

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
January 19, 2021 - Committee Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education held committee meetings virtually and via livestream, on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Ms. Sharon Warden, Chair
Mr. George Archuleta
Mrs. Virginia Houston
Mr. Rodney Walton

Ms. Pam Pureza
Mr. Daniel Spence
Dr. Shelia Williams

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Catherine Edmonds, Superintendent
Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer
Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer
Delishia Moore, ECMS Principal
Adrian Fonville, RRMS Principal
Mitchell Manuel, ECMS Athletic Director
Delton Stallings, RRMS Athletic Director
Bert Lane, Deputy Chief Academic Officer
Meredith Collins, Deputy Chief Finance Officer
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance
Amber Godfrey, Director of Technology
Amanda Hill, Director of Technology
Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO
Executive Asst to Superintendent and Board

1.Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2.Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Warden. Chair Warden also requested a moment of silence.

3.Roll Call

Tammy Sawyer called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting.

4.Ethics Awareness and Identification of Conflicts or Potential Conflicts of Interest

Virginia Houston read the ethics statement and allowed members the opportunity to identify any conflicts or potential conflicts. The record reflects that no conflicts exist.

5.Approval of Agenda (Action)

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by George Archuleta, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the agenda.

6.Agenda Items

Financial, Business, and Technology Systems Committee Chair, Sharon Warden

The Board reviewed the latest Maintenance Report.

Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer, presented a financial update with the Board. She also shared the audit report for review prior to Donna Winborne presenting the audit to the Board on January 25, 2021. Chief Haines presented budget amendments #104, #304, and #804 as well as school fundraisers, requesting they be placed on the consent agenda for January 25, 2021.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Virginia Houston, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to place the items referred to by Ms. Haines to be added to the January board meeting.

Chief Haines also presented the following items for approval consideration during the meeting on January 19, 2021: Proposal for CDWG Chromebook Purchase, Proposal for Bleacher Project, and Sylvan Learning Center Contract. It was requested that Bert Lane, Deputy Chief of Academics, to follow up with Sylvan to see if we do not use 75 slots per school, would we be in a contract to pay for 75 students per school. Additionally, to ensure we can shift slots to other schools from schools who may not fill 75 slots. Discussion was held regarding our ability to monitor progress of students in the program with Sylvan. Deputy Chief Lane shared that Sylvan completes a pre and post assessment of each child. The effectiveness of the program will be shared with the board once the data has been received.

A motion was made by Virginia Houston, seconded by George Archuleta, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to take action on the items as requested from the finance committee.

Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented a request to approve an extension of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), requesting approval during the January 19, 2021, meeting. There was discussion regarding the funding source for employees benefiting from FFCRA. Chief Haines shared that the employees would be paid from the funds they are currently paid from; however, they would not be charged leave. Chief James-Davis shared that this was leave that was available previously and this approval would allow an extension of the leave to benefit staff who may be impacted by COVID.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Virginia Houston, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to extend the leave provided for staff.

Personalized Education Committee Committee Chair, Pam Pureza

Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer, presented an update on curriculum and instruction. She shared information on i-Ready data, high school EOCs, Post Assessments, Early Graduates, Seniors on track to graduate, and Summer Jump Start programs from the Elementary and ECMS.

Chief Spencer provided information on the work ECPPS is doing to address academic challenges experienced prior to COVID as well as the challenges as a result of COVID. Using available data, principals, teachers, the curriculum and instruction team, central services, and the community are truly working together to: support students, fill in the data

identified gaps, and accelerate learning. This support has three components: Academic Support, Professional Development, and Social Emotional Support. Academic support has 3 facets: learning pods, partnership with Sylvan, and school tutoring.

Lastly, she emphasized the importance of supporting the social and emotional well-being of students and staff. ECPPS is working with the NC Resilience and Learning project through the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Principals received a self-care module to share with their staff with follow-up support scheduled in February. The district also contracted Reshaun Miller, a mental health change agent and licensed counselor who provided professional development for administrators and two professional learning opportunities for teachers.

Chief Spencer discussed ECPPS' partnership with the NC Education Corps. ECPPS is one of 21 districts who will be partnering in the inaugural year of the NC Education Corps. The NC Education Corps is the Governor's Initiative in response to COVID-19 to support schools and to help mitigate COVID's negative impacts on education. An NC Education Corps member will work for and with ECPPS to curate Social Emotional Resources as well as mental health resources for students, staff, and parents.

Policy Committee

Committee Chair, Virginia Houston

Tammy Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, presented the following policies for the Board to consider placing on the consent agenda for Monday, January 25, 2021.

PC-01 Fall Policy Updates

PC-02 3227/7322 - Web Page Development

Global Citizens and Healthy Students

Committee Chair, George Archuleta

Superintendent Edmonds provided an update on middle school athletics for the Board. She shared information with the Board on the recommendations from NCDHHS regarding athletics as a brief overview and reminder. Based on requests from the last board meeting, the middle school principals and athletic directors are in attendance for this meeting and have developed plans for our middle schools to participate in athletics for the spring season. The plans submitted for middle school athletics included cheer, football, soccer and volleyball. The district has reviewed the plans and the next step will be to submit them to the health department. Superintendent Edmonds also shared that Chief James-Davis contacted Dr. Miller regarding having athletic trainers at the middle school. While it is possible to partner with Sentara for trainers for middle school, there may be challenges in finding trainers at this time. The schools also provided feedback on athlete interest for each of the sports under consideration for the spring.

A question was asked regarding how the interest survey was sent out. Principal Moore indicated that the survey was sent by email to the students, a message to parents and students in ParentSquare as well as a Blackboard Connect call sent to parents. She indicated that they had approximately 65 responses. Principal Fonville indicated that they sent the interest survey out through student email and received approximately 46 responses. It was requested that principals and athletic directors share how they feel about beginning

athletics. Principal Fonville shared that based on the pandemic and the performance of some of the students that we need to focus on academics. He further shared that he supports athletics and loves sports, but that academics needs to be a priority. A member asked for clarification on athletic trainers, that they are needed, but difficult to find at this time. Additional discussion was held regarding the number of interested and eligible students and if there were enough to have teams for the four sports. The athletic directors indicated the sports showing enough eligible students for participation.

There was discussion surrounding the coaching staff and the ability to find coaches at this time. A member of the Board clarified that the Board was not requiring athletic trainers for middle school. Superintendent Edmonds shared that it was requested that the administration gather information on the feasibility of having trainers at the middle schools in addition to high schools. Mr. Mitchell, ECMS Athletic Director, shared that while trainers are not required at the middle school level, it would be beneficial to have them available.

Members were hesitant to vote on athletics without additional opportunities for students to indicate interest in athletics. They felt that there may be additional interest and some students/parents may not have received or responded to the communication. It was requested that the schools cross reference the list of students based on the criteria for eligibility.

Principal Moore was asked how she felt about the initiation of athletics. She indicated that she felt the same as Principal Fonville and had nothing additional to share.

Chair Warden recommended the Board table this decision until the next meeting to allow the principals and athletic directors to revisit the number of interested and eligible students, ensuring students have had the opportunity to respond. Members discussed if there would be any issue with approving the middle schools to participate so they can move forward and if, after they follow up with students again, there is still not enough interest to participate, then that sport will not have a team. Chair Warden felt the Board could make a better informed decision if this agenda item is tabled until the next meeting. It was further encouraged that the Board take action during the current meeting.

A motion was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Daniel Spence, to vote on participating in middle school sports. The motion failed, as confirmed by roll call. Board members Pam Pureza, Daniel Spence, and Rodney Walton voted for the motion. Board members George Archuleta, Virginia Houston, and Dr. Shelia Williams voted against the motion. Chair Warden's vote was required and she voted against the motion.

Discussion of the motion and vote for middle school athletics was requested to gather additional information. Mr. Archuleta requested that he be allowed to rescind the motion and the vote due to an error and misunderstanding of the decision at hand.

A motion was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and unanimously carried to rescind the previous motion regarding middle school athletics.

The final decision by the Board was to table the decision regarding middle school athletics until the January 25, 2021, meeting.

Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation, shared an update regarding bus drivers. She reminded the Board of the vacancies as shared in December. While the positions are still available, the department has made adjustments to cover buses as needed for the return to campus on January 21, 2021.

Called Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried to approve entering closed session for the purpose of considering personnel actions that involve employees of this Board as allowed by N.C. Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6). George Archuleta was not available to vote on this motion.

Closed session began at 5:20 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Sharon Warden, Chair; Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair; George Archuleta; Virginia Houston; Daniel Spence; Rodney Walton; and Dr. Shelia Williams. The following staff members were present: Dr. Catherine Edmonds, Superintendent. The Board and staff discussed personnel matters during the closed session.

Full and accurate minutes of the closed session will be kept on file in the superintendent's office, but are to be withheld from public disclosure, so as to not frustrate the legitimate purposes of this closed session. Closed session ended at 5:35 p.m.

Open Session Resumed

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. She shared that Dr. Edmonds has requested to end her contract earlier than the 90 day notice as required by her contract with the effective date of resignation being February 1, 2021. Chair Warden thanked Dr. Edmonds for her work with ECPPS and shared that with the important work that she will be doing with the state, the Board will consider her request and to release her from her contract effective February 1, 2021.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Virginia Houston, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call, to accept Dr. Edmonds' request to leave as of February 1, 2021.

7.Other

There were no additional items for Board consideration during the January 19, 2021, committee meetings.

8.Adjournment

A motion was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Pam Pureza, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

Chair

Secretary