

**POQUOSON CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 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:** Kelly Purdie recognized Karsyn Aukamp as October Senior of the Month.
- V. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:**
  - A. Superintendent's Update:** Mr. Arty Tillett announced that we have been awarded the 2023/24 DoDEA Grant of \$500,000.00. The Grant will provide funding to support a Structured Literacy Program and Literacy Coaches for grades K-5, over a 5-year grant cycle. He thanked the Division-Wide Instructional Leadership Team: Kim Montalvo, Kelly Purdie and Amber Brown.
  - B. Instructional Update:** Ms. Amber Brown gave an update of the PCPS Strategic Plan. She also spoke on social emotional learning (SEL). She gave an overview of SEL Curriculum, Caring School Community, and provided snapshots of the curriculum for Kindergarten and First Grade.
  - C. Operations Update:** Dr. Brandon Ratliff spoke about increasing involvement in school volunteers. He gave an overview of the school volunteer on-boarding process.
  - D. Finance Update:** Ms. Tracy Spence gave an update on Impact Aid and the Impact Aid Survey Forms. She also went over the activity funds report and the process for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Theodore Imbasciani of 19 Dryden Drive spoke on our Code of Conduct. Brandon Call of 13 Bayview Drive spoke about SEL. Sherri Dykstra of 20 Emmaus Road spoke about TAG at PES. Tim Dykstra of 20 Emmaus Road spoke about special teachers. Benjamin

Aaronson of 7 Harbour View Drive spoke about SEL. Tricia Rainone of 114 Whitehouse Drive spoke about School Board work sessions.

## **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 Revised Minutes for August's Work Session
- E. Approval of Minutes for September's Regular Meeting and October 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Session
- F. Approval to Authorize the Superintendent to Sign a Contract for Custodial Services with Service Master Commercial Services for the 2024-2025 School Year

Vice Chair Burbage read the Consent Agenda above. Mr. Ingram made a motion, seconded by Mr. DuBose, that the Consent Agenda be approved as read. 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 Bus Safety Week be approved.

Mr. DuBose made a motion, seconded by Mr. Childress, that the Consideration of Approval of Proclamations for Bus Safety Week 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 congratulated Ms. Aukamp on being senior of the month and staff that were involved in the DoDEA Grant. He touched on Dr. Ratliff's update on volunteers and reminded everyone that the PTO's are always seeking out volunteers and there is always an opportunity there. He thanked the speakers for coming out and speaking and suggested a time clock for speakers to be able to view.
- **Dr. Goodale:** He echoed the above thoughts and congratulated the admin team that put the DoDEA Grant together and thanked the speakers for their time and sharing their thoughts and concerns.

- **Mr. Childress:** He congratulated Karsyn for senior of the month. He also thanked all the volunteers who help out with our community and schools and for their comments and emails. Even though they don't hear back from him per protocol, the School Board does not reply to comments and only Chair and Superintendent reply to emails sent to the Board, he hears and appreciates your input and feedback. He agrees with Ms. Brown that parents need to be involved in their child's education. If you are concerned, send emails and come and talk in the meetings. You need to be the advocate for your kids and be part of their education.
- **Ms. Jones:** She congratulated Karsyn on a job well done, Thatcher and other golf team members for their excellent showing at States. Our band and athletic teams, on a positive note, you could not watch the videos of the pep rally and attend the homecoming parade and not feel some Poquoson pride. We have a special community and to echo Mr. Childress, we're all here for the same goal so thank you to all who provided public comment. We appreciate your time; this is what we need and we do hear your concerns. Thank you to all the volunteers. She appreciates the volunteer check program. It is very important and necessary.
- **Mr. DuBose:** He echoes the thank you's and the appreciation. He thanked all the people that came to talk. He knows it's hard and some don't feel heard, but you are heard by everybody up there.
- **Vice Chair Burbage:** He thanked the speakers for speaking tonight. It helps them understand what the concerns of the community are in addition to emails and things. He encouraged more people to come to these meetings and work sessions, they are open to the public. He also thanked and congratulated Karsyn for senior of the month. He stated that the \$500,000 DoDEA Grant is huge. He thanked the volunteers and encouraged the public to consider volunteering in our schools.
- **Chair Martin:** She echoed the sentiments of the Board. She congratulated Miss Aukamp on senior of the month and for perfect attendance during her high school career. She thanked the public for coming and for their comments and emails. They do try to get back to you and appreciate the time you take to let them know. She stated that we are all here for the good of the children and that is where they try to keep their focus, you all help them with that, and they are thankful.
- **Mr. Tillett:** He also echoed all the comments from the Board and congratulated Karsyn. He reiterated the volunteer requests. This package that our team has put together is comprehensive so we can get more people in our schools safely. He thanked Kelly Purdie for her hard work on this. He spoke on the Governor's All in Plan and how we are working on a very short time frame to meet the requirements of that plan. We are going to need volunteers to help tutor. He is mind boggled to think about our work and then larger school divisions that need tutoring during a national educator shortage. He also asked families to please complete the impact aid report.

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

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

*Shannon Martin*

Shannon Martin, Chair

*April L. Firth*

April Firth, Clerk of the Board

11/21/23

Date