



*“State of Alabama, Proclamation by the Governor dated March 18, 2020*

*Section III. Open Meetings Act:*

- A. Notwithstanding any provision of the Open Meetings Act, members of a governmental body may participate in a meeting – and establish a quorum, deliberate, and take action – by means of telephone conference, video conference, or other similar communications equipment if:
  - 1. Any deliberation conducted, or action taken, during the meeting is limited to matters within the governmental body’s statutory authority that is (a) necessary to respond to COVID-19 or (b) necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body; and*
  - 2. The communications equipment allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear one another at the same time.**
- B. Governmental bodies conducting a meeting pursuant to this section are encouraged, to the maximum extent possible, to use communications equipment that allows members of the public to listen to, observe, or participate in the meeting.*
- C. No less than twelve hours following the conclusion of a meeting conducted pursuant to this section, a governmental body shall post a summary of the meeting in a prominent location on its website – or, if it has no website, in any other location or using any other method designed to provide reasonable notice to the public. The summary shall recount the deliberations conducted and the actions taken with reasonable specificity to allow the public to understand what happened*
- D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend, or modify any other provision of the Open Meetings Act, including the notice requirements found in section 36-25A-3 and the enforcement, penalty, and remedy provisions found in section 36-25A-9. Any action or actions taken in violation of paragraph A will be deemed invalid.*
- E. To the maximum extent possible, the terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in section 36-25A-2 of the Open Meetings Act.”*



*Due to the COVID-19 public health concern, the Dothan City Board of Education will hold their Board Meetings through ZOOM Webinar as well as limited capacity public viewing at the Dothan City Board of Education, Board room, 1665 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 1. Due to social distancing standards, physical capacity for the Board Room is limited to 50 participants while our COVID-19 risk level is low or moderate (Green or Yellow). **Due to the recent Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Risk Indicator update or Orange (High Risk), Dothan City Schools November 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting is now limited to 20 participants per ADPH guidance.** Participants may still view the meeting via ZOOM webinar. Those who have made prior notification to participate will remain on the in-person agenda. Board Meetings will be held in this manner until further notice. (See the State of Alabama, Proclamation by Governor Ivey dated March 18, 2020)*

**Per the Proclamation by the Governor, below is a summary of the discussions, deliberations and/ or actions taken on November 16, 2020. The minutes will be officially approved on December 21, 2020.**

**Regular School Board Meeting  
11/16/2020 05:00 PM  
Meeting Summary**

**Dothan City Board of Education  
ZOOM MEETING DUE TO COVID-19  
1665 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 1  
Dothan, Alabama 36305**

**Attendees:**

**Voting Members**

Mr. Mike Schmitz, Chair – Present  
Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Vice Chair - Present  
Mrs. Amy Bonds, Board Member – Present  
Mr. Franklin Jones, Board Member - Present  
Mr. Chris Maddox, Board Member – Present  
Mr. Brett Strickland, Board Member – Present  
Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Board Member – Present

**Non-Voting Members**

Dr. Dennis Coe, Acting Superintendent – Present  
Mr. Kevin Walding, Board Attorney – Present

Mr. Mike Schmitz requested, Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Vice Chair, Chair the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Moment of Silence**
3. **Presentation of Colors – Dothan High School JROTC**
4. **Pledge of Allegiance led by Selma Street Elementary School**
5. **Approval of Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications**

Motion to approve the Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

6. **Delegations: Registration of Delegations Wishing to Speak**
7. **Recognitions:**



A. Recognition of Summer Food Bus Art & Name Winners – Ms. Tonya Grier

Ms. Tonya Grier, Child Nutrition Program Director, stated the Summer Food Bus has been a vision the CNP has had for several years but with restructuring it was postponed, the Wiregrass Foundation stepped in and helped and we were able to get the bus, we had the conversion and ribbon cutting was in June and we used it this past summer. We were not able to complete the naming at the time. Thank you to thank Ann Cotton and the Cultural Arts Center for putting it out there and handling the naming and art contest. We will wrap the bus with fun art. Mrs. Meagan Dorsey announced the winners as follows:

Naming the Bus –

- 1<sup>st</sup> - The Groovy Grub Bus by Amara Menefee, Dothan Technology Center, Mrs. Gina Burdeshaw, Graphic Arts Teacher
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Magic Lunch Bus by Michael Murphy, Dothan Technology Center, Mrs. Gina Burdeshaw, Graphics Arts Teacher
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Hungry Narwhal by Bryleigh Sikora, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Kelly Springs Elementary, Crystal Forehand, Art Teacher

Art -

1<sup>st</sup> place tie -

- Carter Nguyen, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Kelly Springs Elementary, Crystal Forehand, Art Teacher – his skin covers the sides of the bus
  - Harper Breckenridge, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Kelly Springs Elementary, Crystal Forehand, Art Teacher – his skin covers the front and rear of the bus
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Alexandria Byrd, Dothan Technology Center, Mrs. Gina Burdeshaw, Graphic Arts Teacher
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jennifer Cruz, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Morris Slingluff Elementary, Crystal Forehand, Art Teacher

Ms. Tonya Grier stated all winners are provided prizes from the Wiregrass Foundation.

B. Recognition of Dothan High School Students – Mr. Bill Singleton

Spanish –

- 10<sup>th</sup> – Wesley Bass
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Andy Chen
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Juana Paiz

English –

- 10<sup>th</sup> – Grey Meredith
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Jason Thomas
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Alayna Armour

8. Board Comments - None

9. Superintendents Report

Dr. Dennis Coe addressed the following:

- Thanked Jay Bruner and the Transportation Department for being recognized by the State. They over 90 buses and the State Inspection stated there were no major deficiencies.



- Scanners are almost finished being installed.
- Our district has been selected by the SDE as a pilot for a new teacher evaluation system.
- COVID – I want to thank the custodians, nurses and other staff members for their efforts to help keep schools open and keeping schools clean
- Thank the staff for covering classes during planning periods
- Intentions are to keep schools open as long as possible, there are no plans for the future to close the schools, the only way we close is if there are not enough people to staff them
- This is Alabama Teachers Week as designated by Governor Ivey, thank you to the teachers for all they do with all the challenges they are faced with today
- DHS has had several students sign athletic scholarships
- DTC students have partnered with the Harber to construct a portable shower station for the homeless community and the goal is to completed by Christmas
- We have a lot of challenges but we have a lot to be thankful for.

#### 10. Public Comments

Mr. William Nichols addressed the Board stating we are one of hundreds of magnet school families that opposed the closing of our magnet schools, they were the best schools we had in the system and we were ignored, what we were given in return was one school Carver which was limited to 4 grades only, Dr. Chambers is wonderful and the teachers are great, what we were given was the closing of the middle schools and given DPA in return, what we said would happen is students would leave, now the Board is scratching heads over what went wrong, we applaud the effort to fix the problem, the solution is to move 9<sup>th</sup> graders to Carver and kick the students out to Cloverdale, I found out about this by the Dothan Eagle, all these students that have finally gotten into a routine at Carver will have to go somewhere else I ask you to please think about these kids and parents that have hung on to this system, the kids bused to another place to a leftover building that has been closed for 2 years and decide if you want to keep these active parents and kids that do good, please let us keep our name with all the items we have purchased with the name on it we will have to throw in the trash – let us keep our dignity of keeping our name if you are kicking us out of our school.

#### 11. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

- A. Minutes for the October 19, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Monthly Financial Reports, Accounts Payable/Payroll and Certification of Bank Reconciliations
- C. Head Start:
  - i. Head Start Financial Report
  - ii. Head Start Menu
  - iii. Enrollment and Attendance Reports
  - iv. Summary Report
- D. Donation(s)
- E. CNC Plasma Bid
- F. Resolution regarding Amber Denise McCants



## 12. Adoption of Action Items

### A. **Personnel Agenda**

Dr. Coe presented the personnel agenda and stated one of the recommendations is Patrick Mallory, a 20-year veteran with high credentials.

Motion to approve the Personnel Agenda as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

### B. **Policy Update per the Aiding and Abetting Sexual Abuse 20 U.S.C. §7926**

Dr. Debra Wright reviewed the Aiding and Abetting Sexual Abuse policy update which was required based on the Federal ESSA law.

Motion to approve the policy update per the Aiding and Abetting Sexual Abuse 20 U.S.C. §7926 as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

### C. **Move 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students from Dothan Preparatory Academy to the Carver Campus and to Relocate the Carver students to the Cloverdale Campus effective the 2021-2022 School Year**

Dr. Dennis Coe stated this is to address crowding issues, did research on some of the questions from the last meeting, the State Department will not reimburse those type of bus routes we had before, it would be a local cost, it will cost approximately \$6 per student per day to run the route , 180 days a year, a little over ½ million dollars, if the students pay it is \$1,080 a year, it is a substantial cost to run those routes, Hoover attempted to do it and it lasted a little over a year, I analyzed the number of students at Carver, 14 students within a 10 block area walk or ride their bikes and at the Cloverdale area and it is 9 students that have had to provide transportation, the net difference would be about 5 students overall, the size of campus, two stranded curriculum, structured curriculum and an individual to devise the curriculum starting in 7, 8 and 9 grades, we may have students who excel in science and math but some may be arts and music, we will have courses available to all students, parents should be involved in the naming of the schools, we will form a committee and turn it over to them and a lot of positive things that can happen because of this. Mr. Franklin Jones asked if Hoover was a failure, what were the problems. Dr. Coe stated the transportation cost was an extremely prohibitive issue, students could not afford the transportation costs. Mr. Jones stated I agree about the name and I hope the parents at Carver are represented especially maintaining the name. Dr. Coe stated we will have Board appointees on the committee and parents. Because of the December 10<sup>th</sup> deadline we have to do it now. We will have a Special Called meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and have the proposed names ready for approval on that date. Mr. Strickland stated we are currently not providing transportation to the current location we are not doing away with transportation. Dr. Coe stated correct. Mr. Maddox stated Mr. Nichols is a local attorney in town and it is hard to disagree with anything he said, good points, magnet schools were closed and moved to Carver and we were fortunate to have Dr. Chambers' leadership, if board votes to move forward no doubt Dr. Chambers will ensure those kids at Carver will continue to get the same quality education and continue to hire the same quality teachers, we have a very pressing need at DPA with the crowding situation, those issues



were discussed and made, points well taken and hard to disagree with, for me personally I have seen the issues and heard from Principals, I think what Dr. Coe is trying to do is trying to negate the problems of so many kids jammed in that school, this is a dilemma, we do not want the Carver parents to feel disrespected, I think with the big picture it is in the best interest of all the kids, I think the hard issue is the amount of students at DPA and this is a way to alleviate that problem and maintain the same Carver at a different location and we will certainly look for ways to solve the transportation problems. I speak for myself not the Board. Mrs. Guilford stated it will reduce the number of students at DPA and it is up to us to decide whether or not we are going to attempt this. With the deadline we need to go ahead and put it to a vote now.

Motion to approve the move of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students from Dothan Preparatory Academy to the Carver Campus and to Relocate the Carver students to the Cloverdale Campus effective the 2021-2022 School Year as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Franklin Jones, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

#### **D. *Create the Dothan City Virtual School for Grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>***

Motion to approve creating the Dothan City Virtual School for grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

Dr. Coe stated by notifying the State Department by December 10 we will receive state funding, students can still participate in extracurricular activities and we will be a trend setter for this area.

Mr. Kevin Walding declared the following for purposes of the Executive Session:

1. I am counsel for the Board.
2. I am an attorney-at-law who is duly licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama.
3. The matters which the Board will discuss in the Executive Session concern either pending legal matters or matters that are imminently likely to become pending legal matters.

### **13. Executive Session for Student Hearing**

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for Student Hearing as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

Mr. Schmitz left the meeting.

Motion to reconvene into Regular Session as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Franklin Jones, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Not Present, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes

No action was taken in Executive Session.



Motion to uphold the Tribunal Team's decision for student number 87816 as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Not Present, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes

#### **14. New Business**

#### **15. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Motion seconded by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Not Present, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes