

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

Board of Education Meeting – Hargrave

Special Called Meeting

August 2, 2021

The Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County convened in a special called meeting on August 2, 2021 – 6:00 P.M. – Central Office – Virtual Meeting.

Mike Smith, Chairman
Brenda Fairley-Ferebee, Vice-Chairman
Craig Lowry
Henry Brewer
Dr. Linda Emanuel
William Gentry (absent)
Vonta Leach
Randy Lawson
Terry Locklear
John Simmons
Dwayne Smith

Also in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson; Dr. Robert Locklear, Melissa Thompson, Jennifer Freeman; Bobby Locklear, Assistant Superintendents; Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer; Dr. Glen Burnette, Chief Communications Officer; and Attorney Grady Hunt. by phone.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Mike Smith
2. **Invocation:** Mr. Henry Brewer
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Mike Smith

Ms. Brenda Fairley-Ferebee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Randy Lawson, to approve the revised agenda. The Board approved the revised agenda.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. PSRC Summer Learning Recovery & Enrichment Camp Presentation

Dr. Sansdra Evans presented the PSRC Summer Learning Recovery & Enrichment Camp Presentation which was a huge success.

A. Re-Entry Updates/Motion

Mr. Bobby Locklear, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, and Stephanie Locklear, Supervisor of Health Services presented a presentation to the Board on the Updated Re-Entry Guidelines for the 2021-22 School Year.

Facilities

- Bathrooms will operate under normal conditions. Reminders of physical distancing will remain in place.
- Desk shields are still mandatory for all classes.
- Required daily sanitizing will remain in place, i.e. use of backpack sprayer, wiping of the desk between cohorts, spraying of the playground and athletic equipment between each use, sanitization of buses after each use, etc.
- In the event of a positive case, continue the deployment of the Clorox 360 machine to disinfect the area.
- Water fountains will continue to be used as bottle filling stations only.
- All essential sanitizing and disinfecting products are in stock, along with an ample supply of masks.

Child Nutrition

- Students will continue to eat breakfast and lunch in the classroom unless otherwise directed. Meals will be picked up in the cafeteria and students will return to the classroom.

Student Health Services

- Symptom screening for students and staff is no longer required for entry into the buildings.
- Masks are required for all students, Pre-K through Grade 13, and staff while in the buildings and on buses to include athletics. However, masks are not required while outside as long as physical distancing can be maintained. Masks requirement will be revisited every thirty days.
 - *According to the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit, COVID-19 is mostly spread when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus.*
 - *To prevent further spread of the Delta variant, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [updated its mask guidance](#) on Tuesday to recommend that fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors when in*

areas with “substantial” and “high” transmission of Covid-19, which includes nearly two-thirds of all US counties.

- Students and staff will be required to complete a 14-day quarantine if a close contact exposure has been determined through contact tracing.
 - *Close Contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, from 2 days before symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to testing specimen collection date) until the time the individual is isolated.*
- School Health Services will continue contact tracing and investigation per CDC and NCDHHS Guidance.
- The isolation Room will continue to be utilized for students or staff who become symptomatic throughout the day.
- Students and staff will be required to complete a 14-day quarantine if a close contact exposure has been determined through contact tracing.
 - *Close Contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, from 2 days before symptoms began (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days prior to testing specimen collection date) until the time the individual is isolated.*
- School Health Services will continue contact tracing and investigation per CDC and NCDHHS Guidance.
- ***Continue to practice the 3 W’s, Wash, Wait and Wear.***

Curriculum and Instruction

- Resource classes will be allowed to move about the campus as long as cohorts are not mixed.
- Seating charts for the classroom and buses must be maintained daily for contact tracing.
- Open Houses for all schools will be virtual or drive-through. Required Title I Family Engagement Nights will also be virtual.
- Athletes and Coaches are required to wear masks while not participating for all indoor activities and games. Masks are not required outside as long as physical distancing can be maintained.

Human Resources

- The American Rescue Plan extends certain types of COVID leave to eligible employees through September 30, 2021. Our human resources department will continue to work with employees on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility and available options as we navigate through our return to school processes.

Guidance will be revisited every thirty days.

Dr. Freddie Williamson made a recommendation requesting that the PSRC Board of Education approve the superintendent's motion to require all students and staff to wear masks regardless of vaccination status in the buildings and on buses. Wearing a mask outside will remain optional. The superintendent will monitor and assess conditions monthly to consider any changes as necessary.

There was a motion by Dr. Linda Emanuel to approve Dr. Williamson's recommendation and seconded by Mr. Dwayne Smith. Motion carried.

Dr. Windy Dorsey, Executive Director and, Ms. Jennifer Freeman gave an update on Academic Coaches. Dr. Dorsey stated that it would be a joint effort between the two. Also stated that they would need a strong foundation of what mentoring looks like because we know our need to receive strong support from academic coaches and mentors in every building and they would be able to support them even more because somebody is on campus. They will not have any administrator duties and will not be responsible for evaluating teachers. They will have training which will be provided by Human Resources. The expectation is that the Academic Coaches and mentors spend 75% of their time working directly with teachers,

There was a motion by Mr. Henry Brewer and seconded by Mr. Dwayne Smith to approved Personnel as presented.

CLOSED SESSION

- Certified/Classified Personnel
- Legal Issues
- Closed Session Minutes

Public Comments

6. Motion that the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County go into closed session for the purposes of discussing certified and classified personnel (N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (a) 1 (6), student transfers (N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402 and N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (a) (1)), and to consult with the attorney obtained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney/client privileges between the attorney and the Board of Education for the Public School Schools of Robeson County (N.C. Stat.143-318.11 (a) (1) (3). The Board approved the motion.
7. Motion to come out of closed session. The Board approved the motion.
8. Motion to approve personnel as presented. The Board approved the motion.
- 9.. Motion to approve closed session minutes. The Board approved the motion.
- 10.. Motion to adjourn. The Board approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Mike Smith, Chairman

Superintendent Freddie Williamson, Secretary