

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
March 27, 2023 - Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Northeastern High 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  
Rhonda James-Davis, Associate Superintendent  
of Human Resources & Auxiliary Services  
Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
Adrian Fonville, Executive Director of Secondary Schools  
Sammy Fudge, Executive Director of Elementary 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  
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance  
Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation  
Tammy Reinhart, Director of School Nutrition  
Melissia Bond, Principal River Road Middle School  
Amy Fyffe, Principal Northeastern High School  
Terrie Cobb, Assistant Principal Northeastern High School  
Jennifer Lee, Principal EC-ECP Early College  
Holley Weiss, PCHS Student Board Member Representative  
Gracie Wooten, NHS Student Board Member Representative  
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:

Johny Hallow, 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**

Dr. Shelia Williams 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 Angela Cobb, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the March 27, 2023 meeting agenda.

## **6. Recognitions**

Dr. Parker welcomed all the families, students and staff that came out tonight as we recognize River Road Middle School and Northeastern High School students. Dr. Parker also thanked Mrs. Fyffe and the Northeastern High School family for hosting the Board meeting tonight.

Dr. Melissia Bond, Principal of River Road Middle School, shared information on i-Ready testing and results on growth scores in ELA and math. Dr. Bond recognized several students who took the i-Ready test and had growth in ELA and math

Dr. Bond recognized several of her staff and stated she has some of the strongest teachers that she has ever worked with at RRMS. Dr. Bond stated these teachers are the backbone of each of their hallways and teach their content with excellence and deliver discipline very thoroughly.

Mrs. Amy Fyffe stated is recognizing Academic excellence, several winter and fall athletes from this Academic School year. Mrs. Fyffe recognized James Hornthal who will be attending North Carolina Governor's School. Mrs. Fyffe recognized Erin Gray as the 2022-23 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Fyffe recognized the girls tennis team, Coach Cherry as the NCC Coach of the year, girls basketball team, boys' basketball team, boys' wrestling team, boys' football team which made history for winning 10 years in a row. Coach Johnson recognized the boys and girls track team, also recognized the conference champions and state qualifiers for girls track. Coach Johnson stated Northeastern has the first ever NCC Championship for indoor track. Coach Faison recognized the cheerleaders for several championships they have received this year.

## **7. Instructional Highlights**

Dr. Bond shared a video to highlight the good things happening at River Road School as well as some new programs implemented this year. Dr. Bond stated the teachers are looking for proficiency and growth and we are proud of where they are now and where they have come from.

Mrs. Fyffe stated she is highlighting CTE while striving for excellence in every area. Mrs. Fyffe stated the three CTE areas are the Adobe Printmaker Suite, Agriculture and Project Lead the Way and Engineering. Mrs. Fyffe stated the CTE programs work well together and independently. Mrs. Fyffe stated she is really proud of the things going on at Northeastern High School.

## **8. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, thanked Northeastern for hosting and thankful for the young people and staff that came out tonight. Dr. Parker stated we have done some amazing things academically and athletically. Dr. Parker thanked the principals here tonight, coaches and staff for all their hard work they do on a daily basis to make evenings like this a success.

Dr. Parker reminded everybody that we have 31 instructional days left until we begin final exams and encouraged everyone to remain focused.

Dr. Parker congratulated the newly elected teachers of the year and stated we're going to be announcing those teachers formally.

Dr. Parker stated National Appreciation week is May 8th. Dr. Parker asked that we show love to our teachers, hugging a teacher's neck or sending a thoughtful card. Dr. Parker stated he loves to send a former teacher a little note in the mail. Dr. Parker stated April 7th is a teacher workday and students should not report to school. Dr. Parker also stated the next week is the most infamous and long-awaited week of the calendar year which is spring break.

Dr. Parker and Mrs. Jennifer Lee are presenting to the Board the Early College calendar under proposal for the upcoming year. Dr. Parker stated we are taking enrollment applications for the Early College for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Parker stated Early College is a school of choice in the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools. Dr. Parker stated this is for any rising 9th grader or high school student that might be interested in learning more about the program can visit our website or reach out to Mrs. Lee and her staff for any questions.

Finally, Dr. Parker shared information about the strategic planning process from November 2022 - June of this year. Dr. Parker stated we will culminate a new strategic plan for the district which will be a vision and mission for us over the next five years and beyond. Dr. Parker shared information on the Inspiration visits that will include staff and several students to visit several highest performing innovative schools in our region and the state.

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

Gracie Wooten, representative from Northeastern High School stated she has enjoyed expanding her knowledge of what kind of leadership it takes for Elizabeth City Pasquotank County Schools. Gracie stated she is excited to see what the future holds for Northeastern High School. Gracie stated she is incredibly proud of all the athletes at NHS. Gracie also mentioned the students who were a part of the math competition.

Holley Weiss, student representative from Pasquotank County High School congratulated all students who were recognized this evening. Holley stated on March, 22nd, the PCHS Symphonic Band earned a rating of "superior" at the 2023 NC Bandmasters Music Performance Adjudication. Holley stated this is the highest possible rating a band can receive. Holley stated on March 24-25, 2023 the PCHS band students participated in the 2023 Albemarle Band Clinic at First Flight High School. Holley shared information on the DECA chapter which has one student attending the competition. Holley stated she is currently working on the ECMS chapter established through NC DECA. Lastly, Holley mentioned the students' artwork can be viewed at Arts of the Albemarle.

## **10. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from February 27, 2023 and March 20, 2023. Dr. Williams stated on March 20, 2023 she was present for the approval of the minutes.

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

Mr. Tony Sawyer stated everyone should have received a letter. Mr. Sawyer stated since his records were expunged, he was told he could return to the team. Mr. Sawyer stated over the last 25 months his civil rights have been violated, state and federal laws have been occurring over and over again during this time. Mr. Sawyer stated along with his legal team, he will be filing a complaint for violation of civil rights with the U.S. District Court in Greenville North Carolina.

## 12. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Rodney Walton and seconded by Angela Cobb, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the consent agenda for March 27, 2023.

## 13. Other Agenda Items

### Job Fair (Update)

Mrs. Rhonda James-Davis shared information on the Job Fair that was held on March 18, 2023. Mrs. James-Davis stated participants could pre-register for both classified and certified positions. Mrs. James-Davis stated we had eleven classrooms set up for interviews, eleven school administrators represented and the resource team. Mrs. James-Davis gave a shout out to the Human Resources Department for all they did to make this successful. Mrs. James-Davis thanked the two RRMS students who were greeters and Dr. Parker for showing his support with recruiting potential staff members. Mrs. James-Davis shared the statistics from the day.

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

Mrs. Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability, Executive Director, Adrian Fonville and Executive Director, Sammy Fudge presented the ECPPS Summer Retest Program "Summer Boost." Mrs. Griffin stated the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, grants PSU's the opportunity to administer the EOG and EOC tests during summer programs to students who have current test scores for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Griffin stated the Summer Retest Program is a remedial review program designed to provide any student that scored non-proficient on the EOG or EOC with a "second opportunity" to successfully retake the assessment(s).

Mrs. Griffin stated a survey has been sent out to staff that are interested in teaching during the Summer Retest program. Mrs. Griffin stated the program will be offered at the majority of ECPPS schools with transportation, breakfast, and lunch. Mrs. Griffin stated there will be Social and Emotional Learning lessons, and parents will be notified of the Summer Retest Program and its purpose. Mrs. Griffin stated the goal is for ALL ECPPS students to be proficient on their EOGs and EOCs during the first attempt.

### 2023-2024 ECP-Early College Calendar

Dr. Parker presented a draft proposal of the 2023-2024 ECP-Early College calendar. Dr. Parker stated there are some variations on this from the traditional calendars that were presented to the board last month. Dr. Parker stated the Early College operates in conjunction with College of the Albemarle's academic schedule. Dr. Parker thanked those who worked on the EC calendar and the feedback they provided.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden and seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the 2023-2024 ECP-Early College calendar as presented.

### Closed Session

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, 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 7:24 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Daniel Spence, Sheila Williams, Angela Cobb, Tommy Old, Pam Pureza, Rodney Walton participated via phone and

Sharon Warden. The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, and Rhonda James-Davis. Johnny Hallow, 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 8:18 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

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|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 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
- Rhonda James-Davis, Associate 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 Pam Pureza, 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 Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary