

**Perquimans County Board of Education
Regular Session – July 27, 2020**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the administrative offices of Perquimans County Schools. This meeting was held in accordance with Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 141, Section 7, which states that the prohibition on Mass Gatherings does not apply to educational institutions or government operations. However, social distancing was observed and as a result, seating was limited. In addition, in accordance with Executive Order No. 147, face coverings were worn unless an exception applied. Audio access was available to the public by dialing a telephone number and entering an access code and pin number.

Board Chair Dr. Anne White called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Arlene Yates led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and Russell Lassiter said a prayer.

Mary Kay Peele called the roll for those attending virtually and announced those who were present in the boardroom. Board members who participated virtually were Amy Spaugh and Leary Winslow. Board members who were present in the boardroom were Dr. Anne White, Russell Lassiter, Matt Peeler, and Arlene Yates. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Oath of Office

Clerk of Superior Court Todd Tilley issued the oath of office to Russell Lassiter and Arlene Yates. (Leary Winslow took the oath of office earlier at the Clerk's office.)

Code of Ethics Statement

In accordance with Board Policy 2120, board members signed a code of ethics statement that included the provisions in the policy. This is done yearly at the annual organizational meeting of the board as board members must adhere to a code of ethics as required by G.S. 160A-86 and G.S. 115C-47(57).

Election of Officers

Dr. White relinquished the gavel to Superintendent Tanya Turner to conduct the election of the Chair.

The floor was open for nominations. Arlene Yates nominated Dr. Anne White for Chair. Russell Lassiter seconded the nomination. Matt Peeler nominated himself for Chair. Following the nominations, Mr. Lassiter and Mr. Peeler offered brief comments.

There being no further nominations, a roll call vote was conducted in the order the nominations were received. The Board voted 5 to 1, with Matt Peeler opposing, in favor of Dr. White for Chair. The Board voted 1 to 5, with Anne White, Amy Spaugh, Russell Lassiter, Leary Winslow and Arlene Yates opposing, in favor of Matt Peeler for Chair. Therefore, Dr. Anne White was voted Chair by majority vote.

Ms. Turner relinquished the gavel to Dr. White to conduct the election of the Vice Chair.

The floor was open for nominations. Arlene Yates nominated Amy Spaugh for Vice Chair. Matt Peeler nominated himself for Vice Chair. Following the nominations, Mr. Peeler presented brief comments.

There being no further nominations, the Board voted 5 to 1, with Matt Peeler opposing, in favor of Amy Spaugh for Vice Chair. The Board voted 1 to 5, with Anne White, Amy Spaugh, Russell Lassiter, Leary Winslow and Arlene Yates opposing, in favor of Matt Peeler for Vice Chair. Therefore, Amy Spaugh was voted Vice Chair by majority vote.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2020 regular meeting as presented.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Amy Spaugh and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Student Transfer Requests Report for July 27, 2020 as presented by Superintendent Tanya Turner.

Upon motion by Arlene Yates and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel recommendations in the Personnel Summary Report and addendum for July 27, 2020 as presented by Superintendent Tanya Turner.

Public Hearing / Requests from the Public

Instructions were provided in the agenda for participation during the public comment period. Evan Copeland, band teacher at Perquimans County High School, addressed the Board regarding the proposed plan for students to return to school during Phase 2 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

New Business

Application under ESEA and ESSA

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Matt Peeler, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to act as the Board's representative to file an application under The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) as presented by Assistant Superintendent James Bunch.

Finance

Budget Amendments

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted unanimously to approve State (Fund 1) – Budget Amendment #9 for FY ending June 30, 2020 and Child Nutrition (Fund 5) – Budget Amendment #2 for FY ending June 30, 2020 as presented by Chief Finance Officer Rube Blanchard.

Monthly Finance Report

Mr. Blanchard provided a Fund Balance Report for YE June 30, 2020 for Local (Fund 2) and Capital Outlay (Fund 4). For Local (Fund 2), the report indicated an approximate available fund balance of \$202,786.00 for FY 2020-2021. The report provided an expected available fund balance of \$53,277.70 for Capital Outlay (Fund 4). He also provided a finance update for FY 2021. The report included information on initial state allotments, Corona Virus Relief Funds, and State Technology Funding.

Capital Outlay Priorities

Upon motion by Russell Lassiter and second by Arlene Yates, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised Capital Outlay priorities as presented by Director of Maintenance Jamie Johnson. The Level I priorities include chillwater plant overhaul, repaint exterior at PCMS, paint middle school interior, paint high school interior, paint middle school exterior, and engineering fees.

Perquimans County Schools Re-Entry Plan 2020-2021

Superintendent Tanya Turner presented information about Perquimans County Schools Re-Entry Plan for 2020-2021. Per the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCHHS), all public schools were directed to prepare three reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. These reopening plans were necessary to ensure educational services would be continued for all students regardless of the metrics for COVID-19. School systems were directed to be prepared to move from one plan to another as the metrics change. Plan A would have minimal social distancing (all students in school at the same time). Plan B would have moderate social distancing (limit density in facilities to meet NCDHHS requirements). For Plan C, schools would be closed (no students in school facilities – 100% remote teaching/learning).

According to Ms. Turner, results from a parent survey indicated that 63% of parents would feel comfortable sending their child(ren) to school every day with additional health and safety procedures in place. Approximately 34% of parents indicated they would prefer Remote Learning only. Of the 724 parents who completed the survey, there were 268 that noted comments or concerns.

Following the Governor's announcement that schools would operate under Plan B with the option for Plan C for the 2020-2021 school year, the district held a registration to determine the number of parents that would opt for remote learning versus face-to-face. As of July 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., there were 383 or approximately 23.7% registered for remote learning.

Ms. Turner explained the building capacity for each school based on square footage with the mandatory six feet requirement. She noted that this posed a big problem for school systems, especially those with older buildings. With furniture removed from classrooms to allow for a maximum of student desks all facing forward, 900 sq. ft. would equal 15 students.

After coming up with at least seven different plans for a hybrid Plan B, the following plan was presented for students' return to school. Under Plan B, Perquimans County Schools will serve students K-6 remotely on Monday and face-to-face in grades K-6 Tuesday through Friday. Face-to-face for K-6 will occur at PCS (K-2), HGS (3-4), and PCMS (5-6). Students in grades 9-12 will receive face-to-face instruction on Monday at PCHS. They will receive instruction remotely Tuesday through Friday. Students in grades 7-8 will receive face-to-face instruction on Tuesday and Wednesday at PCHS and remote instruction on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. This plan will accommodate the requirement of buses to have only one child per seat. Once this plan can be evaluated, it may be revised to include more face-to-face time for 7-12 if transportation allows, funding permits, and social distancing can be achieved. Under Plan B, Perquimans County Schools will also implement remote or other learning options for the subset of students in K-12 whose families decide the student needs to remain at home because the student and/or family member(s) are at high-risk for COVID-19.

Ms. Turner explained safety requirements for staff and students and some of the challenges this plan poses.

Chief Academic Officer of Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Fields presented the Remote Instruction Plan for Perquimans County Schools. Pursuant to SB704 (SL2020-3) and SBE policy SPLN-006, each Public School Unit had to submit a Remote Instruction Plan to enable a framework of quality remote instruction by July 20, 2020. Perquimans' plan was submitted on July 8, 2020.

The plan contained information on how input and feedback were gathered for the plan and how the plan would be communicated to parents, students, teachers and the community. It outlined how teachers and staff would be trained on the use of remote instruction resources and the process for student submission of completed work. It provided information on defining and communicating staff roles and responsibilities and expectations for remote learning days, including teacher workdays.

The plan described how the district surveyed students and staff on home connectivity to provide remote instruction that is appropriate for teachers and students with limited connectivity capability. It also explained how the district would engage with community partners to provide free broadband access or connectivity for remote instruction.

The plan provided information on how the district would develop effective design and delivery of remote instruction lessons within professional learning communities and how students would be taught to access and use remote instruction platforms and methods, including how to locate, complete and submit assignments. It explained how learning targets will be communicated to students on remote instruction days and how remote instruction materials will be monitored for quality. It stated how remote instructional time, practice, and application components support learning growth that continues towards mastery of the standard course of study.

The plan outlined how students with disabilities will have equal access to the remote instruction and how the remote instruction is provided in a manner consistent with each student's individualized education program or 504 plan.

The plan described how the district will track and report attendance on remote instruction days, including protocols for determining attendance, the reporting system to be used, and how attendance procedures will be communicated to parents before remote instruction begins. It provided information on how students can communicate with teachers or staff for remote instruction days that are not used as teacher workdays and how technology support will be provided for students experiencing technical difficulties on remote instruction days.

The plan addressed how the district will respond to the needs of English learners, Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted learners and students who have been identified and are served under the McKinney-Vento Act as homeless.

In addition, the plan contained information on providing students and parents/families with remote learning strategies and behaviors to support success and how remote learning would impact existing programs such as Transition to Kindergarten and Career and College Promise.

After a time of questions and discussion, the following action was taken. Upon motion by Leary Winslow and second by Russell Lassiter, the Board voted 4 to 1, with Matt Peeler opposing, to adopt Plan B with the option for remote learning. (Amy Spaugh did not vote because she had to logoff the Zoom meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Turner reminded the Board that the Perquimans County High School graduation ceremony would be held on Friday, July 31, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., weather permitting. Albemarle Regional Health Services and school nurses will assist with temperature checks as guests enter the athletic complex. Seating for each graduate and their four guests will be socially distanced and graduates will march in socially distanced. There will be a special area designated for board members and staff will be seated in the bleachers. Masks are required to be worn until individuals are seated. The rain date is Saturday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Board Chair's Comments

Dr. White noted that several of our employees have been recognized recently for the outstanding work they are doing in our district. (Amy Spaugh logged back in the Zoom meeting at 8:45 p.m.) She stated that Mr. Winslow noted that it is important for us to tell our story in our community of great things that are happening in Perquimans County Schools.

Announcements

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, August 24, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Dr. Anne White, Chairperson



Tanya Turner, Superintendent