

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY OF FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN AT
Wednesday, July 22, 2020, VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING**

This document summarizes formal actions taken on substantive matters at the virtual special meeting of the Northampton County Board of Education on July 22, 2020. This document is provided for the convenience of the public and does not constitute the official minutes of the meeting. For details such as the precise substance of main motions, any subsidiary motions, the names of members who made and seconded motions, staff presentations and public comments, and the times the meeting was called to order, recessed, reconvened, and/or adjourned, please consult the official minutes of this meeting, which are maintained as audio or video recordings and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent and on the Board of Education website.

Members Present: Rhonda Taylor, Chair; Marjorie Edwards, Lucy Edwards, Josephine Dunn, Barbara Stephenson, Theresa Scott, Tony Burnette, Dr. Pamela Chamblee, ex officio
Others Present: Administration and interested parties

The Board convened the Board Meeting at 5:34 p.m.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Approval of Agenda. Mr. Burnette made a motion, Seconded by Ms. Stephenson to approve the Board Agenda as presented. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

Purchase of Chromebooks. Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that we are requesting to purchase Chromebooks in the amount of \$139,046.79. We desire to go to a 1-1 initiative completely with the purchase of 500 Chromebooks. We have our first generation Chromebooks at the high school, which are outdated and they have already outlived their usefulness so part of this 1-1 plan that we are moving towards is to have 200 computers to extend beyond the high school for students, but we do desire to move beyond the 1-1. In this purchase we also have 500 licenses for the computers that we are requesting. These computers will be sequel compliant, because we are seeing that when students are not on these devices they can become victims of any predators that maybe out there. We also want to follow the FERPA Act, which is our Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act with these Chromebooks that we are desiring to order for our students. This amount does exceed the \$100,000.00 threshold; therefore, I am bringing this purchase to the Board Members this evening for your approval.

Ms. M. Edwards made a motion, Seconded by Ms. Scott to accept the request from the Superintendent to purchase Chromebooks and licenses in the amount of \$139,046.79 to help in getting our students to the 1-1 initiative in Northampton County.

Ms. L. Edwards asked that with the 500 Chromebooks and I know these will cover most of our students, but will these Chromebooks be checked out by the students?

Dr. Chamblee responded yes they will and we are desiring to use this towards the 1-1 plan, although they won't take us completely to 1-1, but it is a great start and it will be in the high school. We also desire for the students to use these Chromebooks when we are doing face-to-face, remote instruction.

Ms. L. Edwards asked also that with the older students will they work with your younger students?

Dr. Chamblee responded stating that we will be using tablets for our younger students.

Ms. Dunn asked do we have the tablets and how are we as far as that goes?

Dr. Chamblee responded that is in our rotation and we will be ordering tablets for our younger children for grades K-2.

Ms. M. Edwards asked how many tablets will we need?

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board we will need tablets for all of our students in grades K-2. The 500 Chromebooks will cover the high school and we will have a little under 200 remaining and so we will get started in our other schools and we know that we have more that we need to order and this will be the beginning of our 1-1 initiative.

Ms. M. Edwards asked where will the \$139,046.79 be paid from?

Dr. Chamblee responded that those funds will be coming from a grant. She stated that Mr. Tyler is here and she will allow him speak to that.

Mr. Corey Tyler responded that these funds will come from the Cares Act grant that we received.

Dr. Chamblee further stated that we received \$1.7 million from the Cares Act, but we have to keep in mind that we have to invite the private schools in our area to share in this money to help take care of their needs with this funding as well.

Ms. M. Edwards asked that if no one else needs any of the funding can we use some more of this money for the remaining Chromebooks that we need?

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that we actually wrote a grant and in that grant we put in there what we would use the money for. Therefore, part of our responsibility is to reach out to the private schools to make certain if they don't want to share in the funds. We have also sent our letters out to them and there has been some interest in a percentage of this money. There will also be a meeting held for this on August 10, 2020.

Ms. Dunn asked do we know how many more computers we need?

Mr. Corey Tyler responded that we need approximately 400 more and that would make us 1-1.

Chair Taylor asked what happened to the laptops that were donated from the highway patrol and what are we using those for?

Mr. Corey Tyler responded that those laptops are being used by our teachers for their remote usage.

Dr. Chamblee further explained that we have teachers who are in need of devices as well; therefore, we used some of those laptops for our staff, because those old Chromebooks were not getting the job done.

Ms. L. Edwards also shared that they are really urging staff members to use school district devices and you will probably hear about that later.

Chair Taylor asked if the cost of the additional 400 computers is going to be close to what we are paying right now and I believe that the Superintendent's threshold is \$120,000.00 is that correct Attorney Malone?

Attorney Rod Malone responded that is correct. There was \$120,000.00 threshold in the Emergency Resolution that the Board granted back in April.

The motion to accept the request from the Superintendent to purchase Chromebooks and licenses in the amount of \$139,046.79 to help in getting our students to the 1-1 initiative in Northampton County passed by a 7-0 vote.

School Re-Opening Plan. Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that she knows this is the moment that everyone has been waiting for as we have had numerous calls about our School Re-Opening Plan. Dr. Chamblee asked Mr. Tyler to pull the powerpoint up so that the Board can view the plan. Dr. Chamblee shared the following points with the Board:

2020-2021 Reopening Survey & Recommendation

~We did two initial surveys with staff, parents, and students and we took the opportunity, because we wanted to hear their input and their voice as it relates to how they feel about the re-opening of school. I will share with you what some of their concerns are:

- **First Survey – July 9-12, 2020**

(128 parent responses, 140 staff responses, 31 student responses)

Question #1 – What are your technology needs for the staff?

Staff Responses

62.7% staff responses – Have their own laptop and device, have high-speed Internet at home.

17.9% staff responses – Do not have their own laptop device, but do have reliable Internet.

13.1% staff responses – Have their own laptop device, but do not have reliable Internet at home.

~We are working through the Technology Department to try to get hotspots and we realize we have dessert areas in the district where there is very limited Internet, such as towards Severn, a major area we are looking at trying to support our staff.

~In order to support our students with remote learning our staff certainly has to have the support that they need in order to make this happen.

Student Responses

54.8% student responses – Have their own laptop, they do have reliable high-speed Internet at home.

32.3% student responses – Do not have a laptop, but they do have the Internet.

17% - student responses – They do have a laptop device, but they do not have reliable high-speed Internet.

Question #2 – What are you overall feelings about returning to school?**Family Responses**

19.5% family responses – They felt good about it if a vaccine is available.

46.9% family responses – Only if requirements are enforced such as, wearing the mask, washing hands, and using sanitizer.

10.9% family responses – They felt good about returning to school if requirements are encouraged.

22.7% family responses – They would return based on whatever safeguards the district has in place.

Staff Responses

17.2% staff responses – They felt good about returning, if a vaccine is available.

43.7% staff responses – If requirements are enforced.

11.9% staff responses – If requirements are encouraged.

27.2% staff responses – If safeguards are in place in the district.

Student Responses

16.1% student responses – If a vaccine is available, they felt good about it.

16.1% student responses – If requirements are enforced.

22.6% student responses – They would feel good about returning regardless to whatever safeguards may be in place.

45.2% student responses – If safeguards are in place in the district.

Question #3 – Are you planning to have your children return to school for the 2020-2021 school year?**Family Responses**

44.5% family responses – It all depends upon what plans the school district makes for this school year.

19.5% family responses – Responded yes.

35.9% family responses – No, they don't feel good about it.

Staff Responses - Are you planning to return to school for the 2020-2021 school year?

48.1% staff responses – Yes.

34% staff responses – Yes, it depends upon the plans the district makes for the school year.

17.9% staff responses – No.

~We do have staff members who have underlining conditions and they want to make sure that what we put in place is safe for them. We had quite a few express that they want to make sure that they can go home safely and that they are not carrying anything with them.

~We looked at the numbers and what everyone had to say. We talked about the learning context, their priority.

Student Responses - Are you planning to return to school for the 2020-2021 school year?

48.4% student responses – Yes.

32.3% student responses – Yes, it depends upon the plans the district makes for the school year.

19.4% student responses – No.

Question #4 – Considering your experience with emergency distance education implemented during Spring 2020, please indicate your three top priorities for distance education.

Family Responses

78% family responses – 1st priority – Assignments can be assessed and completed at the students' own pace. That is what they really wanted us to consider when we talk about remote learning.

65% family responses – 2nd priority – To have live meetings or lessons with teachers who have smaller groups of students.

59% family responses – The time spent on learning how to succeed in a distance environment? They wanted us to show them how we would use this to be successful.

Staff Responses

72% staff responses – 1st priority – Assignments can be assessed and completed at the students' own pace.

67% staff responses – 2nd priority – They want to make sure that time spent on learning how to succeed? So the staff wants training as well how to succeed in teaching in a low environment?

63% staff responses – 3rd priority – Live meetings or lessons with teachers with smaller groups of students. That was flipped.

Student Responses

65% student responses – Assignments that can be assessed and completed. They want to do it at their own pace.

~All three groups had that as a priority

65% student responses – They want to spend time learning new things.

58% student responses – They want time spent on learning how to succeed in a remote environment.

~That lets us know that we have to do some training. Therefore, we are planning some training sessions with our parents working with their children in a remote environment, what to expect, and how to navigate the tools that we are going to be using. For example in grades K-2, we will be using See Saw as a learning measurement platform and for grades 3-12 we will use Google Classroom.

~We are going to have a session where we train students and these trainings will be ongoing sessions for parents, students, and staff.

~We intend to start training prior to August 17, 2020, prior to the first day of school.

~When we came back later in the month and we will asked parents, students, and staff about re-opening. Here is where we personalized the survey.

~We asked the principals of every school to call parents to ask them to begin to personalize it to hear what else they have to say about it and what their thoughts were on this.

- **Second Survey – July 15-20, 2020 – Family Results for Learning Choice**

Blended Model – Plan B (State Option) – We would have some online and some face-to-face learning coming into the brick and mortar building.

Plan C – Completely virtual.

Central Elementary – (134 responses)

48.5% - Wanted Plan B, a blended model. This would be virtual and face-to-face in the school.

51.5% - Wanted to go completely virtual.

Gaston Elementary – (155 responses)

25.8% - Wanted Plan B, a blended model.

74.2% - Wanted Plan C, completely virtual.

Willis Hare Elementary – (Low response rate in calling)

16.7% - Wanted Plan B, a blended model.

75% - Wanted Plan C, completely virtual.

Conway Middle (124 responses)

None of the parents wanted Plan B, a blended model.

100% - Wanted Plan C, completely virtual.

Gaston Middle – (47 responses)

36.2% - Wanted Plan B, a blended model.

59.6% - Wanted Plan C, completely virtual.

Northampton County Early College – (92 responses)

17.4% - Wanted Plan B, a blended model.

80.4% - Wanted Plan C, completely virtual.

Northampton County High School – (120 responses)

20% - Wanted Plan B, a blended model.

75.8% - Wanted Plan C, completely virtual.

Dr. Chamblee asked the Board Members if they had any questions at this time?

Ms. M. Edwards shared that she could see that the older the children feel more responsible to do their work remotely. The younger the children of course the parents are speaking for them, they want them part in school and part not, but we have to look at safety. My whole problem with Plan B is that I don't feel like the total cleaning on Plan C on a Wednesday will be like it should be. I feel like we are going to miss some spots number one and the second thing is you have to remember that everybody is not going to keep their mask on and the teachers are going to spend a lot of time back and forth with that. I feel it is going to take away from teaching and learning and at this point while everybody still has some fear going on, I am a little skeptical. Even with the little people, because little people do not wash hands good as it is and whoever is working with them sometimes they miss something. Ms. Edwards further stated that this survey is really telling us something, but we have to be responsible as well as the people who are supposed to be stewards over our children. If I had some little people in school now, I would stay remote and that is me talking, because I see errors, I see problems, and I see situations with children coming back to school. Also, we still have increases and we still have people working for us who have problems themselves. We have to be careful with some of the stuff we get around and health issues, because we don't know totally how it is spread and there are still a lot of mysteries and I can see we have a lot of uncertainties there.

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that this bar graph that you are seeing right now is the same data, but put into a bar graph so you can see that the blended learning is in the light blue and the

parents, students, and staff who wanted remote, at least initially, they are in the dark blue. Therefore, that is another way of looking at this data when you look at the dark blue bar.

Mr. Burnette asked Dr. Chamblee to clarify what is Plan B and what is Plan C.

Dr. Chamblee informed Mr. Burnette that she apologizes for that, because she should have explained that in the beginning, because everybody was not at the workshop. Dr. Chamblee informed the Board Members that the State gave us three plans, three ways that we could open school. She explained as follows:

Plan A – All students come back to school 100%, no remote learning. Everybody comes back to the brick and mortar building.

Plan B – If we open with Plan B, you would bring back 50% of the students, the other students would be on remote learning, and you would have some in the building, but observing those social distancing guidelines.

Plan C – You would have 100% of your students on remote learning.

Ms. Dunn stated that regarding Plan B, you don't know if you can bring back 50% or not, because it goes by the size of the classroom and how many can go in that classroom.

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that we had the custodians to go in and measure off 6 feet and for the most part where a classroom may hold 24-25 students we got half of that. Some of the classrooms we could get 10 students in a room. Also, Ms. Edwards was correct and we did look at if we would go with Plan B, we would have to have an A-Day & B-Day. Students would come to school on A-Day and some students would come on B-day. Then on Wednesdays, it would be for disinfecting and sanitizing all over again and getting ready for the next group of students.

Ms. Dunn added that still does not cover the disinfecting that needs to be going on while those 10 children are in that room.

Dr. Chamblee stated that we still have follow the guidelines where they are serving food and when you talk about Pre-K, K, and 1st grades students, because they want to share toys.

Ms. L. Edwards stated that another thing about students coming back is a concern about the wearing of the masks. I did a test with my grandchildren to see how long they could wear those masks and I said let's do a two-hour block and none of them made it. I have neighbors who have come in from Wake County and those parents did the same thing and the children just didn't make it.

Dr. Chamblee further explained that the Governor has made it clear that if we come back to the building that is non-negotiable. The mask is required at all times. Also, I was on a webinar with the superintendents today, State Superintendent and others, and a DPI representative and this is the first time I have heard this, but they talked about having a mask break giving them a limited amount of time to take their mask off. They still must be 6 feet apart for social distancing. So what that limited amount of time would look like, it wasn't defined what limited means.

Nonetheless, for the most part they will have to have their mask on as they move around and they will have to participate in the hand washing for 20 seconds.

Dr. Chamblee informed that Board that what she is requesting of the Board is that we at least for the 1st nine weeks go with Plan C, which gives us complete remote instruction after we train the parents, students, and staff members. As you can see from the numbers, people are still fearful of the unknown and obviously there is no vaccine at this point and people really want to know the safeguards. Therefore, we have to look at all mitigating factors as we do have staff members who have underlining health conditions as well. They are thinking about themselves as well as they don't want to bring it home. Some of us are careful older guardians, parents, or grandparents and we have students so we have to careful with that, but I do want you all to know that we did not make this decision in isolation. We did have a Re-entry Task Force and we included parents and everyone in on this Task Force.

Mr. Burnette asked if Plan C will cover everything that we were doing before, such as making sure our students are feed, that our buses are running, and supporting them in that way is that correct?

Dr. Chamblee responded that we plan to continue to serve our students by feeding them, but we may not run the buses everyday. If we run on Monday, we would have enough food for Monday and Tuesday. Then if we run them on Wednesday, we would have enough food for Wednesday and Thursday. Therefore, our buses may run about three days per week while thinking about still having shelf life food for them. We have had some parents who expressed an interest in still having paper and pencil packets and even on those days we will still continue to provide paper-pencil instruction. Again, everybody is not comfortable with online learning. We do know that we do have some of our older people who may be the guardians while the parents are at work and the online may not fit what they need to do; therefore, we are considering that. We plan to provide online instruction just like we did in the past with teachers coming into the buildings in their classrooms and providing instruction remotely from there. Also, they will be making packets for those students who still may need it in that format. So yes, we still plan to serve the students with the food, we want to re-purpose our custodians so that they can help as well, and support our School Nutrition as they did an awesome job these last couple of months. It was a lot to ask of them, but they got it done. We don't want anyone to go without a paycheck; therefore, we want to re-purpose people so we want to get them to help in those other capacities where we are going to be needing them. I know it may not be the best plan for everyone, but we do want people to know that we will have our Support Team led by Mr. Barfield in place. We want to stay in contact with these families to make sure whatever support is there that is needed. We will have our school nurses involved. We want to be able to after every three weeks do an assessment and we are involving the Health Department in helping us to make sure that we can re-open safely. I think that goes without saying that is a priority.

Mr. Burnette informed Dr. Chamblee that he wanted to thank her and her team for giving us options and the Lord knows we need options here in this season of "pandemic". I have been following our different districts in the Roanoke Valley area and seeing what other districts are doing and I can absolutely say here with confidence that you and your staff are putting us in a position to be on top of this. I like the way that you had the foresight of seeing and being able to

put out those surveys, getting our people involved, and then to have the principals of each school to do the personal follow-up where the parents had the opportunity to speak with a person in depth to get us that information. It is most important being a Board Member and being able to sit here and be able to visually see where we can make an informed decision about what is best for our young children in this county and for our parents, staff, teachers, and everybody else associated with this. I just want to thank you for being on top and doing everything that you need to do and your staff in order to help us make this informed decision. I know my phone has been blowing up along with the other Board Members on which direction we would be going in and being able to sit here and being able to make an informed decision based off of data, and scientific data, is so important and I thank you!

Dr. Chamblee shared with the Board some of the School Re-Entry Task Force's responsibilities as follows:

- Minimize the risk to public health
- Address the impacts on student learning and well-being
- Recognizing the importance of involving the community
- Optimizing and getting ready for operational readiness
- If we are granted to operate under Plan C for the 1st nine weeks, there are still some things that we must do in our buildings for an example:
 - ~Signage – reminding students where to wash their hands and putting in more sanitizing stations in the buildings. There is already a backlog for these items in some places.
 - ~Full body scanners - This equipment will allow for 70 people's temperature to be scanned in one minute. Also, there has been a change in the temperature checks prior to getting on the bus. Now they are saying we don't have to check their temperature before they get on the bus, but they are asking parents to have those attestation forms saying that their child does not have a fever or any of those symptoms and they are attesting to that fact. Then we collect those forms, but we will check those temperatures before they go into the building. Also, what it looks like now on the school bus is that they still have to be 6 feet apart and we would have one student per seat. If there is a family, you would try to put them on one seat together. What we are trying to do is back this down, because the most restricted is Plan C; therefore, we want to be safe, put those safeguards in place, back down to where we can see it is going to be, then eventually back down to Plan A, 100%. We want to work our way backwards with these safety precautions for grades Pre-K-12. This will give us time to get our disinfectant in place, get our custodians on schedule, and we may have to let them rotate throughout the building as a team in order to disinfect safely, because each school has 1 or 2 custodians. Also, following the guidelines wherever the disinfectant goes, we want to make sure our students don't have access to that when they are entering the building. We want to work out all of those things. We have all desks facing the same direction, six feet apart, and we know at the most 10-12 students in a classroom.

Ms. Dunn asked are we considering any type of protection for the bus drivers when the students approach the buses, since they are the closest person they would get to and most of our drivers are elderly.

Dr. Chamblee responded that is another reason why we need the time, because we need to retrofit some of our buses and we need the plexiglas around our bus drivers, as we have about 48

school buses and that will take some time to retrofit those buses or whatever we are going to do to protect our drivers. Also, at the end of the 1st six weeks, I would like to come back to the Board with a recommendation after we have been in touch with the Health Department and seeing what the numbers look like. If you would look at the map that Mr. Tyler has showing up there, you can see that Northampton County is up there with the number of cases. To date, we have 272 total cases, 16 deaths, and we have about 69 active cases right now and those are only the ones we know about. Please keep in mind Board Members that you can be A-symptomatic and there may be people who don't even know, because they may not be experiencing any symptoms and it does not serve everybody the same way.

Chair Taylor asked if the Board and the district decides to go with Plan C, as students start school we are going to have some who are not going to participate are you going to be able to send our social workers to the homes, and I know you don't want them to go to the homes, to check on what is going on in the house. I am for Plan C, but it concerns me that even now with the kids being out so long out of school there is neglect and nobody is there to see it. Therefore, I just want to make sure that those students that are out there lingering, because when you did your survey it was not 100% so there are some out there and I just don't know where they are. When we don't know who participated in the survey we can't reach out to them, but I just want to make sure that we do reach out to them, especially those students that the principal has not been able to reach. If they can try again or send someone, because we don't know the reason why and I just want to make sure that we touch each child in Northampton County to see where they are before school starts and a couple of weeks after if they have not participated.

Dr. Chamblee assured the Board that we will be taking attendance and our school social workers under the leadership of Mr. Barfield has already created their own document with the PPE equipment that they need to wear. They are already aware that they will be going to some homes and they have developed a document in which they are addressing that. Also, they will go out with more than one person at a time, they will not go out by themselves and will wear personal protective equipment. Our social workers already knew that would be a concern.

Ms. L. Edwards stated that she listened to the survey and some of the students and even some of the parents mentioned that they want to be able to do their assignment at their own pace and that has to be monitored too, because "at your own pace" is it your ability to learn or is it when you want to do it. Therefore, we have another concern that we have with parents who are not connected or parents who really don't buy in to education so we have to make sure that even though we are doing it virtually that we have make sure that they get through it, because we have a curriculum to go through.

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that we plan to run those days just like a regular school day. Therefore, on Monday we are asking parents to have them online or students who don't have Internet access, teachers are getting Google voicemail phone numbers, so if you don't have the Internet and can't go online we are asking them to call in. We are asking them to call in or be online by 8:00 a.m. on Mondays. This is what Mondays will look like:
Monday – 8:00 a.m. – A full day of instruction where the teacher is touching and providing all of the instruction for the kids.

Tuesday – Teacher Directed Day – Teachers will keep office hours so if a student did not understand something on Monday they can call and get in touch with the teacher.

Wednesday – Professional Development Day for teachers, but the students will continue to work remotely. That is a day that we will try to do some mitigating on that day, some disinfecting, and things like that which are needed.

Thursday – Repeat of Monday – The teacher will come back full grouped with direct instruction with the students.

Friday – Small Group Instruction – Teachers will have office hours and students will be able to work independently.

Therefore, if they are not online or they are not connected by telephone then we will be sending someone to the home, because they have to be in attendance.

Ms. L. Edwards shared that plan is a good one, because no one wants to be on a computer all day long and with the schedule you have some flexibility. I know with my middle schooler in Wake County, and this took place after March, she had gone through her entire schedule by about 11:30 a.m., but in the afternoon they could touch bases with their teacher if they needed to. This schedule basically follows some of that planning which is great.

Dr. Chamblee further stated that they don't think it is realistic to say that they are going to sit down from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We plan to have some elective activities, such as a physical education teacher comes on to do some exercise and movement for those that can see or hear him/her. So we plan to have some other things involved, because we do want to keep them engaged. You know and I know that we are being realistic, because that would be a good plan if we thought they would sit there from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. We will provide a lunch time in there and we are going to give them breaks. We are asking the parents to work with us as much as possible and we know it is not ideal for anyone, but under the circumstances we are doing the best we can to keep everybody safe. As you know, we did look at the data and we did come back as Mr. Burnette said probably with the exception of one district surrounding us, but pretty much everyone else decided to air on the side of safety with Plan C.

Ms. Stephenson asked will the parents get a sample schedule?

Dr. Chamblee responded yes they will. We plan to give them a daily schedule.

Ms. M. Edwards stated that to go along with what Ms. Taylor said, we are concerned because everybody knows that we are in a area where sometimes family members don't know how to do a lot of this work and just as our social workers, I would like to see our teachers know what is going on with all 22 of their students if they have 22 students in their class. Yes we want to be sure they are doing their work, but you maybe know what child has had some problems and you might be thinking something is going on. Somebody needs to check on our babies to be sure that they are being taken care of at home, being fed, they are learning, and if they need additional help. I also like the schedule that you are going to give the parents in case that question comes up and as you know that Rod gave us that **hype-vision** about the scam when they do come back so it might be something that we need to look at along with finances to see if it is something we need. The main thing is to make sure our children are getting educated while they are doing remote learning, because everybody does not learn the same way, everybody does not

understand, and there are issues in the homes. We want to make sure that our children are cared for and that nothing is going on that we cannot see when they are coming to school so that they are safe. I would just like to see that being done. Dr. Chamblee I don't know if you have received it or not, but it is the one that our attorney has sent us and we can kind of look at it.

Dr. Chamblee further explained that not only are we doing whole groups, we have the opportunities for small groups where individual students can call in or get online during those office hours that the teachers are going to be keeping. That is critical and that is the timeframe that we want students to reach out to their teacher and the teachers will be giving feedback to them on their work. It will not be like the students are at home just doing work. Also, if they miss a day, we are going to follow up on them just as we normally do with the social worker, we definitely will be sending someone out to the home. As long as we can put our eyes on them we will address their needs with devices and Internet access.

Ms. M. Edwards informed Chair Taylor that if she is in order at this time she would like to make a motion that we will go with the Superintendent's recommendation to re-open our schools with Plan C – Remote Learning for the 1st nine weeks and at that time re-evaluate to see where we are with the State, beginning on August 10, 2020 for our early schools and on August 17, 2020 for our traditional schools. Mr. Burnette seconded the motion.

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that she will actually bring back information prior to the nine weeks, especially at the end of the six weeks so we will know where we are and that would include data from the Health Department.

Ms. Dunn added that once the students get back and the teachers are talking to the students they should really get a better feel than on the survey, because they will be speaking with the students everyday.

The motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to re-open our schools with Plan C – Remote Learning for the 1st nine weeks and at that time re-evaluate to see where we are with the State, beginning on August 10, 2020 for our early schools and on August 17, 2020 for our traditional schools passed by a 7-0 vote.

Ms. M. Edwards thanked Dr. Chamblee and Mr. Edwards for this work and research that was done. We also thank the staff as well because we know it is a team effort. Anybody that has been involved with this it is a lot of work to being sure that we touch all of our families and get as much information as we can get so we certainly thank you.

Chair Taylor asked Dr. Chamblee if she could email the Board Members a copy of the 2020-2021 Reopening Survey Presentation.

Dr. Chamblee responded that she would be glad to do that. She also informed Mr. Burnette that she had to admit that she had the definitions towards the end of the presentation and what Plan C was; the risk of spreading COVID-19 is significant. It requires you to consider Plan C.

Dr. Chamblee further stated that because I wanted to address your questions as you asked them, there are some students who have IEP's and that we may not be able to address their needs at home. Therefore, there is an opportunity for those students to go in the building for those with IEP's that we may not be able to address those needs at home and they would fall under Plan B.

Business Before the Board: Information (Administrative)

Discussion of COVID-19 – Chair Taylor informed the Board that they put the Discussion of COVID-19 on the agenda in case the school system, the Superintendent, and her staff had any concerns regarding COVID-19. She further stated that the Re-Opening of School Plan and the Purchase of Chromebooks really fell under COVID-19, but just in case there was something else that they needed to address by today that is why I put that on the agenda.

Dr. Chamblee stated that she wanted to let the Board Members know that we already have had some to come in of the hand-held temperature gages, we are ordering the full body scanners and we ordered two per school, except the Early College will have one scanner. We have face coverings, a mask or a shield and these are items we put in our grant. The face coverings would depend on the child, because there may be some kids with underlining medical conditions that may not be able to tolerate a mask so we are going to order some face shields. In our plan we just called it face coverings.

Ms. Dunn asked what about protective equipment for the staff.

Dr. Chamblee responded that we have gowns for our staff; we have gloves coming in, hand sanitizer, sanitizer stations, and the signage (showing you where to stand). Our staff and visitors must follow the same standards and the number of visitors at one time would be limited so we won't have 50 visitors in a building at one time.

Dr. Chamblee further stated that we plan to use our school nurses and they would definitely be involved to offer social and emotional support, not only for our students, but also adults. I would like to add that this is getting close to home, as we all know of people who have been affected. Please give me this point of privilege to say that I worked with Mr. T. Patterson, the Principal in Halifax County Schools, who succumbed to conditions from COVID-19. I just want to say that I am taking this responsibility very serious and the precautions will definitely be adhered to following the Department of Health & Human Services' recommendations along with the CDC recommendations, and DPI; the Lighting The Way document and we will have links to that on our webpage so that parents can go and see what we are required to do. I will assure you that we will have check-off and sign-off when things have been sanitized and what we are using to sanitize these buildings with. We already have a leg up, because we have contracted with a company already who have been through and sanitized every school for us without students being there. So the schools have been disinfected in preparation for this and we will also be doing this on the school buses as well.

Chair Taylor stated that she knows that there has been some discussion about athletics since this is the time that they would normally be practicing.

Dr. Chamblee informed the Board that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association has pushed sports back until September. There is a meeting on Monday, July 27th at the high school for parents and anyone who is interested. We will be talking about the steps that they will be following to make sure that they are as safe as possible, not only when they are practicing, but also when they are playing fall sports. Therefore, at this time sports is pretty much suspended now to include band and any close contact sport.

Closed Session. Ms. Stephenson made a motion, Seconded by Ms. Scott to go into closed session at approximately 6:45 p.m. pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(1), (a)(3), and (a)(6) to prevent the disclosure of confidential personnel files under G.S. 115C-321, to consider matters relating to initial employment of an individual employee, to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege. The motion passed by a 7-0 vote.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Open Session. No action was taken in Open Session.

Chair Taylor announced the following upcoming Board Meetings:

- Special Meeting (Board Hearing) – Thursday, July 30, 2020 – Board Room – 3:00 p.m.
- Next Regular Virtual Board Meeting – August 10, 2020 – 5:30 p.m. (Closed Session) - Open Session beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Chair Taylor informed the Board that the Board Meetings will be scheduled at their regular time so that all Board Members can attend the meetings. She added that the Board Hearing and the next meetings we are planning on them being in person.

Adjournment. Ms. M. Edwards made a motion, Second by Ms. L. Edwards to adjourn the Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Pamela Chamblee, Superintendent