

**POQUOSON CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
CITY OF POQUOSON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MINUTES

Present:

Shannon Martin, Chair	Timothy Goodale	Michael DuBose
Christopher Burbage, Vice Chair	Cameron Childress	Arty Tillett, Superintendent
Jonathan Ingram	Kristen Jones	April Firth, Clerk of the Board

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Martin called meeting to order: 6:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND INSPIRATIONAL READING:** Thatcher Faciszewski, a junior at Poquoson High School and Student Representative of the Board, led the Pledge to the Flag, Moment of Silence, and read an inspirational quote.
- III. **ADDITIONS AND/OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:** There were none.
- IV. **RECOGNITIONS:** The Kiwanis Club of Poquoson presented all four principals with a monetary donation to their respective schools. The presentation was given by Kiwanis President Anjie Emmett and Charlie French, Kiwanis Coordinator with PCPS.
- V. **PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:**
 - A. **Instructional Update:** Ms. Amber Brown announced that all Poquoson City Public Schools are Fully Accredited and gave an overview of our 2023-24 Accreditation Report based upon 2022-23 SOL Assessment Data. She spoke about the ALL IN VA plan to combat learning loss and the PCPS Gifted Education Audit. She went over the Local Gifted Education Plan 2020-2025, the Gifted Education Goals, and Instructional Focus for 2023-24. She thanked Mr. Andrew Roberts and announced that we were featured on a National Level for the Center for PBIS. Our PBIS Matrix that is used at the high school was featured in their September Edition for Extending Schoolwide Systems to Support Extracurricular Activities.
 - B. **Finance Update:** Ms. Tracy Spence gave a State budget update for FY24. It includes funding for 2% raises for state supported positions effective January 1st as well as funding for the ALL IN VA plan to accelerate learning loss recovery. School divisions are awaiting the State calc tool. She also provided a look ahead for the FY25 budget.
 - C. **Operations Update:** Dr. Ratliff gave an update on the completion of the PPS Roof and HVAC projects. He also gave an overview on AEDs, the installation of the handicapped accessible playground equipment, PES playground pricing and transportation adjustments.
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bransom Matheson of 100 Madeira Drive Yorktown, VA. 23693 spoke about the choral department and equality. Ronald Lee of 256R Hunts Neck Road spoke about

keeping the current bathroom policy. Lee Coon of Poquoson spoke about restrooms. Rev. Michael D Burnett of 40 Pasture Road spoke about LGBTQ and Inclusion & Equality. Jaime Baldwin of 5 Wilson Drive spoke about the PES playground and the TAG program. Krista Goodale of 6 Heron Circle spoke about the TAG/Gifted program.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Financial Reports
- B. Authorization to Change Appropriation and to Accept and Expend Funds in Accordance with Attached Request
- C. Approval of Personnel Action
- D. Approval of Minutes for August's Regular Meeting, Work Session, and Special Called Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Burbage read the Consent Agenda above. Dr. Goodale made a motion to remove August Work Session Minutes in Sub Item D, seconded by Mr. Childress. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Ingram, Aye; Dr. Goodale, Aye; Mr. Childress, Aye; Ms. Jones, Aye;
Mr. DuBose, Aye; Vice Chair Burbage, Aye; Chair Martin, Aye

Dr. Goodale made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, that the Consent Agenda be approved with Approval of August Work Session Minutes removed. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Ingram, Aye; Dr. Goodale, Aye; Mr. Childress, Aye; Ms. Jones, Aye;
Mr. DuBose, Aye; Vice Chair Burbage, Aye; Chair Martin, Aye

Dr. Goodale made a motion to open Work Session Minutes for revision, seconded by Mr. Childress.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to add that student fees were reduced in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct School Fee Chart and to add our Policy Numbers and Virginia General Statue to the Review of Policy 7-1.2 Equal Educational Opportunity/Nondiscrimination.

Dr. Goodale made a motion, seconded by Mr. Childress, that revisions to August Work Session Minutes be approved. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Ingram, Aye; Dr. Goodale, Aye; Mr. Childress, Aye; Ms. Jones, Aye;
Mr. DuBose, Aye; Vice Chair Burbage, Aye; Chair Martin, Aye

VIII. OTHER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Consideration of Approval of Proclamations for National School Lunch Week and Bullying Prevention Month be approved.

Mr. DuBose made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ingram, that the Consideration of Approval of Proclamations for National School Lunch Week and Bullying Prevention Month be approved. Vote was taken.

VOTE: 7:0

Mr. Ingram, Aye; Dr. Goodale, Aye; Mr. Childress, Aye; Ms. Jones, Aye;
Mr. DuBose, Aye; Vice Chair Burbage, Aye; Chair Martin, Aye

IX. COMMUNICATIONS AND/OR OTHER MATTERS BY SCHOOL BOARD AND/OR SUPERINTENDENT:

- **Mr. Faciszewski:** He gave updates from each school.
- **Mr. Ingram:** He welcomed students, teachers, and administrators back to school. He thanked the Kiwanis Club for their generous donation of \$1,000.00 to each principal.
- **Dr. Goodale:** He also thanked the Kiwanis Club for their donation and congratulated the principals and teachers on last year's SOL results. He thanked the speakers for coming out to speak and for their time.
- **Mr. Childress:** He welcomed everyone back to school. He thanked the Kiwanis Club and volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to our school system. He stated that their generosity is much appreciated and that he and his son had breakfast with them last year and thanked them for their passion for the children and their education. He thanked all the employees, volunteers, parents, and students for SOL scores and being fully accredited. It's something to be proud of and you all did a great job. He also thanked the speakers and stated that their time and input is very valuable.
- **Ms. Jones:** She thanked the Kiwanis Club for their very generous donation. It speaks volumes that they are entrusting an unrestricted donation to the principals, that is exactly where the money is needed in her opinion, and they can put it to good use directly. Thank you to administrators, teachers, and staff on the full accreditations and composite scores. She thanked PPS and PES for bringing back Back to School Night. She thinks it's very important to get the parents back into the building and they appreciate your efforts. She is happy to hear the update on the playground equipment and she thanked those who came for public comment. We do appreciate your time, energy, effort, and preparation and for their respectful insight and for addressing matters in the appropriate setting. We appreciate and hear you. She closed by thanking PPS for recognizing Constitution Day. She thinks it's very important to introduce that to our youngest students.
- **Mr. DuBose:** He thanked the Kiwanis for their donation to all the schools. He thanked all the teachers, students, and everyone that has jumped through hurdles in the last few weeks. There has

been a lot going on in the background to make sure our students are well educated, and he thanks everyone for everything that they have done. He thanked the people who came out for public comment. It's always appreciated and shows that everyone here is committed to our most valuable asset, our children.

- **Vice Chair Burbage:** He thanked the Kiwanis Club for their much-appreciated gift to our schools. He thanked the teachers and staff. He stated that being fully accredited at all schools is huge. He noted that we are at the top for the Science SOL in our area. We are doing a good job; the teachers are doing well and keep up the good work. He thanked all the people that came for public comment. It's important that the public come and talk to us. He thanked Thatcher for his updates on all the schools. It's very valuable.
- **Chair Martin:** She has the same sentiments as her esteemed Board. Thank you to our administrators. She thinks they should have a party for being 4th in the State, that seems like a big deal to her and she's proud of that. She thinks it's something to celebrate as a team. She thanked the principals and the Kiwanis Club for supporting them and their mission to help our students. She thanked the public and those who took the time to speak. We appreciate everybody and their views and input are important to them as your Board. You were heard and we appreciate your time. She thanked Thatcher for doing a great job.
- **Mr. Tillett:** He has the same sentiments as the Board. He stated that it's great being number four, but we are shooting to be number one and will continue to push and pull until we have the distinct honor of number one in the state at everything that we do. That's our goal and always has been. We are very focused on a very comprehensive strategic plan. You can go on the website and see goals with action steps that we are very much committed to. In Poquoson it's an all-in approach. We will need help with getting kids to school every day, the best instruction happens face to face in our classrooms with teachers and education professionals. He spoke on tutoring and the need for help from parents and community members. We need all the volunteers we can get in our schools. It does his heart good every time he sees parents reading to kids in the hallways at PPS and he would love to see hundreds of parents out at our schools everyday helping kids learn. He thanked everyone for everything that they do and the Board for all their support.

X. **MATERIAL FOR BOARD REVIEW:** There were none.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.



Shannon Martin, Chair



April Firth, Clerk of the Board

10/17/23

Date