



“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 July 30, 2020. The minutes will be officially approved on August 17, 2020.

**Special Called School Board Meeting
07/30/2020 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 Walding, Board Attorney - Present

Chris Maddox shared that he would have to leave the meeting early due to work and Amy Bonds also shared that she would have to leave the meeting prior to the Executive Session.

**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 shared that she is in full support of students returning to the classroom.

Superintendent Report – Dr. Phyllis A. Edwards

Dr. Phyllis Edwards gave a detailed report sharing the Dothan City Schools Reopening Plan was prepared with input from Department Heads and Principals. The plan is detailed and comprehensive. With every new piece of information, the staff continues to add and modify the plan. The system is following all directives; such as the Governor's Mask Directive for students – grades 2 and above.

Every effort has been made to get the information out to the staff, parents and the community. The Superintendent has made video messages and all information is posted on the system website.

Dr. Coe reported the listing of a multitude of supplies related to health and well-being of teachers and staff and equipment already purchased and indicated if supplies were already in or if there were some that the system is waiting to receive.



Dr. Edwards reported on the new information received last week from the State Department of Education about additional federal funding sources. Each of these sources comes with parameters in time to expend funds and directives on how dollars can be spent.

Lee Jacobs shared and explained each of these funding sources. She also shared how the system planned to use each of these funds. Some of the funds will be used to provide more devices for students to use in virtual learning, some to hire additional nurses and a Nurse Liaison to work collaboratively on the COVID-19 issues, with the school system and network with the Health Department, the City and other entities. The system plans to hire at least one full-time substitute to be placed in every building – every day. The system will use additional funding to hire additional virtual teachers and also more tutors to help catch students who might have lost ground academically.

Dr. Edwards explained that Dothan City Schools' Reopening Plan included from the start a hybrid plan to offer parents' choice of virtual or remote learning and also in-school classroom instruction. In order to facilitate this choice process, the system posted an on-line form that parents can access to choose virtual for their child.

Maria Johnson explained the results, to date, of the sign-up process for the remote or virtual school option. As of the writing of the agenda, the survey data shows over 2000 requests for virtual instruction. The system also asked who needed devices and internet. The system survey also asked the parents who would utilize curbside pick-up for lunches. In order to provide proper virtual instruction, each student must have a schedule, with a teacher assigned and devices required by need will be picked up by the parent. Teachers assigned to teach virtually will receive additional training from SREB.

Dr. Edwards explained that when considering the COVID-19 threat level of Houston County, the equipment and supplies to be received, the training and continued input of information and the use of funding; she decided to maintain transparency and put out a survey for parents, teachers and staff. This survey was open last week and closed this week.

Meagan Dorsey gave the results of the survey. There were 4,779 responses- the survey was provided in English and Spanish. The breakdown, according to self-reporting was 951 teachers/staff and 3828 parents. The results to the questions were: 828 votes to open as previously planned, 1,869 votes to delay the opening of school until after Labor Day, 1,679 votes to only have a virtual option for students opening on August 17, and 403 votes to open schools with half of student populations for two days and the other half for two days. Additionally, 3,758 votes were to mandate masks while 994 votes against the mandate of masks in Dothan City Schools.

After the Superintendent's Report, the Chairman called for the consideration of the Superintendent's Recommendation. The Superintendent recommended that the opening of school move to after Labor Day, September 8, 2020 for students and August 31, 2020 for teachers. Mr. Jones had a question about the internet devices or hot spots and the Technology Director will contact Mr. Jones to give an explanation. Ms. Guilford asked for clarification on the start date for students and teachers.



Recommendation from the Superintendent on ReOpening Schools on September 8, 2020 –

Motion to approve the Delayed Start Date for ReOpening Schools as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – not present, Mr. Brett Strickland – yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - yes

Adoption of Action Items

A. Personnel Agenda

Motion to approve the Personnel Agenda deleting Item H.3. as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – not present, Mr. Brett Strickland – yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – yes

Discussion: Ms. Guilford asked Dr. Coe what he believed the reasons were for the resignation of staff. Dr. Coe said it was mixed with some concerns for health and others moving or taking other positions.

A. Healthcare Liaison Job Description

Motion to approve the Healthcare Liaison Job Description as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – not present, Mr. Brett Strickland – yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – yes

Executive Session

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss legal matter as presented and 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 – not present, Mr. Brett Strickland – yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - yes

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

No action was taken in Executive Session.

New Business

No new business

Adjournment

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