

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

Minutes for Public Hearing and Regular School Board Meeting
Patrick County Administration Building – Third Floor
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

The Patrick County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Patrick County Administration Building Third Floor Courtroom, 106 Rucker St., Stuart, VA 24171.

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

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. 25498 Opening Ceremonies

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

No. 25499 Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (A) of the Code of Virginia and a motion by Mr. Scott and seconded by Ms. Harrell that Patrick County School Board convene in a closed meeting at 6:05 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)(2).
 - i. Monthly Personnel Report
- b. Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record §2.2-3711(A)(1) §22.1-254, a school board excuse from attendance at school: Any pupil who, together with his parents, by reason of “bona fide religious training or belief” does not include essentially political, sociological or philosophical views of a merely personal moral code.
 - i. Religious Exemptions

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Ms. Walker to come out of closed session at 6:30 p.m.

No. 25500 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, Scott, Simmons, Walker
Nays: None

No. 25501 Personnel/Addendum

On motion by Mr. Lawson seconded by Ms. Walker to approve Personnel/Addendum as amended.

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

No. 25502 Religious Exemptions – RE2019-2020-05

On motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. Scott to approve Religious Exemption RE2019-2020-05 as requested.

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

No. 25503 Public Hearing on Patrick County Public Schools Budget 2020-2021

a. Public Comment

No one was present to make public comment.

No. 25504 Announcement and Recognition

VSBA Blue Ridge Spring Forum – May 6 – deadline April 22

Brandon Simmons
Walter Scott
Amy Walker
Dean Gilbert

School Law Conference – June 6, 2020

Brandon Simmons
Walter Scott
Dean Gilbert

Conference on Education – July 21, 2020

No. 25505 No Kid Hungry – 2020 Hero Hall of Fame

Mr. Gilbert recognized Ms. Darlene Rogers for being awarded the “2020 No Kid Hungry” Breakfast Hero Hall of Fame.

No. 25506 Citizens’ Time

Ms. Alice Willingham, Piedmont Uniserv spoke about teacher scale and the need to adjust them. Salary comparison with other divisions in her district.

No. 25507 Reports

School Board Report – None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Gilbert reported on the School Law Conference, major changes are coming SOL testing, Guidance, Early Childhood – School Board Members need to attend if possible.

No. 25508 Consent Calendar

- a. Minutes (BDDG) February 13, 2020
- b. Regular Invoices (DI, DK)
- c. Capital Improvement (EC, ECB, FB)
- d. Monthly Financial Report (DI, DK)
- e. Overnight Fieldtrips (IICA-R)

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Mr. Lawson to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Ayes: Harrell, Lawson, Scott, Simmons, Walker

Nays: None

No. 25509 New Business

- a. 2020-21 Patrick County Public Schools Budget Presentation

- (1) 2020-21 Patrick County Public Schools Proposed Budget

Superintendent Gilbert reviewed the PCPS Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 with school board members.

Factors influencing the school budget –

- First year of the new biennium – SOQ were re-benchmarked
- Local composite Index rose from .2396 to .2481
- VRS rate rose from 15.68% to 16.62%
- Governor’s proposed budget includes a 3% raise in the second year
- Changes to minimum wage

b. Building Committee Report

Mr. Gilbert updated the board on the following:

- Original placement for building (1st base side of baseball field) would not work due to “fill dirt”. We had a compaction test done and the results were not good.
- Alternate location to place building in the baseball field parking lot. This would cause us to lose approximately 17 parking spots.
- Terry Harris, Tal Swails, Wayne Scott, Keith Puckett, Jason Brown, and Matt Rorrer met at new location to determine site would be acceptable.
- We also reviewed map of property lines to determine if we could add parking to the area we would lose by putting building in parking lot.
- Based on where we believe the property line to be, we think we can make up more than the 17 spots we would be losing. We are waiting to have that property line marked so we can make plans for parking.
- Also included an update on the media center.

c. Cell Phone Policy Update – PCHS

Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Cox reviewed the change in cell phone policy to explain the reason behind requested change as follows:

Each year PCHS revisits and revamps our PCHS Handbook to make sure it is a viable and information document for our students, parents, and all stakeholders. This issue has been addressed according to our present policy and the issue still exists. There are numerous studies that have recently reported the disruption potential of all cell phones in the educational setting. PCHS has started to experience many of these issues. PCHS has tried to deal with it as outlined in our past policy. Cell phones are a hindrance to the educational process by distracting students from daily lessons, providing students avenues to arrange meeting times out of class, halting teacher’s instruction to deal with cell phone incidents, and potentially causing wireless slow downs during instructional time. I met with my Principal Advisory Team two weeks ago and they were overwhelmingly in support of tighter restrictions on student cell phone use.

After discussion of this change the school board requested that a letter be sent out to parents informing them of this change.

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Mr. Lawson to approve the cell phone policy change.

Ayes: Harrell, Lawson, Scott, Simmons, Walker

Nays: None

d. Policies

Mr. Gilbert reviewed the following:

1. Authorized Use of School Owned Facilities and Materials (EDC-R)
2. Student Wellness Regulations (JHCF-R)
3. Use of Facilities Application and Regulations (KG-R)
4. Additional policies updated via February 2020 VSBA Policy release

Major policy updates are received in February and May.

On motion by Mr. Scott seconded by Ms. Harrell to approve the policy updates.

Ayes: Harrell, Lawson, Scott, Simmons, Walker

Nays: None

e. Health Insurance

Mr. Gilbert updated the school board on the Health Insurance RFP. The recommendation is to stay with our current insurance carrier Benefit Plan Administrator (BPA). Proposed rates will be available at a later date – we do expect an increase to the employee rate.

This placed back on agenda for March 26, 2020.

No. 25510 Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Harrell seconded by Ms. Walker to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 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