

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
June 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Pasquotank 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:

Dr. Sheila Williams	Pam Pureza (remote)
Angela Cobb	Rodney Walton
Sharon Warden	Tommy Old

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent  
Rhonda James-Davis, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services  
Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
Dr. Katina Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education  
Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services  
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing & Accountability  
Bert Lane, Executive Director of Federal Programs  
Jamie Liverman, Executive Director of of Exceptional Children  
Dexter Jackson-Heard, Director of Communications & Community Schools  
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance  
Antoinette Reid, Director of Student Services  
Chris Pullet, Principal H.L. Trigg Community School  
Devin Wilder, Teacher H.L. Trigg Community School  
Amy Fyffe, Principal Northeastern High School  
Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition  
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:

John Leidy, School Board Attorney

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

Dr. Parker called the meeting to order at 6:08 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. Reorganization of the Board**

Dr. Parker began the nomination process for the Board Chair. Dr. Parker asked if there were any nominations. . Dr. Sheila Williams nominated Pam Pureza and was seconded by Angela Cobb. Dr. Parker asked Pam Pureza if she accepted the nomination as chair, Pam Pureza declined the nomination. Dr. Parker stated the nomination for chair has been declined by the nominee. Dr. Parker asked if there was another nomination for chair. Rodney Walton nominated Dr. Sheila Williams,

seconded by Sharon Warden. Dr. Parker asked Dr. Williams, if she accepted the nomination as chair, Dr. Sheila Williams declined the nomination. Dr. Parker asked if there were any other nominations for the position of chair. Tommy Old nominated Angela Cobb for chair, seconded by Dr. Sheila Williams. Dr. Parker asked Angela Cobb if she accepted the nomination for chair. Angela Cobb accepted the position of chair. Dr. Parker asked if there were any other nominations for the position of chair. If none, Dr. Parker asked for a vote to close the nomination process. Tommy Old made the motion to close the nomination process and has been properly seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote. Dr. Parker stated we will vote on the nomination of Angela Cobb for board chair. Dr. Parker asked for a roll call vote. Dr. Parker stated the roll call vote is in favor of Angela Cobb as chair.

Chair Cobb, opened the floor for nominations for the office of vice-chair. Tommy Old nominated Dr. Sheila Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden. Dr. Sheila Williams declined the nomination. Rodney Walton nominated Pam Pureza for vice-chair seconded by Sharon Warden. Chair Cobb asked Pam Pureza if she accepted the nomination as vice-chair, Pam Pureza accepted the nomination for vice-chair. Rodney Walton made the motion to close the nomination for vice-chair, seconded by Sharon Warden and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote. Chair Cobb stated we will now vote on the nomination of Pam Purzea as vice-chair. Chair Cobb asked for a roll call vote. Chair Cobb stated the roll call vote is in favor of Pam Purzea as vice-chair.

#### **5. Ethics Awareness and Identification of Conflicts or Potential Conflicts of Interest**

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

#### **6. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the June 26, 2023 meeting agenda. Pam Pureza was remote.

#### **7. Committee Selection for Board Appointee.**

Dr. Sheila Williams shared information on the vacant Board of Education seat. Dr. Williams stated the application will be posted by 5pm on June 27, 2023 and available until July 14, 2023 at 5pm. Dr. Williams stated this will be an electronic application and interviews will be scheduled for July 24, 2023 at the board meeting.

#### **8. HLT Alternative School's Modified Accountability System Options/HLT High School Credit Option - 22 Credits**

Mr. Chris Pullet presented a proposal to address changes that H.L. Trigg would like to implement for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Pullet stated this proposal includes establishing a 22-credit diploma pathway for students in danger of dropping out of school. Mr. Pullet stated this pathway would allow students to meet the state requirements for graduation while gaining life and job skills. Mr. Pullet stated students would be instructed in smaller classes, teachers would use project-based learning to reach the unique needs of these students. Mr. Pullet stated the new pathway would expose students to community career opportunities and possible internships. Mr. Pullet stated the school would develop specialized electives to prepare students to enter the workforce or community college. Mr. Pullet also stated there will be a referral process developed to identify and screen potential students. Mr. Pullet stated this process would be initiated by the school or requested by the parents of a struggling student.

## 9. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, shared how proud he is of staff and students that concluded the summer school program. Dr. Parker stated we had a very successful summer school program. Dr. Parker stated last week we gave close to 700 tests and also spoke on the success rate of our students. Dr. Parker stated we are preparing for the next school year. Dr. Parker stated "Read to Achieve" will begin soon. We have posted on the website information for parents who are looking for academic enrichment opportunities through us or community partners. Dr. Parker stated please go to our website and check out the opportunities through camps and other things we're hosting. Dr. Parker stated we currently have a CTE camp going on as well.

## 10. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Sheila Williams, seconded by Tommy Old, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from May 22, 2023 and June 19, 2023.

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

Mr. Anthony Sawyer stated he did not know how the empty seat would be filled. Mr. Sawyer called the Election office and found out the board can appoint anyone and there is a process. Mr. Sawyer stated he would be applying for the seat.

## 12. Other Agenda Items

### Financial, Business, and Technology Committee (FBT)

#### Sharon Warden, Committee Chair

Rachael Haines asked for a motion from the Board for approval for three quotes.

Rachael Haines presented FBT-01 (Rental Report); FBT-02 (Purchasing Report); FBT-03 (ECPPS 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule); FBT-04 (Budget Amendments #108 State Public School Fund, #203 Current Expense Fund, #308 Federal Grants Fund, #701 After School Fund, and #805 Local Special Revenue Fund); FBT-05 (Year End Budget Amendment Authorization); FBT-06 (Continuing Budget Resolution); and FBT-07 (Surplus List). Dr. Parker stated the 2023-2024 calendar is very similar to last year's calendar. Dr. Parker stated we will travel to the schools and each school will have a recognition time for their staff and students. He also stated some schools will double so all schools can be recognized.

Sharon Warden made a motion to approve FBT-03 (ECPPS 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule); FBT-04 (Budget Amendments #108, #203, #308, #701, and #805); FBT-05 (Year End Budget Amendment Authorization); FBT-06 (Continuing Budget Resolution) and FBT-07 (Surplus List) seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve FBT-03, FBT-04, and FBT-05, FBT-06, and FBT-07.

### Global Citizens and Healthy Students Committee (GCHS)

#### Angela Cobb, Chair

Tammy Rinehart presented GCHS-01 (NEAAAT Catering Service Agreement); GCHS-02 (Milk Bids); GCHS-03 (Northeastern NC CO-OP); and GCHS-04 (Community Eligibility Provision). Mrs. Rinehart stated the NEAAAT Catering Service agreement has an increase from \$5.00 per meal to \$5.75 per meal. Mrs. Rinehart stated the "Milk Bid", we partnered with Currituck for the 2023-2024 school year using MDVA Milk Producers Cooperative Association DBA Marva Maid Dairy. The Northeastern NC CO-OP Lot 1 (Groceries); Lot 3 (Supplies) were renewed this year; and Lot 4 (Produce) is a new bid this year. The Community Eligibility Provision, we are recommending to re-establish the baseline again this year. Mrs. Rinehart stated ECP-Early College has been added this year.

Rodney Walton made a motion to approve to approve GCHS-01 (NEAAAT Catering Service Agreement); GCHS-02 (Milk Bids); GCHS-03 (Northeastern NC CO-OP); and GCHS-04 (Community Eligibility Provision), seconded by Tommy Old, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve GCHS-01, GCHS-02, GCHS-03 and GCHS-04.

### **Policy Committee (PC)**

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

Mrs. Rhonda James-Davis presented policies: PC-01 (4220 Student Insurance Program); PC-02 (4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety); PC-03 (6125 Administering Medicines to Students); and PC-04 (6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services) on the agenda. Mrs. James-Davis presented the first read of four different policies for revisions that have been recommended by the North Carolina School Board Association proposed for your consideration. Mrs. James-Davis asked the board to carefully review and consider these revisions to ensure our policies align with the best of our students and comply with applicable laws. Mrs. James-Davis stated we will move to the second reading during the next board meeting.

Dr. Parker stated PC-05 (3460 Graduation Requirement) policy, we are recommending a change to this policy tonight. Dr. Parker stated we are asking the board to waive the first read and vote on this tonight. Dr. Parker stated this policy connects to Mr. Paullet's conversation about H.L. Trigg and we're suggesting one revision to that policy. Dr. Parker stated this policy lists out the requirements to graduate with a diploma in the state of NC and Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools. Dr. Parker stated there is a provision in part C of the policy that talks about special circumstances and is inconsistent with several other districts in North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated we are suggesting to add a provision in that "Special Provisions" category which would be 22 credit diploma options for any student that qualifies. Dr. Parker stated in North Carolina the Future Ready course of study is 22 credits. In ECPPS students have to meet the state required 22 plus an additional six courses which are elected courses to get a diploma and that has to be 28 credits. Dr. Parker stated as Mr. Paulett discussed, we have several students in our school system with one situation or another that are unable to achieve a diploma by age 18.

Dr. Parker stated Mr. Paullet did a great job on the presentation and as he pointed out if you miss one course in your freshman year you have already increased your dropout rate. Dr. Parker stated with our current policy there is no way a student could graduate before 18. Dr. Parker stated we would like to add this 22 credit option and make it only available at H.L. Trigg School. Dr. Parker stated this is not available at the traditional high school.

Rodney Walton made a motion to suspend Policy #2420 which is the adoption of policies, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to suspend policy #2420.

A motion was made by Tommy Old, to approve policy PC-05 (3460 Graduation Requirements), seconded by Dr. Sheila Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve PC-05 Graduation Requirements.

### **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Sharon Warden, 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 7:08 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Angela Cobb, Dr. Sheila Williams, Tommy Old, Pam Pureza, Rodney Walton and Sharon Warden. The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Rhonda James-Davis, John Leidy, School Board Attorney, was also in attendance. The Board and staff discussed confidential personnel matters during the closed session. (Pam Pureza was remote)

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

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 8:28 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

- Angela Cobb, Chair
- Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair (not present)     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 Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the Superintendent’s Report for Personnel as presented.

**13. Other**

**14. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dr. Sheila Williams, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary