No. 25702      Dedication Service – Martin F. “Fill” Clark Field House**

Set date for the dedication – Ms. Harrell requested before March 10, 2021

**No. 25703      Public Comment**

Mr. Lawson and Ms. Walker read letters from parents relative to opening of schools.

**No. 25704      Superintendent’s Report**

Governor Northam Updated Goals

- In-person learning by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Summer school to address learning loss

Definition of Governor’s Goals

- In-person learning by March 15<sup>th</sup> is defined as the opportunity for in-person instruction even in a hybrid model for at least certain populations including PK-3, English Learners, Students with Disabilities and At-Risk populations.
  - The goal emphasizes the need to maximize the number of students while following all mitigation strategies.
  - Current instructional plans meet this requirement.
  - Currently 67% hybrid 33% virtual
- The use of Summer School to address learning loss is optional, not mandatory.
  - Learners should be given the opportunity to “catch up”.
  - PCPS Summer School plan meets the requirement.

What we have already accomplished related to these goals

- August 11, 2020 PCPS opened with total virtual instruction
- September 14, 2020 PCPS transitioned to a hybrid model of instruction with families choosing 2 days per week or total virtual learning.
- October 12, 2020 PCPS invited students with disabilities and English learners to attend 4 days per week.
- January 11, 2021 students with 504 plans were invited to attend 4 days per week.
- February 1, 2021 at-risk learners in grades PK-2 were invited to attend 4 days per week.
- Summer School is scheduled for 4 weeks in June with jobs posted for teacher and staff. Staffing will determine locations for in-person Summer School.

Next steps

- February 18, 2021 at-risk 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and at-risk high school students are invited to attend 4 days per week.
- Classroom capacity charts have been updated for 3’ distance in classrooms
- Extended bus capacity has been made available and communicated to families in anticipation of the 2/18 additions.
- PCPS staff members will receive 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID vaccination on February 26, 2021
- Family survey results for the final quarter are being evaluated for additional returns to the classroom.

Plan moving forward

- With the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of vaccinations occurring on February 26 and the 2-week period to achieve full efficacy being attained by mid-March, PCPS plans to open 4 days per week for any students who choose on March 15, 2021. The options for learning will be either full virtual or 4 days per week. The selection that families made in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Survey will lock their instructional choice for the remainder of the year. It should be noted that while 6’ of spacing is preferred, 3’ is allowable according to AAP. PCPS will make every effort to

maintain 3' of spacing in classrooms, common spaces and buses. Students and staff members will continue to be required to wear face coverings. Any and all changes are contingent upon future and current CDC guidance.

Following the Superintendent's Report discussion followed by school board members relative to opening on March 15, 2021 of in-person instruction. School board felt they were not informed that this would be the date that students would have the choice of return to school four (4) days a week.

Mr. Gilbert informed the school board that a survey had been sent to parents requesting whether the parent would prefer the student to attend school for in school instruction four (4) days per week or to attend virtual. Once the choice is made it must remain the same for this school year.

Mr. Scott would like for this plan to be voted on by school board.

Mr. Lawson stated this plan was approved months ago and does not see the need to vote again.

**No. 25705**      **School opening – March 15, 2021**

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Scott to support the administration recommendation of March 15, 2021 to return to school four (4) days per week.

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

**No. 25706**      **Consent Calendar**

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Minutes January 14, 2021 (BDDG)
- b. Regular Invoices (DI, DK)
- c. Monthly Financial Report (DI, DK)
- d. Capital Improvement Reports (EC, ECG, FB)

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

**No. 25707**      **Local Special Education Plan**

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the Special Education Plan as presented.

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

**No. 25708**      **Resolution – Worker's Compensation – School Board Members**

On motion by Mr. Lawson seconded by Ms. Harrell to approve adding the worker's compensation insurance for school board members. Benefits only extend to work-related accidents that are within the scope of their duties and considered compensable under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act.

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

**No. 25709**      **Closed Session**

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (A) of the Code of Virginia and a motion by Mr. Scott and seconded by Ms. Walker that Patrick County School Board convene in a closed meeting at 6:05 p.m. to consider:

1. 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)(2).
  - a. Personnel Report
  - b. Mid-Year Superintendent Evaluation

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

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Walker to come out of closed session at 7:10 p.m.

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

**No. 25710**      **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 (electronic), Lawson, Scott, Simmons, Walker  
Nays: None

**No. 25711**      **Personnel/Addendum**

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

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

Mr. Scott commented on rumors circling about closing schools. He wanted to reiterate that no plans or discussion had taken place about closing schools.

No. 25712 **Adjournment**

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Walker to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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Brandon J. Simmons, Chairman  
Patrick County School Board

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Sara Leigh D. Collins, Clerk  
Patrick County School Board