

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
January 22, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at H.L. Trigg 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
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.
Adrian Fonville, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Dr. Katina Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services
Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance
Holly Glenn, Interim Director of Exceptional Children
Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Development
Chris Paulett, Principal H.L. Trigg 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

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Chair Angela Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:07 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.

5. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the January 22, 2024 meeting agenda.

6. Recognitions

Dr. Parker welcomed everyone for coming out tonight and to see a packed house. Dr. Parker stated we are recognizing two schools this evening, ECP-Early College and H. L. Trigg School.

Mrs. Jennifer Lee, Principal, EC-P Early College stated it is very unique and it takes all of the staff to make everything happen day in and day out. Mrs. Lee recognized several of her staff beginning with Mrs. Michelle Barker, Science teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Darnell, English teacher, Mr. Chris Doepker, Social Studies teacher, Mrs Michelle Spence, Data Manager. Mrs. Liz Wooten, Math teacher, Ms. Heather Bowen, Counselor. Mrs. Lee thanked her staff and stated she would not be able to do what she does each day without them.

Mrs. Lee recognized juniors and seniors that have shown outstanding promise. Mrs. Lee stated these students rank in the top of their class and are on target to graduate with their associates degree. Mrs. Lee recognized: Alyssa Garrison, Connor Christman, Natalie Stepens, Sara Hughes, Luis Vargas-Torres, Hailey Mayhew, Sarah Savino, Joshua Maraveles, Yoselin Molina-Dominquez, A'Zaria Bell, Quan Ly, Sicily Hegge, and Bryce Loeffler.

Mr. Chris Paulett, Principal of H.L. Trigg School recognized several of his staff beginning with Ms. Roxanna Whitehurst, Custodian, Ms. Doreshia Walker-White, Office Manager. Mr. Paulett stated he has an amazing staff and appreciates all of them.

Mr. Paulett stated his students are shy, they don't like to come out to get their picture taken, so he took a moment to share some of the things going on at H.L. Trigg. Mr. Paulett stated Trigg has 47 students enrolled at H.L. Trigg. Mr. Paulett stated at the beginning of the year Trigg had 12 students that were within 10 credits of graduating. Mr. Paulett stated at the end of first semester, we have 10 students that are still on track to graduate with their cohort and 2 more working hard to possibly graduate over the summer. Mr. Paulett stated he wanted to recognize the great work these students are doing..

Mr. Paullet stated the social studies teacher has received several grants this year for the community garden program. Mr. Paullet stated students designed and decorated rain barrels along with creative stands to put them on and they are ready to be installed. Mr. Paullet stated the English teacher has been working closely with ECSU on the Spoken Word Program, with their poetry club and a blog class. Mr. Paullet stated, we have been able to order equipment to work with kids at ECSU to help our students learn how to use the technology, integrate reading, writing and editing to help our students grow in the 21st Century.

7. Instructional Highlights

Mrs. Lee stated the Early College has had a successful year thus far. Mrs. Lee stated data from our test scores have shown growth, students are using Macbooks and I believe this has made a big difference when it comes to college classes. Mrs. Lee stated we have expanded our student life at school, we now have an Honor Society with elected members. Mrs. Lee stated we also have several students who have received scholarships. Mrs. Lee stated we hope to get soccer off the ground very soon. Mrs. Lee stated she and her staff are very proud of all their students.

Dr. Parker stated he is extremely proud of H.L. Trigg and Early College. Dr. Parker stated these schools have unique opportunities for our students.

Mrs. Kelly Cowell recognized Janis Rogerson. Mrs. Cowell stated Janis is a teacher assistant at Weeksville Elementary School, and is the first graduate of the Elizabeth City Pathway Project Teaching Program. Mrs. Cowell stated this program is a partnership with Elizabeth City State University, where we are supporting teacher assistants to become teachers. Mrs. Cowell stated after this school year, Janice will be a full-time teacher with ECPPS.

Mrs. Meredith Collins recognized Veronica Arthur, accounts payable specialists has successfully completed the NC Business Management Academy certification. Mrs. Collins stated the certification requires completion of 21 courses with assessments. Mrs. Collins stated the curriculum consists of courses in accounting, financial management, including legal responsibilities and business operations. Mrs. Collins congratulated Veronica Arthur.

8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Parker thanked the students for coming out tonight. Dr. Parker stated for our traditional schools, today was a teacher workday for our staff as well as tomorrow. Dr. Parker stated Wednesday marks the start of the second semester for high school. Dr. Parker stated report cards will be issued soon. Dr. Parker thanked the Board of Education and stated, January is identified as Board of Education Appreciation Month. Dr. Parker thanked each and everyone of our members for their commitment and dedication to the school system. Dr. Parker stated everyone on the board right now is either a graduate from Elizabeth City, has a student in ECPPS, or was an educator or works with educators here in Elizabeth City. Dr. Parker stated our board is extremely dedicated. Dr. Parker stated he is also very thankful that we're one of the few boards in the state of North Carolina that has student board member representation on our Board of Education. Dr. Parker recognized the board members and student board members with a token of appreciation.

9. Student Board Members' Report

Mitchel Manual, Pasquotank County High School stated we had career night and people with different careers to speak with students about jobs and careers after high school. Mitchel stated representatives from FAFSA came and shared new information and changes from previous years. Mitchel stated PCHS had exams and believes we have shown a lot of growth. Mitchel stated the swim team received two gold and two bronze metals. Mitchel stated the wrestling team also competed.

Haley Mayhew, ECP-Early College stated we had a student hang out night with games and refreshments. Haley stated we had a float in the Christmas parade, SGA helped with a secret santa event, and National Honor Society officers were elected. Haley stated they had awards night for underclassmen and 40 students were recognized. Haley stated today, Early College had their FAFSA day. Haley stated on February 2nd, Elizabeth City Middle School and River Road Middle School will tour Early College and COA.

Gabby Johnson, Northeastern High School stated sports are up and going. Gabby also stated Northeastern High School had their FAFSA day.

10. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from December 11, 2023 and January 16, 2024.

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

Chair Cobb shared information on the matters of Public Comments.

Mr. Tony Sawyer signed in to speak during the Public Comment section at the Board meeting on January 22, 2024. Chair Cobb called for public comments and was told Mr. Sawyer had left the Board of Education meeting.

12. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Sharon Warden to approve the consent agenda for January 22, 2024 seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve FBT-04 (Budget Amendments #105, #203, #305).

13. Other Agenda Items

Financial, Business, and Technology Committee (FBT)

Rodney Walton, Vice-Chair

Mrs. Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services presented (FBT-01) Finance Report for information only. (FBT-02) School Outfitters, (FBT-03 American Book Company), (FBT-04) EPS Operations, LLC, and (FBT-05) School Libraries 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-02) School Outfitters, (FBT-03) American Book Company, (FBT-04) EPS Operations LLC, and (FBT-05) School Libraries as presented.

Mrs. Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability presented the 2024 NCDPI Restart Continued Authorization Review: District Declared Intent. Mrs. Griffin stated NCDPI adopted a policy for recurring low-performing schools on February 6, 2016. Mrs. Griffin stated the policy gives autonomy and flexibility to LEAs in order to raise academic standards, promote accountability, and provide greater competition and choice within the public schools.

Mrs. Griffin stated recurring low performing public schools have the opportunity to apply for one of the following four Reform Models: Turnaround, Transformation, Restart, and Closure. Mrs. Griffin is asking the board to take action on the District Declared Intent to Continue Authorization for the Restart Model to continue operating at the following schools; Elizabeth City Middle School, PW Moore Elementary School, Pasquotank Elementary School, and River Road Middle School.

Mrs. Griffin stated the four schools have selected the Restart Model for the next five years. Mrs. Griffin stated being a restart school is an incredible opportunity to be innovative and think outside the box.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden and seconded by Dr. Sheila Williams, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve (FBT-06) Restart Authorization Review as presented.

Policy Committee (PC)

Rodney Walton, Chair

Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented (PC-01) Policy 8325 Daily Deposits for action.

A motion was made by Rodney Walton and seconded by Sharon Warden, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve (PC-01) Policy 8325 Daily Deposits.

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 6:52 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Cobb, Vice-Chair Pam Pureza, Tommy Old, Valerie Bogues, Rodney Walton, 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.

Meeting Called Back to Order by Chair - Open Session

Chair Cobb called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Cobb

Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair

Rodney Walton

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 7:21 p.m.

Chair

Secretary