

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

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 24, 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. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Angela Cobb, Chair	Tommy Old
Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair	Rodney Walton
Shelia Williams	Sharon Warden

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

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:04 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

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.

Chair Cobb took a moment to recognize Dr. Parker for being with us over a year. Chair Cobb thanked Dr. Parker for all he has done in the schools this last year, and cannot wait to see what next year will bring.

5. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the July 24, 2023 meeting agenda.

6. Board Vacancy Seat Interviews and Selection

Dr. Williams stated there is a seat required to fill on the Board of Education for the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Schools. Dr. Williams stated candidates submitted applications and three were selected for interviews. Dr. Williams thanked everyone who applied to serve in this role. Dr. Williams stated there are three candidates to be interviewed tonight. Dr. Williams stated this will be a short two question interview since the applicants submitted their applications prior to tonight's meeting and board members were able to read their responses. Dr. Williams stated the board will interview each candidate tonight and make a decision by ballot. Dr. Williams stated the ballots will be given to Pam Parker to tally and read each name on the ballot, and the person selected will be announced. Dr. Williams asked each candidate the question, "Why would you want to serve on the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Board of Education", the second question "What qualifications will you bring to the Board in an effort to enhance the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools".

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the Interview Process in Accordance with Policy 2115, to vote by written ballot to fill the Board Vacancy Seat.

Chair Cobb stated it was a four to one vote with Mrs. Bogues selected to serve on the Board of Education. Chair Cobb stated the swearing in ceremony will be August 21st at the committee meetings.

7. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, congratulated Mrs. Valerie Bogues and thanked all the candidates that applied. Dr. Parker shared information on the event we hosted on July 10th which was the Strategic Planning retreat. Dr. Parker stated we invited the community, parents, students and staff to come out to Elizabeth City State University K.E. White Center. Dr. Parker stated we received feedback on what is going to be the new vision for our schools for the next 5 years and beyond. Dr. Parker stated he is proud of our community, in the "middle of July", we had almost 200 people come out and join us. Dr. Parker stated this really speaks to how the community feels about our public schools.

Dr. Parker stated we are weeks away from announcing the Strategic Plan, which includes a new vision and priorities for the school system. Dr. Parker stated the Board of Education will announce this publicly in August. Dr. Parker stated this past week, myself, staff members, members of the board and 8 students had the opportunity to attend the Committee of 100 luncheon held at Mid Atlantic Christian University along with business partners and elected officials. Dr. Parker stated we were asked to speak on behalf of the schools.

Dr. Parker stated next week, we are hosting a district leadership retreat for Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors, and 30 of our Emerging Leaders that are enrolled in the Leadership Development Program, at Mid Atlantic Christian University to plan for the opening of schools.

Dr. Parker stated we will be doing extensive planning in preparation for the return of students and staff. Dr. Parker stated August 15th is the first day teachers return, August 16th is back to school convocation for our staff. Dr. Parker stated we will have over 800 staff who will come together and celebrate the kick off for the opening of schools. Dr. Parker stated on August 28th we will have around 5000 young people returning to school. Dr. Parker stated open house will be the week of August 21st. Dr. Parker stated the middle schools open house will be August 22nd, from 5-7 p.m, the high schools open house will be August 23rd, from 5-7pm, and August 24th open house will be for all elementary schools from 4-6pm. Dr. Parker encouraged parents to come out and meet your child's teachers and sign up for bus transportation. Dr. Parker stated in a few weeks the district will be announcing "big gains" and "successes" we have had this past school year. Dr. Parker stated he is proud of all of our staff and students.

10. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tommy Old , seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from June 26, 2023.

11. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)

Mr. Anthony Sawyer shared his disappointment that he was not selected for an interview.

12. Other Agenda Items

Financial, Business, and Technology Committee (FBT)

Sharon Warden, Committee Chair

Rachael Haines presented FBT-01 (Rental Report); FTB-02 (Purchasing Report); FBT-03 (ECPPS 2023-2024 revised Meeting Schedule); FBT-04 (Micropurchase Threshold Certification Resolution); FBT-05 (Fundraisers); FBT-06 (Schedule of Fees); FBT-07 (After School 2023-2024 Rates); FBT-08 (Sentara Contract Rates for Athletic Trainers); FBT-09 (Quote - TriSolutions - NHS Gym Complex Restrooms Floor Restoration).

Sharon Warden made a motion to approve FBT-03 (ECPPS revised 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule); FBT-04 (Micropurchase Threshold Certification Resolution); FBT-05 (Fundraisers); FBT-06 (Schedule of Fees) and FBT-07 (After School 2023-2024 Rates) seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve FBT-03, FBT-04, FBT-05, FBT-06, and FBT-07.

Sharon Warden made a motion to approve FBT-08 (Sentara Contract Rates for Athletic Trainers with a 10 percent increase), seconded by Dr. Sheila Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote. Pam Pureza recused herself from voting.

Sharon Warden made a motion to approve FBT-09 (Quote - TriSolutions - NHS Gym Complex Restrooms Floor Restoration), seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

Personalized Education (PE)

Pam Pureza, Chair

Mr. Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, shared the 2023-2024 (HLT) Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System Option. Mr. Fudge 2023-24 school year and previous years, Elizabeth City Pasquotank Schools selected Option B for HLT Community School. Mr. Fudge stated the end goal for students is to transition students back to their home school. The testing and accountability department is requesting Option B for the 2023-2024 Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System Option.

Pam Pureza made a motion to approve "Option B" for (HLT) Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability Option, seconded by Tommy Old, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

Mr. Fudge stated he is recommending the Board of Education reduce the current graduation requirements from 28 credits to 26 credits. Mr. Fudge stated the decision came from researching other districts. Mr. Fudge shared the benefits of having 26 credits for our students.

Dr. Parker stated the graduation rate from last year has increased by a little over 10 pts. Dr. Parker stated this will be a pathway to get us back on track and give students an opportunity to graduate on time.

Policy Committee (PC)

Tommy Old, Chair

Mrs. Rhonda James-Davis presented the second read of 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) for approval.

Rhonda James-Davis shared PC-06 (3226/4205 Internet Safety) for information only, and stated this policy also is known as CIPA. Mrs. James-Davis stated this policy has to be shared on the website for public review and will be shared at the August meeting for the public to comment before adoption.

Attorney Leidy stated this policy has to be out for public hearing on the matter which requires notice given to the public can come and comment on this policy before this policy is adopted. Public hearing schedule for next board meeting and at that time the board can take action to adopt this policy.

A motion was made by Tommy Old, to approve 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), seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve PC-01 - PC-04.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to suspend Policy 2420, adoption of policies and waive the first read of policy 3460. Tommy Old made a motion to suspend Policy 2420 adoption of policies, and waive the first read of policy 3460, seconded by Dr. Sheila Williams and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

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

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 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.

Meeting Called Back to Order by Chair - Open Session

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 9:28 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

- Angela Cobb, Chair
- Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair
- Angela Cobb
- Tommy Old (not present)
- Rodney Walton
- Sharon Warden

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.

Dr. Parker requested the board approve the District Release as presented by staff during the closed session.

Dr. Parker requested the board approve the Student Board members nomination as presented by staff during the closed session.

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the District Releases’ and Student Board members as presented.

13. Other

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Sheila Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Chair

Secretary