

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Weeksville 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	
Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair	Rodney Walton (not present)
Tommy Old	Sharon Warden
Shelia H. Williams	Valerie Bagues

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent
 Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
 Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Inst.
 Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance
 Adrian Fonville, Executive Director of Secondary Education
 Dr. Katina Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education
 Bert Lane, Executive Executive Director of Federal Programs
 Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance
 Holly Glenn, Interim Director of Exceptional Children
 Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Development
 Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition
 Shelia Overton, Director of CTE
 James Schiffbauer, Principal Weeksville Elementary School
 Misty Wooten, Instructional Coach
 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

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Chair Angela Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the February 26, 2024 meeting agenda. Rodney Walton not present.

6. Recognitions

Dr. Parker welcomed everyone for coming out tonight. Dexter Jackson-Heard stated we have some great things to highlight in our district as well as great accomplishments. Dexter Jackson-Heard stated we will begin with recognition of the LETRS program followed by highlights from Pasquotank County Schools Athletics and Weeksville Elementary School.

Dexter Jackson-Heard shared a video from the State Superintendent, Catherine Truitt, recognizing and congratulating all participants on the completion of LETRS training.

Dr. Katina Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education and Misty Wooten, presented certificates to 100 cohort recipients who completed the LETRS training. Dr. Waples stated these teachers have put in approximately 200 hours of coursework as they completed their modules. Dr. Waples stated their goals have been improving teacher effectiveness and student learning outcomes. Dr. Waples thanked teachers and their families for their commitment, dedication and unwavering support.

Mrs. Delishia Moore, Principal of Pasquotank County High School presented certificates for students exceeding excellence in our sports program. Mrs. Moore stated she is excited about what is happening on the northside of town. Mrs. Moore recognized Logan Schiffbauer, who participated at the NCHSAA 2024 Swimming State Championship. Mrs. Moore stated Logan came in 13th place. Mrs. Moore recognized Clark Keller who participated in the NCHSAA 2024 Wrestling State Championship. Mrs. Moore stated Clark came in 6th place in the 175 pound weight class.

Mrs. Moore stated when she came to Pasquotank County High School, she was asked if the school could have a women's wrestling program. Mrs. Moore stated "if you can get about 10 girls," I would consider it. Mrs. Moore stated PCHS started their women's wrestling team, they took the challenge and raised the bar. Mrs. Moore stated PCHS has their first place winner in women's wrestling, Camilla Brooks. Mrs. Moore stated Camilla is a senior and won first place in the 126 pound weight class.

Mr. Schiffbauer, Principal of Weeksville Elementary School recognized several of his amazing staff and students. Mr. Schiffbauer stated these ladies work hard behind the scenes and really make Weeksville what it is as well as these students.

7. Instructional Highlights

Mr. Schiffbauer shared a video on Club Days at Weeksville Elementary School. Mr. Schiffbauer stated Friday Club days have been amazing this year because kids get a “choice” of a club they want to go to. Mr. Schiffbauer stated Weeksville finished their first semester and now they are in second semester clubs. Mr. Schiffbauer stated students have several clubs to choose from and the interaction with teachers is amazing.

Mr. Schiffbauer shared a great thing Weeksville has implemented this year, “Actual Videography” where students give live announcements through our YouTube channel. Mr. Schiffbauer stated, we have student led and student run announcers, as well as producers who run the entire setup. Mr. Schiffbauer stated students are technology savvy and go through all the pieces and components and you can watch them live on YouTube. Mr. Schiffbauer stated he is extremely excited to see the approach the school has taken with clubs and infusing them into the school every Friday. Mr. Schiffbauer stated it has created an atmosphere that is exciting for our students.

8. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Keith Parker thanked Mr. Schiffbauer and the Weeksville staff and families for hosting us tonight. Dr. Parker stated he loves seeing everybody come out. Dr. Parker thanked the Human Resources and Communications Department for organizing a booth at the Chamber of Commerce event recently. Dr. Parker stated the Chamber hosted a job fair which was called Ready-Set-Expo. Dr. Parker stated there were local businesses and entrepreneurs participating in the event. Dr. Parker stated, we had a booth and were able to take over one hundred high school juniors and seniors from PCHS, NHS, Early College and H.L. Trigg. Dr. Parker stated we also won first place in the booth design.

