

Special Called Session Board Meeting
December 7, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 7, 2020, at the Historical Courthouse in Gatesville, NC. Chairman Ray Felton called for a motion to go into open session. Mrs. Glendale Boone made the motion to go into open session. Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Sallie Ryan, and Mrs. Amanda Pacitto.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Felton asked Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent, to speak.

Dr. Williams gave his opening remarks as follows:

Good Morning. I would like to begin by extending my appreciation to the Board of Education, school principals, directors, teachers, students, staff, and families for your efforts, cooperation, dedication, and patience as we work to educate our students during this worldwide health pandemic.

On November 2nd the Board of Education held a work session where Plan A for elementary schools and Plan B for the middle and high schools were presented by district and school administration. Over the past month, information has been shared with and information has been collected from families regarding their intent for their student's learning option **if** the school district moves to Plan A for the elementary and Plan B for the middle and high school.

The Moving Forward-Learning Options document, which is now included in the Plan A and Plan B documents, contains information from each school regarding the number of students opting for Face-to-Face instruction and Virtual/Remote Only instruction. Based on these numbers, the middle school and high school have determined the number of days that Face-to-Face instruction can be offered. Information regarding student meals and student transportation plans are also included.

We are prepared to move forward with Face-to-Face instruction with the Remote Learning Only option. Under the current plans:

- Elementary students will have Face-to-Face instruction 4 days per week.
- Middle School and High School students will have Face-to-Face instruction 2 days per week with virtual/remote instruction 2 days per week.
- Mondays will be a professional development and planning day for teachers as well as a time for remediation and small group instruction as needed.

- School bus transportation will be provided for all who choose to ride a school bus.
- Meals will be provided at school to students attending school.
- Elementary students choosing Remote Learning Only will continue to have meals delivered to their home by school bus.
- Middle and high school students on virtual/remote days and Remote Learning Only students will have meals available for pick-up at the schools. After the first two weeks, an evaluation will be conducted to determine if meal delivery by school bus will be possible for middle and high school students.
- The start date for Elementary Schools would be January 6, 2021. Middle School and High School will have orientation January 6-8, 2021 with instruction beginning January 12, 2021.
- Our one issue: We still have several middle and high school parents who have not completed the Learning Option form for their child. This is extremely important for planning purposes and I urge parents to contact the schools as soon as possible with this information.

Moving forward, we are prepared to provide instruction to our students, at the discretion of the Board of Education, by implementing Plan A and Plan B, OR by continuing on Plan C. I feel confident in our schools and the instruction we are providing our students, both now and in the future. Thank you.

Chairman Felton stated that Dr. Williams and his team have presented Plan A for the elementary schools, and Plan B for the middle and high schools, for consideration. There is also the option to remain on Plan C. He then instructed the board that three motions are needed – one for the elementary schools, one for the middle school and one for the high school.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve Plan A for the elementary schools. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Felton said he was in agreement with the board, but did have concerns about the rising numbers reported for the virus infection.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve Plan B for the middle school. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Sallie Ryan made a motion to approve Plan B for the high school. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Board members were concerned about the number of parents that have not responded to the Learning Option form that was sent out. They want to make sure every effort has been made to contact these students. Principals responded that numerous calls have been made, SRO's have been sent to some of the residences, and there has been information posted on social media.

The board members had concerns about teachers and staff, with the students returning, and asked if there were provisions for those teachers who, because of health concerns, wished to remain virtual, and not teach face-to-face. Principals noted there have been discussions, and they hope to have opportunities for those teachers. They all felt we can make this work, if everyone follows the safety guidelines.

There was no further discussion. Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.