



*“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 August 31, 2020. The minutes will be officially approved on September 21, 2020.

**Special Called School Board Meeting  
08/31/2020 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 – Not 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

**Call to Order**

**Moment of Silence**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications**

Motion to approve the Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications with the addition of an Executive Session to discuss legal matters as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, 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

**Board Comments**

Mr. Brett Strickland stated he is ready to get the year started and wish for a successful year. Mrs. Amy Bonds stated I wish for a great first for the schools - teachers, staff and children. Mrs. Susan Vierkandt extended sympathy to Mark Williams family, I appreciate his dedication over his years at Dothan City Schools, he fought the good fight and was a very kind person, he will be missed by his family, friends and family at Dothan City Schools. Mrs. Brenda Guilford echoed what everyone else stated.

**Superintendent Report - Dr. Phyllis A. Edwards**

Dr. Edwards spoke regarding:

- Appreciate delaying the start of schools until after Labor Day, supplies that were ordered have been delivered to the school sites.
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week we have been in the green status.



- Our team is double-checking numbers with Principals, Chromebooks and hotspots have been delivered to the schools, thank you to Jeremy Green and his team, soon they will be distributed to parents.
- We are developing a video for parents on the use of the technology and how virtual education will work.
- We did the right thing by ordering our own platform as we are hearing of all the problems that systems are having with the state funded courses.
- Over 250 of our teachers are participating in a training by SREB about virtual instruction.
- We plan to do a “test day” next week so that students and parents can get on the system and use the technology the first day of school.
- Class sizes within the schools are being finalized, at the elementary level class sizes are as low as 11 to 13 students, at the secondary level 1/3<sup>rd</sup> have chosen virtual and were given more time to sign up. Schools have a waiting list of people wanting virtual education.
- Buses are rolling.
- We are trying to have 2 subs in each school every day in case there are call ins.
- Hope you do not receive too many phone calls about football, we reach out to the Health Department, many systems are not doing sports for 9 weeks or making the same kind of calls we are.
- We have the honors type courses, there was no attempt to hide anything, it was brought to the board in January, then COVID hit, we sprang into action to meet the needs.
- I understand the concerns and when I hear them I work to get them resolved.
- Now over 2,800 students are in virtual. At the secondary level they are calling because of the electives, if parents want a child to come on campus for an elective they can.
- The system has been very open in trying to give choice.
- We ask for everyone’s patience as we move forward.

## Personnel Agenda

Dr. Dennis Coe presented the Personnel and Addendum deleting items H.10 and H.11. There is also a correction from August 17<sup>th</sup> on Item F2. Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked if they are transfers to a new position are they advertised. Dr. Dennis Coe stated yes it was advertised and they went through the interview process. Dr. Phyllis Edwards stated I sent you a memo regarding hiring 7 additional virtual teachers that comes out of the Governor’s emergency fund all dropped out but 2. We want to come back in a week, if we wait a couple of weeks we will possibly lose them.

Mr. Chris Maddox pulled Item I.12.

Motion to approve the Personnel Agenda with Addendum deleting Items H.10 and H.11, pulling Item I.12 and including Dr. Edwards request for virtual teachers as presented and as 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

Motion to approve Item 1.12 of the Personnel Agenda as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, 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 - Abstain, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes



## Requested Board Action

Dr. Dennis Coe reviewed the purpose of the Declaration and bid.

- A. Declaration of a State of Emergency affecting Public Health, Safety or Convenience**
- B. Approval of Bid of Thermal Imaging Cameras**

Motion to approve Item A. Declaration of a State of Emergency affecting Public Health, Safety or Convenience and Item B. Approval of Bid of Thermal Imaging Cameras as presented and as 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

Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked Dr. Coe about the lower bid being changed to the bid recommended. Dr. Dennis Coe stated the company originally listed they had a contractor's license. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated we don't have to accept the lower bid but it was a tentative recommendation to approve the one that had the lowest bid then today we got more information and it changed. Dr. Dennis Coe stated the company that was originally listed said they had a contractor's license but they did not have a general contractors license required by law so we had to disregard that bid. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated on this one they said they would give a credit for \$22,174.88. Dr. Dennis Coe stated we are working on providing the sales and use tax certificate of exemption.

## Executive session

Mr. Kevin Walding made the Declaration regarding the Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters in written form.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for Contract Issue/Legal Update 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

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

Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated no official action was taken in Executive Session.

## New Business

- A. Board approved Board Meeting(s) to be held by Zoom Webinar until further notice:
  - i. Thursday, September 17, 2020, 2:00 PM - School Board Work Session
  - ii. Monday, September 21, 2020, 5:00 PM - Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Schedule of School Board Meetings



## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn as presented and as 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