

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
April 24, 2023 - Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at J.C. Sawyer Elementary School and was also available via livestream at [www.ecpps.k12.nc.us](http://www.ecpps.k12.nc.us). The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Daniel Spence, Chair  
Dr. Shelia Williams, Vice-Chair  
Angela Cobb  
Tommy Old

Pam Pureza  
Rodney Walton  
Sharon Warden

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent  
Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
Adrian Fonville, Executive Director of Secondary Schools  
Jamie Liverman, Executive Director of Exceptional Children  
Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services  
Dexter Jackson-Heard, Director of Communications & Community Schools  
Sheila Overton, Director of CTE  
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing & Accountability  
Tammy Reinhart, Director of School Nutrition  
Antoinette Reid, Director of Student Services  
Dr. Ronald Boykins, Principal, J.C. Sawyer Elementary School  
Kim Robertson, Assistant Principal, J.C. Sawyer Elementary School  
Gracie Wooten, NHS Student Board Member Representative  
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:

John Leidy, School Board Attorney

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

Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

**3. Roll Call**

Pam Parker called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting.

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

Rodney Walton 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 Dr. Sheila Williams, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the April 24, 2023 meeting agenda.

## 6. Recognitions

Dr. Parker welcomed all the families, students and staff that came out tonight as we recognize Career and Technical Education instructors and J.C. Sawyer Elementary School staff and students. Dr. Parker also thanked Dr. Boykins and the J.C. Sawyer Elementary School family for hosting the Board meeting tonight.

Sheila Overton, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) recognized the CTE staff. Ms. Overton stated CTE celebrates employee excellence. Mrs. Overton shared that the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Career & Technical Education department met 90 percent or greater of overall local benchmark for all 8 performance indicators in 2020-2021. Mrs. Overton stated CTE programs also met 90 percent or greater of overall local benchmark for all performance indicators except reading, math and science in 2021-2022.

Dr. Boykins recognized staff members, PTO Officers, and Teacher Assistants for all their hard work.

## 7. Instructional Highlights

Dr. Boykins introduced Miss Turner, student at J.C. Sawyer to share some information about the video. Jaleah Turner stated she and Logan created the video for tonight's highlights. Jaleah and Logan interviewed teachers about the work teachers are doing in the content area and connecting the real world to the instructional focus of JCS.

## 8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, thanked Dr. Boykins and everyone that was recognized this evening. He also thanked the JCS students and staff for hosting us this evening.

Dr. Parker stated we have 17 instructional days until final exams, EOGs and EOCs begin. Dr. Parker wants to encourage all of our families and students to take advantage of these last 17 days and push hard to show that great things are happening here in Elizabeth City Pasquotank Schools.

Dr. Parker stated there are several exciting things coming up over the next few weeks. Superintendent Academic Team (SAT) awards ceremonies will be held to honor those students who have demonstrated academic excellence. Dr. Parker stated there will be two SAT programs, one at Pasquotank High School gymnasium and the second will be on Thursday at 6pm at Northeastern High School gymnasium. The Special Olympics which has been organized by our Exceptional Children's Department will be tomorrow, Tuesday April 25th. Dr. Parker thanked Mr. Liverman and his team, Mr. Bill, Ms. Tameralli and others that have worked to organize this day. The special olympics will begin at 9:00 am at Northeastern High School.

Dr. Parker stated we have three graduations this year, and our first will be the Early College graduation which will be on Saturday, May 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the COA Auditorium. Dr. Parker stated the two traditional high school graduations will be held the same as last year at ECSU Vaughan Center. Dr. Parker stated Pasquotank County High School graduation will be on Friday, June 2, at 7pm. and Northeastern High School's graduation will be on Saturday, June 3rd at 10a.m. Dr. Parker shared that the week of May 8th - 12th is National Teacher Appreciation week. The District is working very hard to plan some things to show our staff and teachers just how much they mean to us. Dr. Parker asked everyone to show their gratitude or recognition to a teacher.

Dr. Parker stated it will be a very busy time over the next few weeks and if you're interested in any of the events, you can check our website and find a summary of the events listed and contact your student's school.

### **9. Student Board Members Report**

Gracie Wooten, representative from Northeastern High School stated teachers are trying to prepare everyone for exams, sports season is coming to a close and students are beginning to get in the mindset of summer.

Gracie stated the class of 2023, did come together to discuss award ceremonies, and the much awaited graduation. Gracie stated she has enjoyed the last four years spent with the student body at NHS, even if half of it was spent online. Gracie said she feels the experiences have made us humble, and also made us stronger individuals. Gracie stated she hopes as students step into young adulthood that we will face all of life's challenges, and only look back to reflect on what we have accomplished.

### **10. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Angela Cobb, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from March 27, 2023 and April 17, 2023.

### **11. Public Comment (*Citizen Comments to the Board*)**

Mr. Tony Sawyer stated that he has been fighting for reinstatement to get back on the football field for 25 months and has gotten nowhere. Mr. Sawyer stated he did everything he was supposed to do and went back 30 plus years on having his record expunged. Mr. Sawyer stated he would file a civil rights lawsuit.

### **12. Agenda Items**

#### **Financial, Business, and Technology, Sharon Warden, Committee Chair**

Dr. Parker, and Rachael Haines presented the 2023-2024 Superintendent's Proposed Budget. Mrs. Haines stated two factors that impact the budget are the legislative increases and ADM. Mrs. Haines and Dr. Parker shared the top priorities for ECPPS: Employee Recruitment and Retention; Professional and Leadership Development; Academic and Program Enhancement; and Operational Efficiency. Dr. Parker stated we need to invest in people and build careers, support the fine arts programs, academic and athletic programs. Dr. Parker stated change over time is a focus and a theme.

Rachael Haines presented the Capital Plan Funding Request for 2023-2024. Mrs. Haines shared the capital request for several upgrades to the schools.

Rachael Haines asked for a motion from the Board for approval to proceed this funding request to the county.

Sharon Warden made a motion to approve FBT-02 (Superintendent's Proposed Budget and related County Funding Request; and the Capital Plan for 2023-2028), seconded by Angela Cobb, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, County Funding Request and Capital Plan 2023-2028.

Rachael Haines presented FBT-03 (Furniture Quotes for SHES, ECMS, RRMS, NHS, and PCHS); FBT-04 (Camera System Add-ons Quotes for PCHS and NHS); FBT-05 (PWM Bleacher Quote).

Sharon Warden made a motion to approve the furniture quotes for SHES, ECMS, RRMS, NHS, and PCHS; Camera System Add-ons for PCHS and NHS; and approve the Bleacher quote for PWM, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the FBT-03; FBT-04; and FBT-05

### **Personalized Education (PE)**

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

Shelia Overton presented the CTE local Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Overton stated the local comprehensive needs assessment is done every two years, and with that assessment we are able to gather information over a two year span. Mrs. Overton stated the plan was board approved in 2022-2023 school year and this is a renewal approval process. Mrs. Overton stated she added one addition for spring of 2023-2024, she would like to add a Career Exploration Lab to both middle schools.

Pam Pureza made a motion to approve PE-01 (Career and Technical Education Plan), seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve PE-01; Career and Technical Education Plan. All in favor with the exception of Angela Cobb.

### **13. Policy Committee (PC)**

#### **Tommy Old, Chair**

Tommy Old called on Dr. Parker to present the policies on the agenda. Dr. Parker shared policies listed for a first read which will be taking action at the committee meetings in May. Dr. Parker stated there are a couple of policies we are asking the board to waive the first read and take action on tonight. Dr. Parker shared an overview on several of the policies.

Dr. Parker stated there are six policies we are asking the board to waive the first read and take action on tonight. They are policies 3460, 4130, 4270/6145, 2130, 6230, 7360/8225,

Tommy Old made a motion to suspend board policy 2420 (Adoption of Policies) and waive the first read of policies PC-07 (3460 Graduation Requirements); PC-12 (4130 Discretionary Admission); PC-14 (4270/6145 Concussion and Head Injury); PC-21 (2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses); PC-22 (6230 School Meal and Competitive Food Standards; PC-23 (7360/8225 Crowdfunding), seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

Tommy Old made a motion to approve policies PC-07 (3460 Graduation Requirements); PC-12 (4130 Discretionary Admission); PC-14 (4270/6145 Concussion and Head Injury); PC-21 (2130 Board Member Compensation and Expenses); PC-22 (6230 School Meal and Competitive Food Standards; PC-23 (7360/8225 Crowdfunding), seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

Dr. Parker shared Policy 8600 (Payroll Procedures) was previously presented for a first read and requested approval of that policy.

Tommy Old made a motion to approve policy 8600 (Payroll Procedures), seconded by Angela Cobb, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

### **Closed Session**

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

under N.C. General Statute 115C-320; and as allowed by N.C. Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Board Attorney regarding matters protected by the attorney/client privilege and to preserve that privilege.

Closed session began at 7:47 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Daniel Spence, Dr. Sheila Williams, Angela Cobb, Tommy Old, Pam Pureza, Rodney Walton and Sharon Warden. The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker. John Leidy, School Board Attorney, was also in attendance. The Board and staff discussed confidential personnel matters during the closed session.

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

Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 8:49 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

- |                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Daniel Spence, Chair            | Pam Pureza    |
| Dr. Shelia Williams, Vice-Chair | Rodney Walton |
| Angela Cobb                     | Sharon Warden |
| Tommy Old                       |               |

The following staff members were present:

- Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent
- Dexter Jackson-Heard, Director of Communications & Community Schools
- Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board

**Excellent Educators Committee**

**Dr. Shelia Williams, Chair**

Dr. Parker requested the board approve the superintendent’s personnel recommendations as presented by staff during the closed session.

A motion was made by Dr. Sheila Williams, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the Superintendent’s Report for Personnel as presented.

**14. Other**

**15. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary