



07 14 2020 Special Board Meeting 5 30 PM

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Pledge of Allegiance

1. [Pledge of Allegiance](#)

Call Meeting to Order

Acceptance of Agenda

2. [Acceptance of the July 14, 2020 Special Board Meeting Agenda](#)

Motions:

Public comment regarding Superintendent Search - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Sara Beth Reynolds

Second: Lynn Wilson

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Aye

Lisa Miller - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds	- Aye
Billy Townsend	- Aye
Lynn Wilson	- Aye

Special Recognitions

Public Comments on Agenda Items

3. [SPEAKERS](#)

Minutes:

Steffanie Yocum, President PEA stated that she is glad that the start date of school was pushed back. She urged that PEA and AFSCME hold a seat in the Superintendent search committee.

Chris Olsen, teacher, served on the Reopening Task Force, had oppositional questions for each board member about school opening.

Howard Wiggs, came to speak in support of Superintendent Byrd. He stated that her decision to leave is due to the misguided actions of several school board members.

Micah Turner spoke about delaying the opening date in order to keep everyone safe.

Gow Fields reminded the board about the oath they took to represent the people that voted for them. He spoke on how board members are violating their contracts with their demeaning behaviors.

Anita Carson thanked the Reopening Task Force members and Superintendent Byrd and staff. She is very happy about the delay in reopening schools.

Leo Longworth spoke on his concern about board members which are compromising Superintendent's roll and responsibilities. Mr. Longworth reminded the board about the oath taken and the violations they have taken against it.

Steve Abbney wrote about Superintendent Byrd and asked the school board to be mindful of who is hired to replace her.

Larry Milhorn, thanked Superintendent Byrd for her time serving the district.

Paula Cardinales spoke against Mrs. Byrd's appointment.

Kimberly Foster spoke against Mrs. Byrd.

Kimberly Elmhorst spoke against Mr. Townsend's threats on their daughter as well as his

intimidation of minority women.

Kara Molhaney asked for a superintendent that will bring unity to a broken system.

Crystal Flores spoke about the Superintendent search.

Jennifer Sabin shared her thoughts on what to look for in the next Superintendent.

Sherry Ross spoke on Superintendent's Byrd's excellent leadership in the Polk County's school district. She would like Superintendent to challenge DOE on the reopening of schools.

Kathryn Vaughn spoke on moral and ethical representation on behalf of students and staff concerning the Superintendent search.

Karen Stockman asked to consider hiring a new superintendent to be as visible as Superintendent Byrd.

Lori Jenkins (Mrs. Worthington stated it was already read)

Robert Nichol, teacher, Superintendent Byrd is a strong woman and would like her to remain in position. He also spoke about Billy Townsends criticism towards Superintendent Byrd.

Sheryl Reed spoke on Superintendent search and the type of individual that should be chosen.

Tracy Zellwood spoke about saving money on consulting firms by hiring someone from the inside to be superintendent.

Lorinda Utter, teacher, spoke on quickly beginning superintendent search as well as her desire to begin school.

Delfin Kendrick spoke on filling the Superintendent's position.

Anita Lacey stated that age shouldn't be a focal point from returning to work. Precautions should be taken by everyone.

Daniel Frisbie spoke on concerns about teachers health in the classrooms dealing with ESE students. Different days should be scheduled for students instead of having them all come back together.

Rachel Jackson, teacher, spoke against schools reopening.

Sarah Gabbard is very excited for children to return to brick and mortar school.

Tarissa Potter spoke against school reopening. Has about carbon monoxide due to the usage of masks.

Cassandra Gibson, spoke against school reopening until COVID issues are resolved.

Shannon Tate, student success coach, spoke against reopening school campuses.

Nancy Clemons, retired teacher, spoke against reopening schools without a firm plan to protect students and staff.

Ingrid Cruz, caregiver, is concerned about schools reopening.

Marjorie Patterson, AFSCME, Vice President Bus Drivers and Attendants, stated that the only safety equipment on buses is hand sanitizer. Employees have not been issued masks or sanitizer.

Lisa Bland, teacher, spoke for face-to-face classes and school reopening.

David Thorpe, teacher, against school reopening. Keep schools in E-Learning mode.

Tanya Ramirez, teacher, spoke for distance learning and E-Learning instead of brick and mortar. Schools should be open after Labor Day.

Tulsi Patel, High School Jr., spoke against reopening schools due to safety measures.

Katherine Augburn, teacher, has concerns on social distancing enforcement for students. Push back start date.

Jaime Williams spoke against schools reopening.

Crista Dunbar has concerns for staff and educators' health due to reopening of schools.

Jill Horack, teacher, asking school board to put the safety of all stakeholders ahead of reopening schools.

Megan Parker, teacher, stated that it will do more harm to the mental state of students and parents and staff to open and close schools as we go.

Tiffany Rubio spoke against schools reopening and masks being mandatory.

Jenny Vargas consider starting classes with E-Learning then open schools after Labor Day.

Eliazer Acevedo spoke against schools opening and pointed out that the board is still holding virtual meetings.

Mrs. Cunningham spoke about the 500 emails that were received and stated that at 3 minutes per person, we would be reading for 25 hours, which is not possible. Mrs. Cunningham allowed for Lois Horn-Diaz's email to be read due to it being about the Superintendent search.

Mr. Bridges, PCPS Attorney, stated that it is policy to allow up to 30 minutes worth of public comments. By law, we have met the requirements. The remainder of the emails will be attached to the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Consent Agenda

New Administrator Announcements

Consent

Regular

Administration - School Board

4. [Superintendent Search](#)

Human Resource Services General Items

5. [COVID 1--2020-2021 School Calendar-July 13, 2020](#)

Attachment: [COVID 19-2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR- JULY 14 2020 \(final\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent Byrd stated that she has been in constant communication with Dr. Jackson of the Florida Department of Health. Due to spiking we are looking at delaying the opening of schools to August 24th. Superintendent stated if numbers continue to trend upward, we will have further discussion before the board about delaying the August 24th date.

Mrs. Cunningham thanked Mrs. Byrd for the update and reiterated that more information is to come on the reopening of August 24th.

Mr. Townsend stated that the opening of schools is purely voluntary. He is not requiring anyone to put themselves at risk.

Ms. Fortney asked if the only changes in the calendar going to be the start day of school and will we still have the 196 days of school? Mrs. Porteous stated that all dates were pushed back except Thanksgiving, Winter break and Spring break remain the same. Graduations have been moved up a month and June 9th is the last day for students. Mrs. Porteous will send an updated sheet.

Mrs. Miller stated that she would rather push the opening date till after Labor Day. Most of the data should be provided to families by July 28th meeting.

Mr. Wilson stated that he will support the recommendation to delay schools from opening from Superintendent.

Superintendent Byrd stated that Florida Virtual is out of the PCPS district.

However, Polk Virtual is within our district.

Ms. Reynolds discussed the three options for attending school for all students.

Mrs. Fields stated that teachers do have options and will not be forced to be in a school.

Superintendent Byrd stated that she encourages everyone to fill in the information requested so the data can be collected accordingly. This will help with the next steps. Our families have options.

Motions:

Recommend Approval for Tentative Revised
2020-2021 School Calendar with August 24,
2020 Start Date - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Sara Beth Reynolds

Second: Kay Fields

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Aye

Lisa Miller - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

Public Hearing

Superintendent's Report

Attorney's Report

6. [Attorney's Report](#)

Minutes: Mr. Bridges clarified that the school board is a public body governed by

Sunshine Laws and the school board cannot discuss issues outside of a public meeting.
Discussion cannot be done in private among themselves before a meeting.

Auditor's Report

Board Members' Report

7. [Billy Townsend, District 1](#)

Minutes: Billy Townsend addressed Mr. Elmhurst about the public records request that was made.

8. [Lori Cunningham, District 2](#)

Minutes:

Lori Cunningham spoke about steps of the Superintendent search and stated that on July 28th the board will have discussion and how they will proceed in deciding which firm they will hire for the search.

9. [Sarah Fortney, District 3](#)

Minutes: Sarah Fortney asked for everyone to watch the Work Session.

10. [Sara Beth Reynolds, District 4](#)

Minutes: Sara Reynolds urged everyone to watch the Work Session.

11. [Kay Fields, District 5](#)

Minutes: Kay Fields thanked staff for the set up and their hard work.

12. [Lynn Wilson, District 6](#)

Minutes: Lynn Wilson thanked everyone for their efforts as well.

13. [Lisa Miller, District 7](#)

Minutes:

Was in total disgust by Mr. Fields comments.

Public Comments Addressing Items Not on Agenda

14. [SPEAKERS](#)

Minutes:

Benjamin Wiles spoke on employee health, data collection, children wearing masks and outdoor classes.

Ashley Wey, Para, stated that we are not ready to open schools and believes distance learning should be implemented before opening schools.

Daniel Birch, Para, discussed not having enough sanitary products at the school.

Jodi Kegler stated that reopening is necessary because her student needs classroom structure.

Jeremy Kegler stated that there are children that need a school setting.

Kristy Mccullough thanked Mrs. Byrd for delaying the reopening of schools.

Bishop Mincey stated that COVID 19 should push people to be kind and understanding to each other but instead looks like evil was bought out. He is concerned about us treat each other wrongly because of who we think we are.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 28th day of July 2020.

Lori Cunningham, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent