



“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 held their regular monthly Board meeting by ZOOM Webinar as well as limited capacity public viewing at the Dothan City Board of Education, Board Room, 1665 Honeysuckle Road. Due to social distancing standards, physical capacity for the Board Room is limited to 50 participants. 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 deliberations/actions taken on October 19, 2020. The minutes will be officially approved on November 16, 2020.

**Regular School Board Meeting
10/19/2020 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. Dennis Coe, Acting Superintendent – Present
Mr. Kevin Walding, Board Attorney – Present

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Moment of Silence**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Mike Schmitz requested due to health issues, Vice Chair, Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Chair the meeting.

4. **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

5. **Board Comments**

Board Members expressed they were glad to see Chairman Schmitz and that he is doing well. Mrs. Brenda Guilford further stated we have employees that have earned higher degrees and congratulated Betty Marshall, Dawn Filson, Kristin Hires and Stephanie Johnson.



6. Superintendent Report - Dr. Dennis Coe

Dr. Dennis Coe addressed the following:

- Thankful to have Mr. Chairman here with us. Thank you for your support as a Board and I wish a speedy recovery.
- We have finished enrollment based on the 20-day count and we have experienced an enormous affect of the COVID virus here and across the state.
- We have made great efforts with in-person and virtual.
- It is hard to find people that are willing to work in the school environment, principals are doing an outstanding job.
- We have cancelled 3 football games and volleyball game.
- Overall enrollment has declined. I spoke with Dr. Mackey and it is a matter that is consistent throughout the state, 75% of systems have a loss of enrollment, 50% of our loss is in elementary, they are choosing to homeschool, 23% left to attend school in another state.
- Our virtual option has nearly 3,000 students, we are assessing it daily, in the future whether we are still experiencing COVID or not we need to keep offering it.
- Thank you to Wiregrass Foundation for their contribution helping us with a help desk for virtual students.
- It has been a busy but productive month for me, I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring and support I have experienced, this is a very special place that has a lot of people in the community involved in the school system.
- We had a zoom conference with Southeast Alabama Baptist Association wanting to help us, we identified a need for water bottles and they delivered 5,760 bottles of water, that is one example of one of many kind gestures.
- In the coming months we will have District accreditation ongoing taking place in January and we are preparing now.

A. AASB School Board Member Academy Achievements

Below is a list of our School Board Members who have achieved levels in AASB's School Board Member Academy during the 2019-2020 Academy year ending June 30, 2020: Certificates of achievement for those who have reached level 1, 2 or 3 in the Academy. Board Member that reached Level 2 is Amy Bonds. Board Member that reached Level 3 is Brett Strickland. Recipient of Plaque for completion of the AASB School Board Member Academy 2020 is Brett Strickland. Master Honor Roll plate 2nd year recipient is Susan Vierkandt (Date Plate). Master Honor Roll recipients in a Previous Year are Brenda Guilford and Franklin Jones.

B. AASB Delegate Selection

Motion to nominate Mr. Brett Strickland and Mr. Mike Schmitz as delegates and Mrs. Amy Bonds as alternate for the AASB Delegate Assembly 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



7. Public Comments

Mayor Mark Saliba addressed the Board stating it is important for me to be here tonight. To say these are challenging times is an understatement. Thank you to this Board it is difficult to lead during this time, hard decisions have been made the last few years and during COVID. We have another 5 or 6 months to go before vaccines. I hope we are all learning things. Thank you to this Board and Dr. Coe for accepting the position of interim. It is not an easy position. I wanted to say publicly how much I appreciate Dr. Edwards for the time, resources, and teacher planning she put into the school system. I have to get out and speak and talk to people about education. It is by far the most important topic for the next year. What do we want people to say about us as a school system? I have faith in all of you and teachers. Nothing is more important we can do this next year than talk about education. I am always available to you. My heart is heavy these days. There are a lot of challenges before us but one thing I know is the people of Dothan and we can do whatever we set our hearts and minds to. Thank you.

Mr. Luke Pannell stated he has 4 children in Dothan City Schools, he represents quite a few parents, he is on the PTO at Kelly Springs and helps at DPA, thank you to our teachers, Mr. Chairman we are praying for your recovery, thank you WDHN on doing the hero piece, it is our job as citizens to hold our representatives accountable, previously I waited for public comments and you skipped it, the policy for school organizations ties our hands, everything we do is for the kids, the problem is the Board passed a policy that I cannot do anything as PTO without your approval, you reduced the amount of impact we have as parents, my daughter through church started a backpack program but because of the policy we cannot do it, Mr. Maddox is the only one that voted no for it, I wrote a 5 ½ page email to each of you and did not hear from you, I am asking that you repeal this policy, the buck stops with the parents, teachers and principals whether we agree or not, I am asking you reconsider the policy you made back in August, and it is not the job of the Board to manage the parent funds. I was personally invited to attend the Code of Conduct as a committee member, I attended 3 of the 5 meetings, they skipped over the dress code, I was the only citizen on the committee that was not an employee, it was brought up that do away with dress code and use what Enterprise had, we all voted on doing it, It was brought to you, there were no recommendations on dress code, why waste my time being on the committee, in March we convened and it was not submitted to you as a Board, I would like you to go back and look at the minutes at the time for the committee, I asked the committee are we all still on the same page and we were, why was the Board not given the recommendation by Dr. Edwards. Please ask Mr. McKay what happened to that recommendation. Many of the parents are perturbed on how the district treated the Band Boosters, I donate funds to the PTO at my children's schools, I want those funds to stay with that organization, we have been above board, in previous districts I have been in they took the funds and put them in one pot. Dr. Dennis Coe stated I will be glad to discuss this and meet with you, we can talk about this and investigate it. Give Laurie your information. Mr. Pannell stated Mr. Faulk does a wonderful job. I appreciate all you are doing as a Board and district trying to make this year a somewhat normal one, the primary goal is to make this better. My representative is Mrs. Guilford and I do expect a response. A lot of people say they do not receive a response from their Board Members. Mrs. Susan Vierkandt stated we usually forward the concern to the Chairman with our comments. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated thank you Mr. Pannell, I have not received a call please call me.

8. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda 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

- A. Minutes for the September 10, 2020 and September 14, 2020 Special Called School Board Meetings and September 21, 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/September
- D. Personnel Services:
 - i. Personnel Agenda
 - ii. Policy Updates:
 - a. Title IX
- E. Donation(s)

Dr. Dennis Coe presented the personnel. Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked if there were new positions, were they advertised. Dr. Dennis Coe stated yes all were advertised.

9. **Adoption of Action Items**

Dr. Dennis Coe stated the Federal Government changed Title IX requirements and it calls for a more structured staffing, training, not only a coordinator but investigators. You as the Board will have additional training to go through, I will have to be trained as a decision maker, these 4 that would apply for the positions would be screened by Dr. Wright. The 2 additional track coach supplements were there last year but removed but student enrollment in track has increased from 50 to 60 students.

A. **Additional Supplements**

Motion to approve the addition of 4 new supplements of \$500 each for Title IX Investigators and 2 track coach supplements for DPA at \$2,080 each 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

Mr. Jeff Prine presented the Change Order.

B. **Change Order No. 5 with Wyatt Sasser Construction**

Motion to authorize the Superintendent and Staff to issue and execute Change Order #5 to the existing Owner Contractor Agreement between Dothan City Schools and Wyatt Sasser Construction, in the lump sum amount of \$ 290,500.00 for Change Order #5 for a revised total of \$3,737,685.39 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



10. Executive Session

Mr. Kevin Walding stated for the record he has provided Ms. Brandon with a written Declaration regarding the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Franklin Jones, 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 - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes

Mr. Mike Schmitz and Mr. Chris Maddox left the meeting.

Motion to reconvene into Regular Session 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 – Not Present, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes

No action was taken in Executive Session.

11. New Business

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

- i. Thursday, November 12, 2020, 2:00 PM - School Board Work Session
- ii. Monday, November 16, 2020, 5:00 PM - Regular School Board Meeting

B. Schedule of School Board Meetings

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, 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 – Not Present, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes