

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**September 25, 2023 - Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Northside 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:

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Angela Cobb, Chair (Not Present) |                |
| Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair           | Rodney Walton  |
| Tommy Old                        | Sharon Warden  |
| Shelia H. Williams (Not Present) | Valerie Bogues |

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent  
 Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
 Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
 Dr. Katina Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education  
 Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services  
 Jamie Liverman, Executive Director of of Exceptional Children  
 Adrian Fonville, Executive Director of Secondary Education  
 Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition  
 Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance  
 Sheila Overton, Director of Career and Technical Education  
 Stephanie Ambrose, Principal of P.W. Moore Elementary School  
 Jessica Prayer, Principal of Northside Elementary School  
 Sharron Bell, Principal of Elizabeth City Middle School  
 Dexter Jackson-Heard, Director of Communications & Community Schools  
 Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board  
 Mitchel Manuel, PCHS Student Board Member  
 Gabby Johnson, NHS Student Board Member  
 Haley Mayhew, ECP-Early College Board Member

Others present:

John Leidy, School Board Attorney  
 Anna Katherine Somberg, Attorney

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

Vice-Chair Pam Pureza called the meeting to order at 6:01 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**

Valerie Bogues 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 Sharon Warden, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the September 25, 2023 meeting agenda. Chair Cobb and Dr. Sheila Williams were not present.

## 6. Recognitions

Mrs. Sharron Bell, Principal of Elizabeth City Middle School introduced herself and also referred to ECMS as the HIVE where habits, initiatives, values and high expectations build strong academic success for students. Mrs. Bell stated this is evident in the fact that ECMS is now in the second year of exceeding growth. Mrs. Bell recognized Ms. Peter-Gay Ferguson, 6th grade math teacher, a Global teacher and has been at ECMS for the past 5 years. Mrs. Bell stated Ms. Ferguson loves all her students and goes above and beyond for her students. Mrs. Bell stated Ms. Ferguson supports other teachers as math content lead and models effective small group instruction. Mrs. Bell stated Ms. Ferguson exceeded growth expectations for the 2022-2023 school year, her outstanding accomplishment in the classroom, Ms. Ferguson has been selected to represent ECPPS as the NCCTM outstanding secondary math teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Bell stated Ms. Ferguson will be recognized in November at the annual North Carolina Math Teachers Conference in Winston Salem, NC. Mrs. Bell and staff thanked Ms. Ferguson for all her hard work.

Ms. Jessica Prayer, Principal of Northside Elementary School stated she will recognize several of her staff, students and parents due to the change of Northside's PTO. Ms. Prayer recognized Livi Richardson, Shaniah London, and Jalayah McCotter as the morning announcers. Ms. Prayer stated these students are understanding character traits, weather and announcing birthday celebrations.

Ms. Prayer stated we honor students for what they do in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom. Ms. Prayer stated she is recognizing two students, one that has excelled in football and the other in gymnastics. Ms. Prayer recognized Jasmine Wheelbarger as an AAU Superstar and Kadeem Person, who has excelled in football as well as the classroom.

Ms. Prayer recognized several teachers and staff as well as parents. Ms. Prayer stated Ms. Maclin has developed a program from a passion she has to support teachers and this will also help retain teachers at Northside Elementary School. Ms. Prayer stated the next two staff members help the school stay afloat: Victory Blount and Enid Kimble. Ms. Prayer recognized the staff members and parents who brought PTO back to Northside Elementary School.

## 7. Instructional Highlights

Northside Elementary shared several video highlights. The highlights include math, reading, art, and social studies. Ms. Prayer stated she is honored to be at Northside and values all of our students and staff.

## Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Parker, thanked Ms. Prayer and congratulated the entire staff and students for a very energetic, and exciting school year. Dr. Parker stated at the county commissioner meeting two weeks ago, Northside elementary school is one point away from a "C" school. Dr. Parker stated this is going to be the year where they exceed growth and become a "C" school. Dr. Parker stated he is proud of all the work Northside is doing.

Dr. Parker stated interim progress reports will be going home tomorrow. Dr. Parker stated, October 10th is a teacher workday and students will not be in session. Dr. Parker stated, this is the second



year hosting a professional learning conference that we call Ignite ECPPS at Northeastern High School. Dr. Parker stated this is for all of our staff from 8:30 until 12:00 p.m. Dr. Parker stated there will be sessions for staff to choose what they would like to go to. Dr. Parker stated teachers will be presenting, community partners, and partners from NCDPI that will be hosting professional learning. Dr. Parker stated the second part of the day teachers will be able to work in their classrooms. Dr. Parker thanked the curriculum department for their work on planning and making it possible. Dr. Parker stated the first nine-week grading period ends on October 27th. Dr. Parker stated report cards will go home on November 6th. Dr. Parker stated he is very excited about the progress we're making this school year. Dr. Parker stated leaders have been in different buildings and have been talking to staff. Dr. Parker stated, we have a "fired up" ready to go crew.

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

Gabby Johnson, Northeastern High School stated school has been moving very quickly, sports have been continuous since the first day of school. Gabby stated the first game is tomorrow, FFA, FCA, and National Honor Society are meeting. Gabby stated, one thing different this year at Northeastern High School, is the school spirit points. Gabby stated students who participate in homecoming week, earn school spirit points and these points go toward their grading. Gabby stated it seems students are paying attention to attendance and dress code.

Mitchel Manual, Pasquotank County High School stated the PCHS Deca Marketing Association would like to thank everyone in the community who came out to support their ninth annual "toys and treats" night. They appreciate the support and it helps them to decrease the cost for state competition.

Haley Mayhew, ECP-Early College, stated clubs started a few weeks ago and SGA elections are going on. Haley stated students have received their MacBooks and students are happy. Haley stated the first time ever the Early College will have a National Honors Society.

## **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 August 28, 2023 and September 18, 2023.

Chair Cobb and Dr. Sheila Williams were not present.

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

## **12. Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Rodney Walton to approve the consent agenda for September 25, 2023, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve FBT-05 (Budget Amendments #101 and #301). Chair Cobb and Dr. Sheila Williams were not present.

## **13. Other Agenda Items**

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

#### **Sharon Warden, Chair**

We have nothing to report.

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

#### **Rodney Walton, Co-Chair**

Dr. Amy Swain presented the Community Schools Presentation along with Stephanie Ambrose, Principal of P.W. Moore and Hipp Barclift, Community School Director at P.W. Moore. Dr. Swain stated P.W. Moore has partnered with ECU this year, which is the University Assisted Community Schools Partnership. Dr. Swain stated the university joins together with a school to accelerate the impact of



academic, social, and health support in the area. Dr. Swain stated when she met with Mrs. Ambrose, she stated she wanted to work on community and family engagement. Dr. Swain stated, using the community school strategy P.W. Moore began partnerships with ECU, ECSU, and ARHS. Mr. Barclift shared the Four Pillars of Community Schools, which are Engage Families and Community, Collaborative Leadership, Integrated Student Supports, and Extended Enriched Learning. Mr. Barclift stated, he is sharing what the parents and community need from us and what they want to see in the school. Dr. Swain stated the most focused pillar is increasing Family and Community Engagement.

Mrs. Ambrose shared information on open-house and the wonderful turnout it was for families to come in and feel comfortable at P.W. Moore. Dr. Swain stated the focus is to increase community engagement with family dinners, increased communication, community learning exchanges and community programming. Dr. Swain stated, the school combined the October family dinner along with Title I Literacy night. Dr. Swain stated stations will be set up for reading, book giveaways, and s'mores. Dr. Swain stated P.W. Moore has increased communication by sending out postcards, Moms and Mental Health events, and ice cream socials. Dr. Swain stated on October 21st there will be a fall festival at the school. Dr. Swain stated in March the school plans to have a Founders Day breakfast. Dr. Swain stated Mrs. Ambrose and Mrs. Everett are strong leaders and they will in turn develop their own future leaders. Dr. Swain stated Mr. Barclift is working with all the area Partners. Dr. Swain highlighted other areas the school is working on: 21st Century Learning grant, drone programming, basketball league, student social groups, and oral histories.

Dr. Swain stated, P.W. Moore is the only Assisted Community School in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Parker thanked Dr. Swain and her team, Mr. Barclift, Mrs. Ambrose for the entire work the school is doing. Dr. Parker stated this is a wonderful example of our strategic priorities which are partnerships. Dr. Parker stated he is proud of P.W. Moore, and noted they have been invited to the State conference and AIM conference to share their strategies.

### **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Sharon Warden, 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 6:52 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Tommy Old, Pam Pureza, Rodney Walton and Sharon Warden. The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, John Leidy, School Board Attorney, Anna Katherine Somberg, Attorney, were also in attendance. The Board and staff discussed confidential personnel matters during the closed session. Chair Cobb and Dr. Sheila H. Williams were not present.

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

Vice-Chair Pureza called the meeting back to order at 7:57 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair | Rodney Walton  |
| Sharon Warden          | Valerie Bagues |
| Tommy Old              |                |

Chair Cobb and Dr. Sheila Williams were not present.

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent

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 Sharon Warden, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to accept the Superintendent's Report for Personnel as presented.

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**13. Other**

**14. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary