

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
September 27, 2021 - Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met at Central Elementary School and via livestream, on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Sharon Warden, Chair
 George Archuleta
 Virginia Houston
 Daniel Spence

Pam Pureza
 Rodney Walton
 Dr. Shelia Williams

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent
 Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer
 Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer
 Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer
 Amber Godfrey, Director of Technology
 Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation
 Bert Lane, Deputy Chief Academic Officer
 Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO
 Executive Asst to the Superintendent and Board

Others present:

John Leidy, School Board Attorney

1.Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

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.

A motion was made by Chair Warden, seconded by George Archuleta, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to allow public comment to break policy in, not the 20 minute length, but in the number of speakers that we allow. We've had several members beyond five that is our normal policy, five members, four minutes a piece, equals twenty minutes. It is my feeling that people have come tonight and I would like to give them the opportunity to speak if they so desire. Taking into consideration that they will still have the amount of minutes allowed which means that we may go beyond the twenty minutes. She moved that the board amend that policy so if necessary it will go beyond the twenty minutes. Dr. Shelia Williams clarified that this amendment was just for the September 27, 2021 meeting.

5.Approval of Agenda

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

6.Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent, shared the Superintendent's Report. The report included: update on the ECPPS accreditation process through Cognia; update on a retreat for the board in October and consideration of the strategic plan; information on a vaccine clinic for students 12 and up Wednesday, September 29th from 3 pm to 5 pm at RRMS; recognition of ECPPS Custodian/Maintenance Appreciation Day October 2nd and National Principals Month in October; recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15th - October 15th.

7.Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Rodney Walton, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from our previous meetings August 23, 2021, September 1, 2021, September 2, 2021, September 20, 2021, and September 23, 2021.

8.Public Forum (*Citizen Comments to the Board*)

The following individuals addressed the board during the public comment agenda item:

Tony Sawyer appeared in person to address the board regarding his desire to be allowed to return to volunteering at NHS. Barbara Paige appeared in person to address the board regarding support for bus drivers regarding discipline. Mitchell Coffey appeared in person to address the board regarding several concerns which included leave for staff, morale, communication, and HVAC. Kathy Wilkinson appeared in person to address the board regarding discipline on the bus as well as the shortage of bus drivers. Keith Rivers appeared in person to address the board regarding board leadership and accountability. He further addressed the board regarding transportation, the hiring of interim superintendents and the plan for the process of hiring a superintendent, and support for teachers and others in the district. Cathy Cooper appeared in person to address the board regarding needed support for bus drivers with discipline and a better understanding of what the drivers are experiencing daily. Jason Wise emailed public comments for the board regarding the quarantine guidelines and instruction as a result of quarantine. Heather Holsinger emailed public comments to the board regarding quarantine guidelines and why COVID is treated differently than the flu.

9. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by George Archuleta, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the consent agenda items - the surplus list, Trisolutions contract, Newsela quote, and budget amendment from the committee meeting on 9.20.21.

10. Other Agenda Items

Financial, Business and Technology Committee

Sharon Warden, Chair

Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer, presented fundraisers (FBT-06) and the copier contract (FBT-07). A motion was made by George Archuleta, seconded by Rodney Walton, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept FBT-06, fundraisers, and FBT-0, copier contract.

Amanda Hill shared an update on transportation which included a presentation on bus routing. She explained how buses are routed and the software used for this task.

Personalized Education Committee

Pam Pureza, Chair

Bert Lane, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, presented the Title I plan for approval.

Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer, presented the remote learning plan for 2021-2022, as required by the state, and requested approval.

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Rodney Walton, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the Title I Plan as presented and the state remote learning plan as presented by Dr. Spencer.

Policy Committee**Virginia Houston, Chair**

Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board, requested approval of PC-01, Policy 7510-Leave, and PC-02, Policy 4231-5021-7263, Face Coverings. Both policies were presented and discussed during committee meetings on September 20, 2021.

A motion was made by Virginia Houston, seconded by Pam Pureza, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the Policy 7510 and Policy 4231-5021-7263 as presented.

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 personnel actions that involve employees of this Board as allowed by N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6).

Closed session began at 8:00 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. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent and Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer. John Leidy, School Board Attorney, also attended the session. 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 8:45 p.m.

Meeting Called to Back to Order by Chair - Open Session

Chair Warden called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Sharon Warden, Chair
George Archuleta
Virginia Houston
Rodney Walton

Pam Pureza
Daniel Spence
Dr. Shelia Williams

The following staff members were present:
Dr. Eddie Ingram, Interim Superintendent
Rachael Haines, Chief Finance Officer

Dr. Amy Spencer, Chief Academic Officer
Rhonda James-Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer
Tammy W. Sawyer, Director of Community Schools/PIO/Executive to the Superintendent and Board of Education

Others in attendance:
John Leidy, School Board Attorney

Excellent Educators Committee
Dr. Shelia Williams, Chair

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Daniel Spence, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept excellent educators received and reviewed during closed session.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Dr. Sheila Williams, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the superintendent’s report and recommendations as presented during closed session.

11.Other

No further business was shared by the board.

12.Adjournment

A motion was made by Virginia Houston, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Chair

Secretary