



Board of Pottawatomie County Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020

406 Miller Drive
Wamego KS 66547
www.pottcounty.org

EMS Training Facility

2:00 p.m.

District 1 – Deloyce McKee

District 2 – Dennis Weixelman

District 3 – Greg Riat

2:00 PM CALL TO ORDER WITH FLAG SALUTE & PRAYER

Attendee Name	Title
Dennis Weixelman	County Commissioner, Vice Chair
Deloyce McKee	Chair Commissioner, Chair
Greg Riat	County Commissioner, Member
Nancy McCarter	County Clerk
Chad Kinsley	County Administrator
John Watt	County Counselor
Liz Parthemer	Health officer
Francis Awerkamp	Resident / House of Representative
Matthew Childs	Administrator / Saint Mary's Academy
Marlene Flinn	Resident
Kevin Logan	USD 323 Superintendent
Tim Winter	USD 320 Superintendent
Dan Polk (via zoom)	USE 322 Superintendent
55 Others (via zoom)	

Commissioner McKee moved to call the Special Meeting to order as both Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health. Commissioner Riat seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners Weixelman stated the reason for today’s meeting was to look at overriding/addressing Governor’s Executive Order 20-59.

John Watt outlined Executive Order 20-59 which outlines procedures for K-12 schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Attorney General’s opinion that came out last week saying it is wrong and local public school boards have constitutional and statutory authority to adopt policies to address Executive Order 20-59. The Order did not address private schools, including church affiliated private schools. Both public and private should be treated the same.

Commissioner Weixelman said he has not seen any guidelines from the schools. Liz Parthemer stated they all had them on their web pages.

John Watt said the Commissioners had received letters from Community HealthCare System, local doctors and Saint Marys Academy regarding COVID-19.

Commissioner Weixelman would like to take 15 or 20 minutes and give each person a minute and a half to speak.

Liz Parthemer said her opinion has not changed. She sees the importance in wearing a mask, hand washing and social distancing. Pottawatomie County currently has 14 active cases, so numbers are rising. People are out and about more. The County currently does not have any clusters.

Commissioner Riat said he was sure school boards could make decisions to be best of their ability.

Commissioner McKee added schools have a responsibility and know the needs.

Marlene Flinn stated she felt masks should be mandatory.

Kevin Logan stated keeping masks should be in effect, because if no masks, then we would need to remote teach. Local school boards can mandate, but there is no uniformity among schools.

Francis Awerkamp stated under the Constitution, School Boards could make their own decision. How it affects private schools, and to make the Governors Order a recommendation.

Matthew Childs stated he agreed with Awerkamp and the schools are looking to make their own decision for their community needs.

Tim Winter said after listening to the people, most are going to be more comfortable following the Governor's order. They are working with the three w's: wear masks, wash hand and watch distance.

Don Polk stated they are working under Order 20-59; the recommendations need to stay. They have put a lot of work into the Order.

Commissioner Riat moved to pass Health Order No. 9 exempting all private schools from Executive Order 20-59. Commissioner McKee seconded, motion carried 3-0. *(Document signed)*

Commissioner Weixelman requested copies of the two schools guidelines concerning their plan to help mitigate COVID-19.

Adjournment: Commissioner McKee moved to adjourn at 2:56 p.m. Commissioner Riat seconded, carried 3-0.

Chair, Deloyce McKee

Vice Chair, Dennis Weixelman

Member, Greg Riat

seal

Attest:

County Clerk, Nancy McCarter