

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
August 2, 2021 - Special Session**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in special session on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Sharon Warden, Chair  
Mr. George Archuleta  
Virginia Houston (virtually)  
Pam Pureza  
Daniel Spence  
Mr. Rodney Walton  
Dr. Shelia Williams

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent  
Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer  
Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer  
Adrian Fonville, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer  
Bert Lane, Deputy Chief Academic Officer  
Meredith Collins, Deputy Finance Officer  
Amber Godfrey, Director of Technology  
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability  
Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation  
Jamie Liverman, Director of Exceptional Children  
Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition  
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance  
Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO/Exec. Asst to the Supt. & Board  
Principals  
Teacher Representatives

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

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.Roll Call**

Tammy Sawyer called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting. Virginia Houston was not present at the time of roll call, but joined virtually at 6:09 p.m.

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

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

**4.Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the agenda. Virginia Houston was not present for this action item.

## **5. Agenda**

### **Safe Opening of 2021-2022**

Dr. Ingram presented data to the board from a survey of parents, staff and community members regarding face coverings. There were 1783 responses to the survey with 83.3% of parents responding, 12.5% of staff. When asked about universal face coverings for students and staff, 60.2% were in favor of requiring face coverings for everyone. He further reviewed the guidance in the StrongSchools Public Health Toolkit regarding face coverings, physical distancing and the recommended handling of positive cases of COVID.

Dr. Ingram shared key points that need to be considered for the safe opening of school for 2021-2022 which included: face coverings, virtual option, school schedule, temperature screenings for students, health screenings for staff/adults, Policy 5020-Visitors to the Schools, Policy 5030-Community Use of Facilities, vaccine/testing opportunities.

Chair Warden shared that the board was pleased with the number of results for the survey. She welcomed principals and teacher representatives who joined virtually for the meeting.

Interim Superintendent Ingram shared the following recommendations for the board's consideration: ECPPS require face coverings for all students and staff while indoors or traveling via school transportation; face coverings not required for students, staff and others outdoors; offer a limited virtual option for all grades with specific criteria developed by administration; ECPPS follow a schedule for students to report five days per week whether in-person or approved for virtual instruction; visitors to the schools continue to be limited and to maintain the policy that is currently in place (current policy does allow for essential, approved volunteers to report as needed).

Principal Fudge, Principal Fyffe, Principal Crutch, Principal White spoke in favor of having students return in-person and in favor of requiring face coverings inside facilities. The board held discussion regarding the recommendations of Interim Superintendent Ingram. Virtual learning was discussed at length regarding what the option would look like, how soon it could be implemented and the impact on educators involved. Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer, shared information on the original middle school virtual option. She shared the level of interest from families and that we did not have the participation levels to implement the initial virtual option. Christie Williams shared the impact of virtual for band and other enrichment programs. She further shared the decline of participation in band over the past few years. Discussion was also held regarding volunteers as well as the policies for visitors in the schools and community use of facilities.

Based on discussion, a motion was by Pam Pureza, seconded by George Archuleta, and carried unanimously, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept Dr. Ingram and the administrative teams recommendations for return to school which includes: face coverings inside the building and on school buses, students and staff do not have to wear them outside; that we offer a virtual option on a limited basis only for K-12; that school operates five days a week whether those students are designated as virtual or face-to-face; that we revisit the restrictions on policies 5020 which is visitors in the school including volunteerism; and that we revisit our restrictions on policy 5030 which is community use of facilities and begin to allow some community groups to use our facilities outdoors; and that the administrative team revisit the restrictions on music, band, choir and PE or any program that is significantly restricted by the limitations within the toolkit.

### **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, for the board to enter into closed session for the purpose of considering one or more confidential personnel matters as allowed by N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6).

Closed session began at 8:05 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Sharon Warden, Chair; George Archuleta; Virginia Houston; Pam Pureza; Daniel Spence; Rodney Walton; and Dr. Shelia Williams. The following staff members were present: Dr. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent and Rhonda James-Davis, 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 Virginia Houston, seconded by Rodney Walton, 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 9:28 p.m.

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

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Sharon Warden, Chair  
Mr. George Archuleta  
Virginia Houston (virtually)  
Pam Pureza  
Daniel Spence  
Mr. Rodney Walton  
Dr. Shelia Williams

The following staff members were present:  
Dr. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent  
Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer  
Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer  
Adrian Fonville, Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer  
Amber Godfrey, Director of Technology  
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability  
Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation  
Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition  
Amy Fyffe, ECP Early College Principal  
Delishia Moore, ECMS Principal

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

### **6.Other**

No further business was shared by the board.

### **12.Adjournment**

A motion was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary