



# GCC of PTAs Council Meeting Minutes

## Call to order

A special emergency meeting of the Guilford County Council of PTAs board was held on May 22, 2021 and called to order at 1:05 p.m. via Zoom.

## In attendance

Mildred O. Poole, President; Victoria Vample, VP1; Paula Jarrell, VP 2; LaTashia Moore, Treasurer; Eric Townsend, Secretary; Debbie Sivret, chair of the Awards Committee; Byron Gladden, Member At Large; B.J. Levette, Member At Large; Jacqui Hawkins, chair of the Nominating Committee; Donna Williams; Linda Wilson, Co-Director of the Department of Community & Business Partnerships for Guilford County Schools; Francelia Burwell, president-elect of the North Carolina PTA

## Vote on Changing the Date of the Election

Mildred O. Poole shared that the NCPTA advised her about holding a special emergency meeting to consider changing the date of the election for 2021-22 officers because of concerns raised that formal communication was not sent to voting delegates 10 days before the scheduled May 27 general body meeting and elections.

Debbie Sivret motioned to change the date of the election; LaTashia Moore seconded.

Francelia Burwell introduced herself as the president-elect of the NCPTA and expressed input on the conversation to date. "You all should communicate the same message and it's difficult to communicate the same message if everyone isn't aware of what's happening." That is the point of the meeting today, Francelia Burwell said - to talk about fixing the election issues, even if not everyone is happy, and to make sure the council adheres to the bylaws. "We're at a place and time where we need to figure out how to move forward."

Mildred O. Poole calls for the vote to change the election date to be in accordance with bylaws: The motion passes unanimously.

## Vote on Scheduling the New Election

Mildred O. Poole said that June 10 is a date to consider for an election since the GCCPTA board was already scheduled to meet that night. It would give more than a 10-day notice to share information in compliance with uniform council bylaws.

LaTashia Moore motioned for the election to be held June 10; Debbie Sivret seconded.

Mildred O. Poole reminded the board that by scheduling for June 10, the GCCPTA would want to hold a general meeting where minutes and a treasurer's report could also be approved.

The option of June 10 was approved unanimously with no objections or suggestions of a different date.

## Vote on Hosting a Virtual Election Meeting

Mildred O. Poole said that with nothing planned for in-person, a vote would need to be taken on a totally virtual meeting.

Byron Gladden motioned for a virtual meeting; LaTashia Moore seconded.

Eric Townsend asked if an all-virtual vote is the recommendation of the NCPTA. Francelia Burwell replied that because of the pandemic, a bylaws amendment allows for a virtual election. “Right now, there are still restrictions and limitations to in-person meetings.” Francelia Burwell asked if there was a concern about virtual elections, and Eric Townsend replied that he wanted to have a discussion about recognizing the council is choosing for a virtual election instead of an in-person election.

Francelia Burwell said “it also creates an opportunity for all of your members to participate.” Jacqui Hawkins said that while she wasn’t completely clear, restrictions on outdoor gatherings are lifted, but GCS still has policies that restrict gatherings indoors.

The vote to hold a virtual meeting and election passed unanimously.

## Vote on the Online Election Platform to be Used

Mildred O. Poole shared that the NCPTA lists 3-4 platforms available for online elections. In a conversation between Mildred O. Poole and LaTashia Moore, it was determined that GCCPTA could pay for Election Runner. LaTashia Moore said she briefly researched the cost of Election Runner. The platform would be \$19 for up to 100 people and \$36 for up to 300 people.

Mildred O. Poole said a budget line item for general meeting expenses could be used to purchase the Election Runner service. Mildred Poole then motioned for the GCCPTA to use Election Runner for its virtual elections; Debbie Sivret seconded.

Before voting, Mildred Poole listed other options for voting, including Google Forms, Microsoft Forms, and Simply Voting.

What followed:

- Eric Townsend indicated he favored using whichever platform the NCPTA uses.
- Byron Gladden asked for input on a preferred platform from the Nominating Committee chair.
- Francelia Burwell said that she shared with Mildred O. Poole how the NCPTA Elections Committee would be willing to work with tellers on the platform (once the tellers are appointed by the president and subject to board approval). In response to a question from Byron Gladden, she added that tellers cannot be candidates for office or running from the floor, the president of the GCCPTA, or school principals.
- Byron Gladden offered a friendly amendment that GCCPTA costs for Election Runner not to exceed \$50 for a 30-day use of the platform.

The motion to use the Election Runner platform with Byron Gladden’s friendly amendment passed unanimously.

## Vote on the Deadline for Registering as a Voting Delegate

Mildred O. Poole shared that Francelia Burwell suggested the GCCPTA establish a date by which delegates from local school PTAs must be registered with the GCCPTA in order to vote in the

election. LaTashia Moore asked if the date would also be a deadline for which schools must be in compliance with the NCPTA.

Francelia Burwell said she agreed that May 31 was a realistic deadline for having local PTA delegates registered with the GCCPTA in order to vote; she added that May 31 also was the NCPTA's deadline for good standing for membership to be considered a voting delegate for the state convention. Francelia Burwell said she understood May 31 was the Memorial Day holiday, but if people wanted to pay their membership dues, did the GCCPTA have a way to receive those dues electronically? Or would the GCCPTA be willing to accept dues that were postmarked by that time?

Jacqui Hawkins confirmed that she had motioned for May 31 to be a date for school PTAs to submit their delegate names to the GCCPTA in order to vote in the election. Paula Jarrell said she had mentioned setting a deadline of June 4. Eric Townsend said a deadline of May 28 would give the council additional time to finalize its list of school PTA delegates and have time to communicate with delegates with more than 10 days notice, keeping the GCCPTA in compliance with uniform council bylaws.

Mildred O. Poole said Francelia Burwell had to leave the meeting. Mildred Poole then said PTAs need to understand membership dues and delegates need to be in hand.

In response to a question from Eric Townsend, Mildred O. Poole also said she checked uniform council bylaws and can't find reference to school PTAs needing to be in compliance with the state in order to vote.

Mildred O. Poole confirmed that the vote would be for school PTAs to be in compliance with delegate names and membership dues in hand. She confirmed the motion for May 31 was made by Jacqui Hawkins and seconded by Byron Gladden.

The motion carried 6-2 for May 31.

- Voting yes: Paula Jarrell, Victoria Vample, Byron Gladden, BJ Levette, Jacqui Hawkins, Donna Williams
- Voting no: LaTashia Moore, Eric Townsend
- Abstention: Mildred O. Poole
- Not Voting: Debbie Sivret, who left the meeting moments earlier

## Vote on the Selection of Tellers

Mildred O. Poole identified Travis Finn and Jamie Yi, neither of whom were on the call, as GCCPTA board members who agreed to serve as tellers for the election. Mildred O. Poole also named Jacqui Hawkins, as chair of the Nominating Committee, and LaTashia Moore, who is not running for an elected position, as the other two tellers who will assist with the election.

Byron Gladden moved to approve the four tellers for the June 10 elections and Victoria Vample seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## Adjournment

Victoria Vample motioned to adjourn the meeting and Eric Townsend seconded. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

---

Secretary

---

Date of approval