

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
July 26, 2021 - Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met via livestream, on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Sharon Warden, Chair  
Mr. George Archuleta  
Daniel Spence  
Dr. Shelia Williams

Ms. Pam Pureza  
Mr. Rodney Walton

The following staff members were present:

Rhonda James-Davis, Interim Superintendent  
Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer  
Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer  
Adrian Fonville, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer  
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance  
Bert Lane, Deputy Chief Academic Officer  
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability  
Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO  
Executive Asst to the Superintendent and Board

Others present:

Corrina Ruffieux, Executive Director of Visit Elizabeth City

**1.Meeting Called to Order by Chair**

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**2.Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Chair Warden led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence.

**3.Roll Call**

Tammy Sawyer called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting. Virginia Houston was not present.

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

Chair Warden 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**

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Daniel Spence, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the agenda. Virginia Houston was not present.

**6.African American Experience of NE North Carolina**

Corrina Ruffieux, Executive Director of Visit Elizabeth City, shared information with the board regarding the African American Experience of NE North Carolina. She requested the board consider approving a resolution in support of this project.

## **7. Superintendent's Report**

Rhonda James-Davis, Interim Superintendent, shared the Superintendent's Report. The report included: an overview of the Governor's latest press conference and the update of the StrongSchools Toolkit; announcement of a special session of the Board of Education on August 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss safety plans for the opening of 2021-2022; Meet & Greet schedules will be forthcoming; and appreciation of the board for their support during her tenure as interim.

## **8. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by George Archuleta, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes for June 28, 2021, July 12, 2021, and July 19, 2021. Virginia Houston was not present.

## **9. Public Forum (Citizen Comments to the Board)**

Bonnie Ditto shared comments regarding the desire for continued remote learning opportunities.

## **10. Agenda**

### **Financial, Business and Technology Committee**

#### **Rodney Walton, Co-Chair**

Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance, shared the latest maintenance updates with the board.

Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer, presented FBT-02 (Fundraisers/Crowdfunding). A motion was made by Daniel Spence, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the fundraising requests and the crowdfunding. Virginia Houston was not present.

Bert Lane, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, presented an update on After School Care to include information about Sheep-Harney no longer needing to fall under the Child Care Licensing by the state. That was a requirement when we were receiving vouchers; however, vouchers are no longer available.

Note: Virginia Houston joined the meeting virtually at 6:34 p.m.

### **Personalized Education Committee**

#### **Pam Pureza, Chair**

Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability, presented information on the 2021-2022 Alternative School's Modified Accountability System. She requested approval for H.L. Trigg to apply for Option B. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by George Archuleta, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the proposal by Ms. Griffin of Option B as recommended.

Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer, presented an overview of AP and Dual Enrollment for ECPPS. She shared that AP courses are designed to help students acquire the skills and habits for success in college and the courses are free to the student. The course, content pace and academic rigor are considered college level as determined by North Carolina's institutions of higher education and are designed and overseen by the College Board. Students engage in rigorous assignments to improve their writing skills, sharpen their problem solving abilities and develop time management skills, discipline and study habits. When the students enter college with AP credits, they are afforded some other opportunities to move into upper level courses.

Career and College Promise offers North Carolina high school students a clear path to success in college, or in a career. The program again is free to all the students who maintain a B average and meet other eligibility requirements. Students may pursue dual enrollment in the following three ways: college transfer pathways, Career and Technical Education pathways and through a cooperative, innovative high school.

### **Policy Code Committee**

#### **Virginia Houston, Chair**

Tammy Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board, shared the most recent policy updates from the North Carolina School Boards Association. The policies were for a first read only and no action was requested.

### **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Daniel Spence, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, for the board to enter into closed session for the purpose of considering personnel actions that involve employees of this Board as allowed by N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Virginia Houston participated virtually and Daniel Spence was not present.

Closed session began at 7:05 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Sharon Warden, Chair; Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair; George Archuleta; Virginia Houston (virtually); Daniel Spence; Rodney Walton; and Dr. Shelia Williams. The following staff members were present: Rhonda James-Davis, Interim Superintendent and Adrian Fonville, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer. The Board and staff discussed personnel matters during the closed session.

A motion to come out of closed session was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried. 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 8:52 p.m.

### **Meeting Called to Back to Order by Chair - Open Session**

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 8:53 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Sharon Warden, Chair

Mr. George Archuleta

Mrs. Virginia Houston (Virtually)

Mr. Rodney Walton

Ms. Pam Pureza

Daniel Spence

Dr. Shelia Williams

The following staff members were present:

Rhonda James-Davis, Interim Superintendent

Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer

Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer

Adrian Fonville, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer

Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO/Executive to the Superintendent and Board of Education

### **Excellent Educators Committee**

#### **Dr. Shelia Williams, Chair**

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Virginia Houston, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the superintendent's recommendations and report regarding personnel. Virginia Houston participated virtually. Daniel Spence voted against the motion to approve.

**11.Other**

No further business was shared by the board.

**12.Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by George Archuleta to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary