



“State of Alabama, Proclamation by the Governor dated March 18, 2020

Section III. Open Meetings Act:

- A. Notwithstanding any provision of the Open Meetings Act, members of a governmental body may participate in a meeting – and establish a quorum, deliberate, and take action – by means of telephone conference, video conference, or other similar communications equipment if:
 - 1. Any deliberation conducted, or action taken, during the meeting is limited to matters within the governmental body’s statutory authority that is (a) necessary to respond to COVID-19 or (b) necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body; and*
 - 2. The communications equipment allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear one another at the same time.**
- B. Governmental bodies conducting a meeting pursuant to this section are encouraged, to the maximum extent possible, to use communications equipment that allows members of the public to listen to, observe, or participate in the meeting.*
- C. No less than twelve hours following the conclusion of a meeting conducted pursuant to this section, a governmental body shall post a summary of the meeting in a prominent location on its website – or, if it has no website, in any other location or using any other method designed to provide reasonable notice to the public. The summary shall recount the deliberations conducted and the actions taken with reasonable specificity to allow the public to understand what happened*
- D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, amend, or modify any other provision of the Open Meetings Act, including the notice requirements found in section 36-25A-3 and the enforcement, penalty, and remedy provisions found in section 36-25A-9. Any action or actions taken in violation of paragraph A will be deemed invalid.*
- E. To the maximum extent possible, the terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in section 36-25A-2 of the Open Meetings Act.”*



Due to the COVID-19 public health concern, the Dothan City Board of Education will hold their Board Meetings through ZOOM Webinar as well as limited capacity public viewing at the Dothan City Board of Education, Board Room, 1665 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 1. Per ADPH Risk Indicators, the Dothan City Board of Education meetings will adhere to the following capacity limitations for in-person numbers at the board meeting while observing social distancing and wearing masks: **Green - Low Risk** - Groups of 90 or fewer pertaining to the Board Room; **Yellow - Moderate Risk** - Groups of 50 or fewer; **Orange - High Risk** - limited to 20 outside visitors by appointment only; and **Red - Very High Risk** - no outside visitors allowed in the building. Participants may still view the meeting via ZOOM webinar. Those who have made prior notification to participate on the agenda will remain on the in-person agenda. Board Meetings will be held in this manner until further notice.

Per the Proclamation by the Governor, below is a summary of the discussions, deliberations and/ or actions taken on January 19, 2021. The minutes will be officially approved on February 16, 2021.

**Regular School Board Meeting
01/19/2021 05:00 PM
Meeting Summary**

**Dothan City Board of Education
ZOOM MEETING DUE TO COVID-19
1665 Honeysuckle Road, Suite 1
Dothan, Alabama 36305**

Attendees:

Voting Members

Mr. Mike Schmitz, Chair – Present
Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Vice Chair - Present
Mrs. Amy Bonds, Board Member – Present
Mr. Franklin Jones, Board Member - Present
Mr. Chris Maddox, Board Member – Present (arrived late)
Mr. Brett Strickland, Board Member – Present
Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Board Member – Present

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Dennis Coe, Acting Superintendent – Present
Mr. Kevin Walding, Board Attorney – Present

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Moment of Silence**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Approval of Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications**

Motion to approve the Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications as presented and recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – Not Present, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

- 5. Board Comments**
- 6. Delegations: Registration of Delegations Wishing to Speak**
- 7. Public Comments**
- 8. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dennis Coe reviewed the following:



We continue to use the COVID Risk indicator to guide our decisions regarding athletic event admissions, field trips, and campus visitors. COVID cases continue on the rise, but we are continuing to monitor and implement appropriate protocols to limit the number of cases in our schools. Our school nurses will receive top priority on receiving the COVID vaccine. Other school employees will be included in the next phase of the vaccine rollout. No dates have been given for this yet, and shortages of vaccines continue to be an issue.

Committee work on the Advanced Curriculum for 7th and 8th grades continues on schedule. Employees are involved and excited about this work and will have a more detailed report ready for the board at the March meeting.

Kudos to Mrs. Adrea Zavitz, our Mental Health Coordinator. The Dothan City Schools Mental Health plan is being used by the ALSDE as a model program for mental health for students and staff. In addition, Mrs. Zavitz, Mr. Mallory, Dr. Wright and Mr. McKay are continuing work on developing an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for Dothan City Schools. This will be the first of its' kind in southeast Alabama and will include such items as:

- free counseling sessions for employees and qualifying family members,
- legal or financial services, counseling services within the parameters of SAMC and ACOM's scope of EAP services,
- financial budgeting consultation,
- legal consultations,
- training on stress management, performance anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse, emotional health and work/school life balance
- 24/7 phone number that an employee can call to speak with someone; excluding 911 emergencies.
- Access to counseling appointment within 3 days of initial phone contact.

Upon inspection, the bleachers at the Davis Gym have been classified as irreparable. In addition, several repairs to the baseball and softball field bleachers at Dothan High School are needed. To replace the bottom section of bleachers at Davis Gym and to repair the baseball and softball bleachers is estimated at \$167,000. Renovations to the Fine Arts building would be estimated at \$1.4 million at \$100 per square foot. I am meeting with financial experts to see what it would cost to finance these repairs and will have a more accurate description of financial options available at the February meeting.

Work at the new Carver School is progressing nicely. All rooms have been painted, and we anticipate work to start on the HVAC system within the next month. Bids are almost ready to be let on the renovations at Dothan High School as well.

Mr. Chris Maddox joined the meeting.

The second round of COVID funds will be sent soon. In meeting with our staff, we have identified these priorities for utilizing the funds:



- Continued employment of 5 school nurses for the 2021-22 school year
- Funding for summer school enrichment programs
- Funding for tutors
- Funding for HVAC (air quality) upgrades
- Increased daily rates for substitutes to help address the substitute shortage
 - \$70 per day (GED diploma)
 - \$80 per day (degree)
 - \$90 per day (certified/retired teacher)
 - \$120 per day for long term substitutes (certified/retired teacher)
- Funding for implementing the Employee Assistance Program

The bid opening will be February 4th.

Discussion continued regarding the cover at DHS, the addition of the cameras installed last week to livestream and we will be using it for the spring sports also, mental health program is for students and employees.

9. Recognitions:

A. School Board Member Recognition Month

This month marks the 28th annual observance of School Board Member Recognition Month in Alabama. This year's theme is "Launching Students to Success". Dothan City Schools joins school systems throughout the state saluting their local education leaders during Alabama's annual School Board Member Recognition Month in January. The commemorative month is designed to recognize the contributions made by Alabama's more than 800 school board members, including the members of the Dothan City Board of Education, who are charged with governing public education under state law.

School board members oversee educational efforts for more than 739,716 Alabama school children. Local school board members are part of a statewide team that supervises teachers and support workers and others.

As community servants, our school board members devote countless hours attending school functions, training for their roles as local education leaders, and preparing for and making difficult decisions that affect thousands of students and school employees. They are most deserving of encouragement and appreciation. These volunteer leaders are responsible for formulating school system policy, approving curricula, maintaining school facilities, and adhering to state and federal education law. Legal concerns and the complexities of school finance, including budgeting and taxation, require them to spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to the dedicated men and women who make it possible for local citizens to participate in education in our community. We salute the public servants of the Dothan City School system whose commitment and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible:



Mr. Mike Schmitz, Chairman of the Board
Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Vice-Chair, Board Member District 1
Mr. Franklin Jones, Board Member District 2
Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Board Member District 3
Mr. Brett Strickland, Board Member District 4
Mrs. Amy Bonds, Board Member District 5
Mr. Chris Maddox, Board Member District 6

Please join us by saying "thank you" to our school board members during Alabama's 28th School Board Member Recognition Month.

- B. Recognition of Dothan High School Students – Mr. Bill Singleton – postponed until next Regular Board Meeting
- C. Superintendent Student Advisory Council

Mrs. Meagan Dorsey presented the following information:

Dothan City Board of Education believes it is important to seek out and consider students' ideas, viewpoints, and reactions to the District's educational program. To provide student input and involvement, the Board of Education Meeting shall include a Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) delegation.

The council was open to ALL interested DCS students **Grades 5 and above** during the 2020-2021 school year. All students within these grade levels were encouraged to apply and interviewed with their school leadership.

The SSAC is made up of **13 delegates** selected by school leadership to represent their school.

One Representative Per

Highlands Elementary School	Heard Elementary School
Selma Street Elementary School	Morris Slingsluff Elementary School
Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School	Kelly Springs Elementary School
Beverlye Intermediate School	Girard Intermediate School
Carver School	

Two Representatives Per

Dothan Preparatory Academy
Dothan High School

10. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

- A. Minutes for the December 17, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting
- B. Monthly Financial Reports, Accounts Payable/Payroll and Certification of Bank Reconciliations
- C. Head Start:



- i. Head Start Financial Report
- ii. Head Start Menu
- iii. Enrollment and Attendance
- iv. Summary Report December 2020

11. Adoption of Action Items

A. Personnel Agenda

Mr. Patrick Mallory presented the personnel agenda and addendum deleting Item F.3.

Motion to approve the Personnel Agenda deleting Item F.3 as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

B. Board Policy Changes:

i. Policy 7.3 – Academic Standards

This addition to our Board Policy addresses the transfer of credits from accredited and non-accredited courses to Dothan City Schools. The addition to Board Policy states the following:

7.3.8 Transfer of Credits - Dothan City Schools are accredited by Cognia, the only accreditation organization recognized by the Alabama State Board of Education. Transfer credits from other schools will be accepted from other regionally accredited associations without further validation. However, the procedures for awarding credit to students coming to our Schools from a non-accredited school or home school will follow the Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02(7)(k) & 290-3-1-02(7)(l).

The Alabama Administrative Code requires this action is something Dothan City Schools has upheld; however, we need to have it placed in our official Board Policy Manual. This statement has been found in our Academic Course Guide or Progression Guide in the past.

ii. Policy 7.8 – Virtual School

Due to Dothan City Virtual School's opening, we need to make some minor changes to policy 7.8 Virtual School. We recommend that the specifics such as names of programs be stricken, and a broader language is used to describe the school's curriculum and management systems. Please see the attachment for the edits we are recommending.

Motion to approve tabling Policy 7.3 and Policy 7.8 until the next regular school board meeting as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes



C. Extension of FFCRA Leave

On December 31, 2020, the leave provisions found within the FFCRA expired. This act provided 10 "free" days of leave for employees who were identified as positive for COVID 19, had been isolated as a result of exposure to COVID 19, or were caring for a relative with COVID 19. The leave also provided a prorated leave allowance for individuals who had children whose school closed or childcare was not available due to COVID-related issues. The lack of extension of this act will have an adverse effect on employees who may already have expended many days due to the pandemic.

Motion to approve the extension of FFCRA Leave as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

12. Executive Session for Legal Matter

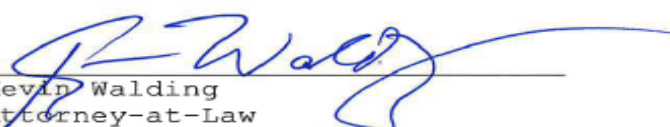
Mr. Kevin Walding presented the following:

**Declaration Regarding
Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters**

For purposes of the executive session at the meeting of the Dothan City Board of Education, I hereby declare that:

1. I am counsel for the Board.
2. I am an attorney-at-law who is duly licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama.
3. The matters which the Board will discuss in the executive session concern either pending legal matters or matters that are imminently likely to become pending legal matters.

THIS the 19th day of Janaury, 2021.



Kevin Walding
Attorney-at-Law
Alabama State Bar #8121-I-69J
HARDWICK HAUSE SEGREST & WALDING
212 North Lena Street
Dothan, Alabama 36303-4429



Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for Legal Matter as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Susan Vierkandt, Motion seconded by: Mr. Brett Strickland, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox - Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt – Yes

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to reconvene into Regular Session as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Motion seconded by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes

13. New Business

A. Board approved Board Meetings to be held as listed below:

- i. Thursday, February 11, 2021 – School Board Work Session
- ii. Tuesday, February 16, 2020 – Regular School Board Meeting

All future School Board Work Sessions and Regular School Board Meetings will now meet at 5:30 PM.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion made by: Mrs. Amy Bonds, Motion seconded by: Mr. Chris Maddox, Voting: Mr. Mike Schmitz – Yes, Mrs. Brenda Guilford – Yes, Mrs. Amy Bonds – Yes, Mr. Franklin Jones – Yes, Mr. Chris Maddox – Yes, Mr. Brett Strickland – Yes, Mrs. Susan Vierkandt - Yes