

The Forbes Road School Board met for a regular virtual meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Members of the Board present were Kathy Baker, Margaret Bolinger, Cassie Broadwater, Sean Fraker, Dulce Hall, Lori Kendall, Melissa Lane and Kirby Shoemaker. Board member Brian Barton was absent from the meeting. Others in attendance were: Chris Seymore, Randy Gelvin, Kristie Hohman, Dr. Maria Scott-Bollman, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Heidi O'Neal, Josh Wakefield, Beth Locke, Katherine Hollibaugh, several members of the faculty and staff as well as members of the community.

Solicitor Patrick Fanelli chaired the reorganization of the School Board.

On a Fraker/Bolinger motion, Kirby Shoemaker was nominated for School Board President. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all members of the Board voting yes, with the exception of Board Member B. Barton, who was not present to vote.

On a Baker/Fraker motion, Brian Barton was nominated for School Board Vice President. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all members of the Board voting yes, with the exception of Board Member B. Barton, who was not present to vote.

On a Fraker/Bolinger motion, Brian Barton was nominated as legislative chairperson. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Baker/Fraker motion, Lori Kendall was elected for a three-year term as Vo-Tech Board representative. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Broadwater/Hall motion, Melissa Lane was elected as Vo-Tech Board alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Baker/Lane motion, board meeting place and times were set as follows: Regular School Board Meetings-1st or 2nd Monday (except for holidays) at 7:00 pm. Administrative Committee meetings will be held the Tuesday prior to each regular school board meeting at 7:00 pm. Policy meetings will be set as needed. Meetings will be held in the school library unless virtual meetings are necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

General Information

On a Broadwater/Bolinger motion, the November minutes were approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Hall/Broadwater motion, the November treasurers report was approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Bolinger/Baker, the December bills totaling \$336,353.98 were approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Dr. Maria Scott-Bollman began the Vo-Tech by calling on High School Principal Randy Gelvin to go over the countywide student interest survey results. The Principal reiterated that students in grades 6-11 were given the survey to see where their interests were in vocational-technical programs. Results for the existing programs were: the most significant amount of interest in Welding followed by Agricultural Mechanics, third was Allied Health and fourth was the Drafting & Design program. Possible choices for new programming were: Automotive Technology, which came in as the first choice in two of the three Districts and second choice in the third District. Veterinary Assistant was ranked second followed by Medical Assistant as the third most popular choice. Other program choices listed were HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) and Homeland Security (Criminal Justice). Superintendent Dr. Scott-Bollman expressed concern to the Board that as of the most recent JOC meeting, preparations were being made for presentations on the costs of moving forward with the Veterinary Assistant and Criminal Justice programs, leaving out the number one choice of students, Automotive Technology. The Superintendent went on to ask for the Boards direction as to whether to pursue the possibility of Forbes Road School District operating a satellite Automotive Technology program on the district campus. The Board gave their approval for Dr. Scott-Bollman to gather the information needed to decide whether to proceed with the satellite program.

Facilities Manager Chris Seymore gave the building and grounds update stating the maintenance staff has been using the time while students are on remote learning for deep sanitation, stripping floors and cleaning carpets. He reported the touchless water bottle filling stations and the floor machine, both purchased with funds from the PCCD grant, have arrived. Mr. Seymore then gave the Board estimates on the costs of repairing/updating the elementary bathrooms.

Keeping the work in-house, he estimates maintenance staff can complete the project for approximately \$8,500. This price includes new fixtures and repairing the stalls in the elementary bathrooms.

Technology Director Amanda Brown began her technology report by notifying the Board of a shipment of 278 Chromebooks that arrived at the school. The Chromebooks are for students in grades 3-12. Ms. Brown stated that out of the shipment of 278 Chromebooks, 254 have content downloaded and ready to go. She then reported both the school secretary's computers have been updated/upgraded. The Technology Director concluded by stating student technology issues have been minimal.

Heidi O'Neal gave the cafeteria report stating in the month of November, 2,789 lunches and 2,481 breakfast have been served with a total reimbursement of \$16,230.24 compared to \$13,286 in November 2019.

High School Principal Randy Gelvin spoke about the recent parent/teacher conferences in his high school report. Mr. Gelvin directed teachers to contact the parent or guardian of any student with a grade of 70 percent or lower for a meeting. The Principal has scheduled Friday, December 11, 2020, and Monday, December 14, 2020, as catch-up days for students to complete any unfinished assignments.

Pandemic Coordinator/School Nurse Beth Locke stated in her update that she is closely watching data by zip codes. She believes we are starting to see the numbers increase from Thanksgiving. Mrs. Locke made the Board aware a Dashboard has been added to the District's website.

Superintendent Dr. Maria Scott-Bollman also addressed the two-day catch-up schedule in her elementary report, saying elementary students will be given the same two-day period to complete unfinished assignments. The Superintendent reported elementary teachers have contacted students' guardians where there are concerns with their attendance/participation. She believes this has helped with teacher/parent communication. The Superintendent reminded attendees to keep in mind there are students who struggle when school is on campus; the District must address needs on a student-by-student basis. Dr. Scott-Bollman concluded her elementary report by saying that the elementary teachers and aides are doing a great job of communicating with and encouraging students/families.

Superintendent Dr. Maria Scott-Bollman's District report began by updating the Board on the improved drinking water access and quality. She spoke of the ultra-filter system in the new touchless water bottle filling stations, providing additional layers to enhance the current filtration system, which was already meeting safety requirements. Dr. Scott-Bollman was very happy to announce that Senate Bill 1216 was passed into law. This bill will provide schools reimbursement for transportation contractors that would be equal to what they would typically be paid for the 2020-2021 school year, less variable expenses. Other good news the Superintendent brought to the Board was the Niche.com rankings for 2021. Forbes Road ranked first in the county schools in the following categories: Best Elementary School, Best High School, Best School District, Best Teachers in Fulton County and Safest School District. Dr. Scott-Bollman noted, "We can continue to improve and we will, but Forbes Road is already a competitive School District." At this point in the update, the Superintendent's focus shifted to more somber issues such as the new State required attestation form and current COVID-19 statistics. Speaking about the attestation form, she explained, all districts had to submit a form saying either they were following PDE's and DOH's recommendations to do full remote instruction while in Substantial and would stay on remote until being in Moderate or Low for two consecutive weeks, or legally acknowledge they were ignoring the guidelines and guarantee compliance with every rule. After consulting with the District's solicitor, Forbes Road certified that we were following PDE and DOH recommendations.

On COVID-19, Superintendent Scott-Bollman reported that COVID-19 has impacted every component of the District. Positive cases have been reported among faculty, staff, administration, parents and students. The Superintendent said PDE contacted her with information that Fulton County is in Substantial for the 6th week in a row. Dr. Scott-Bollman spoke very candidly about where her priorities are with her decision-making and recommendations to the Board. First, in the list of priorities, stated the Superintendent, is the safety of students and staff, both the physical and psychological. Her second priority is making sure students are fed. To this point, she said, Forbes Road has continued to provide free breakfasts and lunches to any Forbes Road parents who want them while on remote instruction. The third priority listed was making sure that Forbes Road continues to be here for students and staff after COVID is over. Dr. Scott-Bollman explained she would never recommend defying a State entity that provides 66% of our funding or one with the power to close the school.

The fourth priority listed by the Superintendent was education. Her reasoning was while education has always been her main focus, she could not have foreseen an environment where the stakes are “life and death.” Dr. Scott-Bollman believes the District has the talent and resources to catch up on education. She concluded her comments on COVID-19 by saying, “I am the hand of the Board. I will do what I am told. But my Board will never hear me make a recommendation that puts our people’s health and safety or our District’s future existence at risk.”

During the evening's public comment portion, county resident/parent Katherine Hollibaugh expressed concerns about the current use of remote learning and urged Board Members to develop alternative plans.

On a Bolinger/Broadwater motion, approval was given to reduce Linda Blair's scheduled working hours. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Broadwater/lane motion, approval was given for the Ready to Learn grant application for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Lane/Fraker motion, approval was given for the Absence Excuse form as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

On a Fraker/Broadwater motion, approval was given to adopt recommended PSBA policy updates as follows:

- a. Vol VI 2020 113.1 Discipline of Students With Disabilities
- b. Vol VI 2020 113.2 Behavior Support
- c. Vol VI 2020 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
- d. Vol VI 2020 122 Extracurricular Activities
- e. Vol VI 2020 123 Interscholastic Athletics
- f. Vol VI 2020 123.2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- g. Vol V 2020 203 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases

Motion carried unanimously.

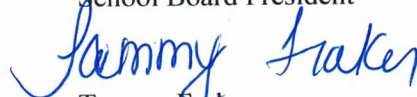
On a Fraker/Bolinger motion, approval was given to address the replacement of windows in the front of the old school, including asbestos abatement. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into executive session for personnel reasons from 8:46 pm – 9:31 pm. Board members present at the executive session were: Kathy Baker, Margaret Bolinger, Cassie Broadwater, Sean Fraker, Dulce Hall, Lori Kendall, Melissa Lane and Kirby Shoemaker. Board member Brian Barton was absent from the meeting. Others present were: Superintendent Dr. Maria Scott-Bollman, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli and Kristie Hohman.

On a Fraker/Kendall motion, Board President Kirby Shoemaker adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm. Motion carried unanimously.



Kirby Shoemaker
School Board President



Tammy Fraker
School Board Secretary