

**POQUOSON CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**November 17, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**CITY OF POQUOSON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Garry Carter, Chairman  
Michelle Sheeler, Vice Chair  
Wayne Holcomb  
Christy Helsel  
Jonathan Ingram  
Jeremy Jordan  
Craig Freeman  
Arty Tillett, Superintendent  
Antonia Fox, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Support Services  
Lenna Reimers, Clerk of the Board  
Cassidy Spakes, Student Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Cassidy Spakes led the Pledge to the Flag and read an inspirational poem.

II. ADDITIONS AND/OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA. Instructional Update, IV-E, will be included in the School Reopening Plan Update, IV-A.

III. RECOGNITIONS.

A. Recognition of the PHS Seniors of the Month for October and November by Video Presentation.

IV. PRESENTATIONS.

A. School Reopening Plan Update. Mr. Arty Tillett, Superintendent, and Dr. Antonia Fox, Assistant Superintendent, gave a presentation on the progress of the opening of schools, to include PMS and PHS.

B. VHSL Update. Mr. Arty Tillett, Superintendent, and Dr. Brandon Ratliff, Director of Accountability, Student Achievement and Technology, gave a presentation on the VHSL plan to return to play, along with the PCPS return to play guidelines.

C. Financial Update. Mrs. Tara Woodruff, Executive Director of Finance, presented on the budget calendar for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 budget process. She shared with community members that they are encouraged to attend the Public Budget Hearing on March 16, 2021. Input can also be provided through Let's Talk, which can be accessed through the PCPS website.

D. Operations Update. Mr. Steve Pappas, Executive Director of Operations, presented an update on the installation of air conditioning to the high school gymnasium. He spoke on the PMS modernization project; advertising for contractors went out on November 8, construction documents were available on November 16, mandatory pre-bid is due December 1, and bid opening is on December 15. He thanked Emily Forrest and Tina Wolf for all that they do for food service. He encouraged the community to take part in the free meals for children, age one through eighteen, that

are distributed on Mondays and Thursdays. He shared that custodial staff are working diligently and responding to the need for Covid related disinfecting.

E. Instructional Update. Dr. Fox, Assistant Superintendent, included her instructional update with the reopening of schools presentation.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT. Gabe Ford, 8 Elm Street, Gabe Sava, 17 Wainwright Dr, Ethan Grondin, 146 Emmaus Rd, Jackson Harper, 19 White House Dr, Nicole Gowen, 115 White House Dr, Nick Mastrogianakis, 22 Odd Rd. All spoke in reference to PCPS returning students to play sports and returning students to school full time. Public comments were also sent in writing, and a hard copy of each comment was given to Board members.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA.

- A. Approval of Financial Reports *(Enclosed)*
- B. Authorization to Change Appropriation and to Accept and Expend Funds in Accordance with Attached Request *(Enclosed)*
- C. Approval of Personnel Action *(Enclosed)*
- D. Approval of Minutes of October's Regular Meeting *(Enclosed)*
- E. Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Property *(Enclosed)*

Mrs. Sheeler read the Consent Agenda above. Ms. Helsel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Mr. Jordan seconded and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Freeman, Aye; Mr. Ingram, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Mr. Holcomb, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Vice Chair Sheeler, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

VII. OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

- A. Consideration of Approval for 2020-2021 Calendar Amendment *(Reading File Enclosed)*

Mr. Holcomb made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Calendar Amendment; Mr. Jordan seconded, and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Freeman, Aye; Mr. Ingram, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Mr. Holcomb, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Vice Chair Sheeler, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

- B. Consideration of Approval for 2020-2021 VHSL Return to Play *(Reading File Enclosed)*

Ms. Helsel made a motion to approve 2020-2021 VHSL Return to Play Plan; Mr. Freeman seconded, and a vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Freeman, Aye; Mr. Ingram, Aye; Mr. Jordan, Aye; Mr. Holcomb, Aye; Ms. Helsel, Aye; Vice Chair Sheeler, Aye; Chairman Carter, Aye

#### VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND/OR OTHER MATTERS BY SCHOOL BOARD AND/OR SUPERINTENDENT.

- Mr. Tillett: No comment.
  
- Ms. Spakes: She presented an update on past and upcoming activities at each of the individual schools.
  
- Mr. Freeman: He thanked all that spoke and shared their comments. He assured the community that Board members want students in school as quickly and safely as possible, and for students to play sports. He asked everyone to remember that we are all in the same boat. He announced that now that sports are allowed, “let’s win some championships.”
  
- Mr. Ingram: He congratulated the students of the month. He thanked all the staff that is involved with getting students back in school. He thanked Dr. Ratliff for his presentation on returning students to play sports. He thanked the Poquoson Police Department for being present at the meeting. He thanked the citizens who came out showing their support, and also the athletes and parents who came to share their comments.
  
- Mr. Jordan: He thanked the individuals who came to share their comments to the Board, and to those who sent emails.. He congratulated the seniors of the month. He shared that he hopes the Governor mandate of limiting 25 spectators will be lifted in time for the start of sports.
  
- Mr. Holcomb: He thanked everyone for their public comments. He enjoyed the peaceful demonstration prior to the meeting. He shared that he thinks administration at PCPS has done an excellent job on keeping things moving forward with returning to schools and sports.
  
- Ms. Helsel: She echoed Mr. Holcomb’s comments. She shared that she did read all the comments submitted, and also all the emails she received. She shared that she agrees that kids need to be back in schools. She encouraged everyone to reach out to the PHD to change their guidelines from 6 feet to 3 feet. She is very excited for students to play sports.
  
- Vice Chair Sheeler: She shared with the community that it would have been great to keep out the threat of a virus the rest of the world has to deal with. School Board, teachers, and administrators have been asked to have courage to be different. She suggested it takes great courage to make the hard choices, and there are no perfect decisions for us all. She thanked every parent who has expressed their understanding and support of the tremendous efforts of our small-but-mighty School Board. She thanked Mr. Tillett and Dr. Fox and all the staff who have worked tirelessly to make our hybrid return to in-person learning feasible. She thanked every IT person who has worked patiently to get the kinks out of the online learning. She thanked every parent who has had to help their child adapt to this new world of online learning. She shared that it may be that many of these online skills learned the hard way will last a lifetime and benefit our students as they advance into the larger world. She encouraged patience from all.

- Chairman Carter: He thanked everyone for their comments, support, and encouragement. He thanked Mr. Sava, specifically, for speaking.

IX. MATERIAL FOR BOARD REVIEW. There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Carter announced that a work session would follow the Board meeting to discuss Reopening of Schools Plan and New Matters by the Board. There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.



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Garry Carter, Ed.D. Chairman



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Lenna Reimers, Clerk of the Board

12/15/2020

Date