Dr. Parker stated the week of February 12th was called “love a bus” week. Dr. Parker stated he is so thankful for our school bus drivers. Dr. Parker stated it takes so much organization and dedication to keep almost 45 school buses on the road. Dr. Parker stated he is very thankful to the transportation department for the work they put in, and the many times they stay until all buses are cleared and our students are home safe.

Dr. Parker stated P.W. Moore was selected as a North Carolina Lighthouse School award recipient that goes to one or two schools a year in the state of North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated P.W. Moore was selected as one of those schools. Dr. Parker stated just a little over two years ago P.W. Moore was considered by the state of North Carolina as a “F” school. Dr. Parker stated P.W. Moore had not exceeded growth and they are now a school that has exceeded growth and was three points away from becoming a “C” school. Dr. Parker stated this is a testament as to what we can do in the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Schools. Dr. Parker stated on March 9, 2024, we are hosting a P.W. Moore alumni breakfast.

Dr. Parker stated last week, we launched in all 13 schools a “60-day plan of purpose”. Dr. Parker stated this is depending when students take the end of course or end of grade test. Dr. Parker stated, we love our public schools and we are going to make sure they are the best choice for parents. Dr. Parker stated principals and teachers will be sharing more about this “60-day plan of purpose.”

9. Student Board Members' Report

Haley Mayhew, ECP-Early College stated they had a school dance and recently received new cafeteria furniture. Haley stated the Student Government Association had a candy gram fundraiser for Valentine's Day. Haley stated the National Honors Society created Valentine Day cards for Westbrook retirement home. Haley stated the National Honors Society has recently been scouting new members and shared some information to those students with high GPAs. Haley stated students from ECMS and RRMS came to visit Early College. Haley stated, we also had a community night for parents and students who are interested in attending Early College.

Mitchel Manual, Pasquotank County High School stated PCHS hosted the Ministerial Council a held CCP night in March. Mitchel stated PCHS student artwork will be displayed at the Arts of the Albemarle. Mitchel stated the school has selected their prom theme "A Whole New World." Mitchel stated PCHS test scores have been good and more students are passing and showing growth.

Gabby Johnson, Northeastern High School stated juniors are taking the ACT tomorrow. Gabby stated the dual enrollment students are taking midterms next week. Gabby stated last week, we celebrated FFA spirit week, winter sports are coming to an end and Spring sports have begun. Gabby stated we are going from enrichment to flex time.

10. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from January 22, 2024 and February 20, 2024. Rodney Walton was not present.

11. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)

There were no public comments.

12. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Sharon Warden to approve the consent agenda for February 26, 2024 seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden to approve the consent agenda for February 26, 2024 seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve FBT-04 (Budget Amendments #106 and #306). Rodney Walton was not present

13. Other Agenda Items

Financial, Business, and Technology Committee (FBT)

Sharon Warden, Chair

Mrs. Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance presented (FBT-01) Fundraisers, (FBT-02) Scholastics Quote No. 2024-01-44508, (FBT-03) CEV Multimedia, LLC Quote No. Q-35541 for approval.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden and seconded by Pam Pureza, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve (FBT-01) Fundraisers, (FBT-02) Scholastics Quote No. 2024-01-44508, (FBT-03) CEV Multimedia, LLC Quote No. Q-35541, as presented. Rodney Walton was not present.

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent is asking the board to approve a technical correction to 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Dr. Parker stated we need to add one holiday to the calendar that was inadvertently left off for each year. Dr. Parker stated we have to have a certain number of holidays for staff. Dr. Parker stated March 29, 2024, optional work day will be converted to a holiday.

Dr. Parker stated the 2024-2025 calendar will be Good Friday as well and that optional day will be converted to a holiday.

A motion was made by Tommy Old and seconded by Sharon Warden, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve (FBT-04) revised 2023-2024 School Calendar, (FBT-05) revised 2024-2025 School Calendar, as presented. Rodney Walton not present.

Student Representative Appointment Ad Hoc Committee (SRA)

Pam Pureza, Chair

Pam Pureza, Committee Chair presented the Policy and Student Application for Student Board Members. Chair Pureza stated, we are not recommending any changes to the process, policy or student application.

Chair Pureza stated the policy states prior to the March board meeting the superintendent and current committee members shall organize and facilitate the selections. Chair Pureza stated, we will go back to schools to promote the student board member positions like we have done in the past.

Chair Pureza has asked the current student board members to join in on those conversations with the Juniors who will be applying for next year.

Chair Pureza stated the board committee members consisted of Valerie Bagues, Rodney Walton and myself.

Personalized Education (PE)

Pam Pureza, Chair

Dr. Katina Jones-Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education shared information on the ECPPS Dual Language Immersion.

Dr. Parker welcomed guests Dr. Jake Henry and Freebird McKenney who are joining us and will participate and co-present in the presentation.

Dr. Parker highlighted updates on a year-long process of reimagining the learning experiences of our students in ECPPS. Dr. Parker shared a power-point presentation on "A Global Vision", Reimagining the Future of ECPPS.

Dr. Waples stated we have worked hard on Family Engagement. Dr. Waples stated two weeks ago we opened the student application process and have received 103 applications that have been completed. Dr. Waples stated we plan to deliver flyers to various sites where children are located. Dr. Waples stated, we are dedicated to making sure we have equity in the application process. Dr. Waples stated we want the Dual Language Immersion programs to look like our community.

Dr. Parker stated, we want our schools to become a Dual Language Immersion as well as transform the look and feel to become Global schools. Dr. Parker stated we are embracing the Multicultural components of our community and schools. Dr. Parker stated he believes that for students to learn about themselves, the world and differences in the world will prepare you to live in the world.

Dr. Parker stated, we are looking to transform our elementary schools into dual language schools. Dr. Parker stated this will be an option for parents if they want to put their child in the program.

Dr. Parker stated our students regardless of dual language or not, students will begin to receive Global content, and continue to be taught the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Dr. Parker stated students will learn through a lens of global content going into elementary school. Dr. Parker stated this will prepare students for middle school International Baccalaureate Program. Dr. Parker stated, we are on track to become the first Eastern North Carolina District east of Wilson and 95 to offer an IB Program. Dr. Parker stated this is an extremely rigorous and competitive program and it's not offered on the Eastern side of the state. Dr. Parker stated if students complete the program they can graduate high school with an International Diploma that is recognized around the world. Dr. Parker stated ECMS has submitted their application to become our first middle school IB program. Dr. Parker stated, we are on track in August for ECMS to become that school where 6th and 7th graders go into the program.

Chair Cobb stated, we need to approve the launch of the Dual Language Immersion Program at Central Elementary, J.C. Sawyer, and Northside Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams to move forward with the schools listed, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the Dual Language Immersion Program. Rodney Walton was not present

Policy Committee (PC)

Rodney Walton, Chair (Not present)

Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented a group of policies for first read. Mrs. Haines stated in the folder are 21 policies that need revisions.

Excellence Educators (EE)

Dr. Sheila H. Williams, Chair

Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Development presented a grant she received for the Teaching Fellows program. Mrs. Cowell stated, we were one of 20 districts to receive this recruitment grant. Mrs. Cowell shared an overview, goals, and proposed budget for the grant. Mrs. Cowell also shared the next steps.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Valerie Bogues, 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 7:54 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Cobb, Vice-Chair Pam Pureza, Tommy Old, Valerie Bogues, Dr. Shelia Williams and Sharon Warden. The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Rachael Haines, John Leidy, School Board Attorney, was in attendance. The Board and staff discussed confidential personnel matters during the closed session. Rodney Walton not present.

Meeting Called Back to Order by Chair - Open Session

Chair Cobb called the meeting back to order at 9:29 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Cobb

Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair

Rodney Walton (not present)

Sharon Warden

Valerie Bogues

Tommy Old

Dr. Sheila H. Williams

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent

Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board

Excellent Educators Committee

Dr. Sheila 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. Shelia 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 Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary