

**Perquimans County Board of Education  
Special Meeting – March 15, 2021**

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 4:00 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 face coverings were worn unless an exception applied. Audio access was available to the public by dialing a telephone number and entering a meeting ID and passcode.

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

Board members present: Board Chair Dr. Anne White (in person), Vice Chair Amy Spaugh (in person), Matt Peeler (in person), Leary Winslow (in person), and Arlene Yates (in person). Russell Lassiter was absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented. The purpose of the special called meeting was to consider the transition of the middle school and high school from Plan B to Plan A.

**New Business**

Superintendent Tanya Turner presented a fourth version to our re-entry plan to begin March 22, 2021 through the end of the school year which would only impact Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans County High School. She explained that Governor Cooper vetoed SB37 for two reasons. He didn't feel that Plan A 6-12 followed the CDC's guidelines and it took away his rights to close schools. In a response to the veto, legislators came together in a bi-partisan effort to amend SB37 to SB220. Highlights of SB220 which became law March 11, 2011 include:

- All elementary schools are required to open under Plan A.
- Middle and high schools have the option to open under Plan A or Plan B. (Plan C is not an option.)
- Middle and high schools that open under Plan A must notify DHHS and describe the plan to open safely. (DHHS does not have the authority to veto a plan.)
- The bill is effective 21 days after it becomes law.
- Districts ready to open do not have to wait the 21 days.
- Students with an IEP or 504 plan must have the option to be in Plan A at the discretion of a student's parent or guardian.
- Governor maintains authority to close schools on a district-by-district basis.
- Local districts retain authority to close a school due to an outbreak or quarantine.
- Middle and high schools that open under Plan A will partner with the ABC Science Collaborative to collect data.
- School districts are permitted to add teacher workdays between the time the bill becomes law and schools reopen.
- Virtual instruction must remain an option for families.

Ms. Turner explained the current operating plans:

- K-5/Plan A: Minimal social distancing (all students in school at the same time)

- 6-12/Plan B: Moderate social distancing (limit density in facilities to meet NCDHHS requirements)
- Plan C:
  - Monday for K-8
  - Friday for 9-12
  - Remote students Monday through Friday

Face-to-face student enrollment is currently 86% at Perquimans Central, 82% at Hertford Grammar, 69% at Perquimans Middle, and 65% at Perquimans High. There are 14 PCMS students and one PCHS student on waiting lists to return face to face. Ms. Turner updated the Board on the COVID counts as of March 15, 2021. She explained that moving to Plan A does not mean safety requirements will no longer be in place. The district will continue to follow the NCDHHS guidelines that have been followed throughout the year.

Ms. Turner illustrated why Grades 6-12 should move to Plan A.

- Students who are coming for face-to-face instruction are performing better. (provided high school EOC data from first semester)
- Student failure rates are higher due to the pandemic. (provided data for each school for first semester 2020-2021, 2019-2020, 2018-2019 and second semester 2018-2019)
- Students have been able to successfully play athletics at both middle and high school with minimal quarantines and positive cases.
- Students at the middle school are on a waiting list because of lack of transportation. Plan A eliminates this obstacle.
- Moving to Plan A will most likely not result in a huge increase in face-to-face percentages, but allow those that need and want to return the opportunity to do so for a full nine weeks before testing.
- Students need social and emotional support that is not provided in a remote setting.
- Over 100 of our staff members have received the vaccination and vaccines are available almost on demand as people make decisions best for them.
- Students have the opportunity to earn more workplace credentials such as fire technology that are only offered in a face-to-face setting.
- OCS students who are face-to-face will be able to receive more school-based work hours that are required for graduation (150).
- OCS students who have transportation barriers and are face-to-face will be able to receive more community-based hours (225).
- Positive COVID cases for our school system have been extremely low with little to no transmission resulting in secondary cases.

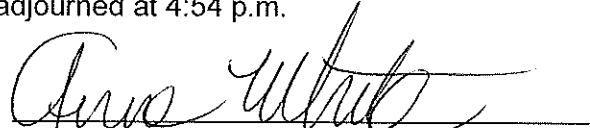
Next steps would include transportation changes for 6-12 (pick up and drop off times, routes and drivers, number of buses at PCMS and PCHS); desks at PCMS; communication to parents; and a plan being submitted to NCDHHS. The start date of March 22<sup>nd</sup> would provide 9 full 4-day weeks at PCHS prior to exams. Remote students returning for face-to-face will have 9 full 4-day weeks prior to EOGs at PCMS. There will be no changes for grades K-5. Remote days will be maintained on Monday for grades K-8 and Friday for grades 9-12.

Following a brief time of questions and discussion, the Board took the following action. Upon motion by Matt Peeler and second by Leary Winslow, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with Plan A for grades 6-12 while maintaining an option for remote learning for grades K-12.

**Announcement**

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at CO

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

  
Dr. Anne White, Chairperson

  
Tanya Turner, Superintendent