

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Called Meeting Minutes
Electronic Meeting
June 25, 2020

The Staunton City School Board convened for a special called meeting, an electronic communications meeting, on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 3:15 p.m. with members participating via Zoom platform.

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order and indicated that this special called meeting was being conducted using the Zoom platform and that audio of the meeting was being broadcast over the school division's cable channel (SCS-TV13) and live streamed on the division website so that members of the public could hear the meeting as it occurred. He also announced that an audio recording was being made of the meeting.

The Chair requested that the Clerk, Brenda Lovekamp, call roll for confirmation the School Board members' participation. The results of the roll call conducted by the Clerk were as follows:

Robert Boyle, present, participating from the School Board Office
William Lobb, absent
Natasha McCurdy, present, participating from her home in Staunton
Christine Poulson, present, participating from her home in Staunton
Kenneth Venable, present, participating from his home in Staunton
Amy Wratchford, present, participating from her office at the R. R. Smith Center in Staunton

The Chair asked that the Superintendent, Dr. Garett Smith, confirm his presence and location. Dr. Smith indicated that he was participating from his office at City Hall.

The Chair provided the following background information regarding today's meeting:

- In scheduling this meeting, reasonable notice of this meeting was given to the public contemporaneously with that which was given to the School Board.
- The agenda was posted for public review on the division's website, with access for the public to listen to this meeting via the live audio stream provided on the school division website and on the division's cable channel – SCS-TV13.
- This meeting was being conducted by Zoom, given the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency and disaster related to the COVID-19 outbreak, which as part of the total circumstances has made it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location.
- This meeting was being held consistent with City Council Ordinance 2020-04 regarding continuity of government, a copy of which can be found on the city's website.

The Chair reminded participants of several items related to protocol to help ensure an orderly meeting, including: speaking loudly and slowly and self-identify when speaking, allowing a brief interval between speakers; all votes would be taken by roll call; any member of the School Board needing to leave the meeting for any period of time should make an announcement regarding their departure and return so that the minutes would reflect such.

Hearing no questions regarding the process and protocol to be followed during the meeting, the Chair continued with the agenda.

The Chair asked that Dr. Smith review the request to revise the date for the first day of school.

Consideration of Revised Date for First Day of School for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dr. Smith explained that as part of the work on the reopening plan, and in coordination with Augusta County Schools and Waynesboro City Schools, he was requesting that the Board approve a revised start date for the 2020-2021 school year and set the first day of school as August 18. He noted that the academic calendar that was previously approved reflected the first day of school as August 4. He indicated that, if the Board approved this request, the school division would use this time to conduct additional training for instructional staff members, offer training for parents, hold student orientations, work with staff on operational processes, etc.

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Ms. Poulson acknowledged the difficulty of this work and thanked Dr. Smith and his staff for their efforts.

On a motion by Christine Poulson, seconded by Amy Wratchford, the Board voted, as recorded below, to revise the start date for the 2020-2021 school year, making the first day of school August 18, 2020.

**Votes: Robert Boyle – aye Natasha McCurdy – aye Kenneth Venable – aye
William Lobb – absent Christine Poulson – aye Amy Wratchford – aye**

Having completed the business for which the meeting was called, the Chair declared the special called meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

DRAFT