



“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.”*



Per the Proclamation by the Governor, below is a summary of the deliberations/actions taken on June 15, 2020. The minutes will be officially approved on July 20, 2020.

**Special Called School Board Meeting
06/15/2020 05:00 PM
Meeting Summary**

**Dothan City Board of Education
ZOOM MEETING DUE TO COVID-19
1665 Honeysuckle Road
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. Phyllis Edwards, Superintendent – Present
Mr. Kevin Wadding, Board Attorney - Present

**Call to Order
Moment of Silence
Pledge of Allegiance**

Approval of Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications

Motion to approve the Agenda and Proposed 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

Board Comments

Mrs. Susan Vierkandt stated I attended the ribbon cutting for the bus delivery of meals. Hopefully we have 3 or 4 more in a few years. Mr. Chris Maddox stated I look forward to meeting in person again. Voices cut out and not the most effective way to meet. Mr. Brett Strickland stated I enjoyed the graduations and it was very well done. Mr. Mike Schmitz stated our principal was extraordinary.

Superintendent Report - Dr. Phyllis A. Edwards

Dr. Phyllis Edwards discussed:

- Videos made keeping everyone informed
- Plan for reopening, when complete we will share it with you, parents and stakeholders
- Giving options to parents
- Cleaning supplies and masks ordered
- Virtual software programs
- Thank you to Bill Singleton for a great job with graduation
- Thank you to the Dothan Civic Center for working it out for us
- Working on budget process, it will come before you with two different hearings



- Thank you to the food service workers, excited about the summer feeding program
- SIR report about safety and incidents from last year
- Picking 5 to 6 markers example: ACT results, graduation rate, safety – we cannot use attendance due COVID – moving forward that will be our baseline
- Testing – test 3 times a year it is through technology – teacher gets good documentation at that moment to be able to prepare and plan
- We may need to ask you for another meeting for personnel
- Congratulation to Ms. Weatherington as Principal at PASS

No action was taken on the AASB All-State School Board Member Nomination

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mr. Chris Maddox pulled Items 7.B and 7.H. Mr. Franklin Jones pulled 7.A.

Dr. Dennis Coe deleted Item F.40 from personnel agenda. He further stated on Item 7.H the Band Supplement should be a 9 plus 35 days.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda pulling Items 7.A, 7.B, 7.H and deleting Item F.40 of the Personnel Agenda as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Chris Maddox, 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

Head Start: Head Start Financial Report, May2020 Enrollment and Attendance, May 2020 Summary Report
Personnel Agenda
Gulf South Communications, Inc. Broadcast Agreement for Dothan High School Athletics
2019-2020 Annual Budget Amendment
2019-2020 SIR Report
Student Progression Guide
Approval to Sell Three Vehicles
Alternative Learning Platform Purchase - Edgenuity

Item 7.A. Minutes for the May 18, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting, May 28, 2020 and June 5, 2020 Special Called School Board Meetings

Discussion was held regarding:

Mr. Franklin Jones voiced his concerns regarding the June 5th minutes, being listed as a negative vote separately as personal reasons, receiving calls from people in his district, having to explain his vote, do not want to make the comments again, and wanting his item to be amended and his vote placed back in the normal order.

Mr. Mike Schmitz stated I think the vote should always be in order, the video is part of the minutes at all times, everybody can see it and I am open to do whatever the board wants to do.

Mr. Kevin Walding stated it is appropriate to amend the minutes if you perceive them as objectional, it is okay to reflect the reasons. I thought your comments were very appropriate last month.



Dr. Phyllis Edwards stated when minutes are done comments need to be condensed, it is more about the vote, and on this particular item there was discussion. I need to know the will of the whole board. I am trying to do what we need to do and get it out in 12 hours, it is difficult to hear everyone's exact conversation, it is all there if anybody wants to request a copy of it but you have to decide as a Board if you want verbatim. Part of my role is Board Secretary and I would suggest if you want something specific have it ready and ask it to be placed in the record. It should be a vote, discussion, and if you disagree say if you want the why. It was personnel and it was awkward. What is the direction of the whole Board. If you want us to go back and amend it. This is not a court proceeding where you do a court reporting style – what do you want me to do overall.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford expressed her concerns on how the minutes were written up, when voting not to support a recommendation I always have a reason, and I received comments immediately after it happened. I was going to make my point heard, want it to say what I said in the meeting, not here to offend anybody, and I let every board member know what I said to the Superintendent. I was clear from the beginning, if my name is going to be pulled out as a no vote then please put what I said in there.

Mrs. Susan Vierkandt stated I have never participated in a board where the minutes are taken verbatim... Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated I never said verbatim. Mrs. Susan Vierkandt continued stating it is important that when we do say something we know that most of the items are going to be summarized. If it is important go on record as saying this, it is incumbent for each of us to say I want to go on record as saying this.

Mr. Franklin Jones stated I just want to repeat what I said, I have never seen a negative vote pulled out. If my name had stayed in the list as we normally do that is where I would like my name to be.

Mr. Kevin Walding stated there is a legal distinction and some disagreement in the educational legal community about this, the Proclamation that the Governor made that allows the type of meeting we are having requires that there be a summary of the meeting within 12 hours. We are having this meeting and within 12 hours there has to be a document posted on our website. It is a difficult thing to do, some think the summary has to be detailed. I am of the opinion there should be a summary to give the community basics of what would go on, then the minutes in the normal course would come 30 days after the meeting. In the past they have been later than that for good reason. You would approve the minutes at the next meeting about 30 days, in my opinion what the Governor meant is a summary is just that, a basic statement of the business that went on. In this forum the public can join in and listen to this meeting – the distinction between the 12-hour deadline is a summary and normal course the minutes will be more detailed should be approved at the next meeting or the meeting following. As far as Ms. Brandon's job is concerned I think she does an excellent job and what the law requires is a summary of the meeting. I am of the opinion that Mr. Jones has every right to make a motion on the minutes on how he wants it to read.

Mr. Mike Schmitz called for a vote on a motion.

Motion that Mr. Franklin Jones' name was pulled out and no reason was given except personal. I want it to be put back in the regular order. I am not asking for comments. Why would it change for this occasion, strike the sentence and vote. Motion made by: Mr. Franklin Jones, 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

Dr. Phyllis Edwards stated there was not intent, we were under a difficult timeframe. We will do what you want. Mr. Franklin Jones stated since my comments were not added I want my vote placed back in the normal position with a no vote comment. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated I would like my comments to be placed by my no vote. Mr. Kevin Walding stated the paragraph before the statement records the vote there is a sentence after that to strike. Mrs. Guilford wants to include a sentence to reflect the thoughts she stated.

Motion that the person making these inflammatory remarks should be fired and this has been addressed to me in letters from many of my constituents and I am here to say that as a person of color I am offended by such. As you know I am not a Board Member that sugar coats anything. Motion made by: Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Motion seconded by: Mr. Franklin Jones, 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. Chris Maddox asked Mrs. Stephanie Walker about the financial documents in the Board packet, ending fund balance for 2020 was 11.1 million dollars, where we are in our collection of sales taxes in comparison of the last 3 or 4 years. Mrs. Stephanie Walker referred to page 47 and stated we are down a little this year as compared to 2019, I have highlighted areas, and there is the expectation of lower ad valorem.

Item 7.B. Monthly Financial Reports, Accounts Payable/Payroll and Certification of Bank Reconciliations

Motion to approve Item 7.B. of the Consent Agenda as presented and 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

Mr. Mike Schmitz left the meeting due to technical difficulties.

Item 7.H. 2020-2021 Salary and Supplement Schedules

Motion to approve tabling Item 7.H of the Consent Agenda until the next Board meeting as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Motion seconded by: Mr. Franklin Jones, 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

Mrs. Susan Vierkandt asked if tabling the item will hold up putting anyone in a position for the fall. Dr. Dennis Coe stated we proposed the move because if individuals obtain tenure on the 11 month contract we have to continue paying them at that rate. If we can we need to get it done at our July meeting. Mr. Chris Maddox asked if the salary is the same. Dr. Dennis Coe stated there is no pay raise, all salary schedules remain the same. We removed some of the supplements consolidating them and there will be a reduction of about \$30,000 in coaching supplements.

Adoption of Action Items

Athletic Policy Manual



Dr. Dennis Coe stated the Athletic Policy Manual was adopted last year. It was basically condensed it in a training manual for coaches with a few changes and modifications to the document. On page 10 the statement about tryouts states that coaches must implement a coach's rubric prior to tryouts and have it approved by the director and principals in advance. Coaches are prohibited from using tobacco on campus or during games, we added they must obtain a CDL and must attend faculty meetings held by principals.

Motion to approve the Athletic Policy Manual as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, 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

Social Media Policy

Mrs. Meagan Dorsey stated we went into detail that way there is no question on violations, checks and balances with public information office, we are presenting our brand in a specific way, making sure our employees are expected to follow our Social Media Policies and Code of Ethics, we are not actively monitoring social media accounts, we will be there for any unlawful issues or anything that goes against any of our policies, it will be something to hold our employees accountable. I took resources from across the nation and looked at what other people are doing. It includes School Board Members as well. School sponsors, PTO, etc. would have to add me as an Admin to their page as well, just as a check and balance, that way we will not have rogue pages created representing DCS.

Motion to table the Social Media Policy as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, 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

New Business

Board approved Board Meeting(s) to be held by Zoom Webinar until further notice:

Thursday, July 16, 2020, 2:00 PM - School Board Work Session
Monday, July 20, 2020, 5:00 PM - Regular School Board Meeting

Schedule of School Board Meetings

Mr. Chris Maddox requested the Board packet be delivered 7 days in advance of the meeting to have time to read it.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Brett Strickland, 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