

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
March 25, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Pasquotank County High 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 (virtual)	Sharon Warden
Shelia H. Williams	Valerie Bogues

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
 Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services
 Sandy Kinzel, Interim Director of Federal Programs
 Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance
 Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Development
 Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition
 Nina Griffin, Director of Testing & Accountability
 Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology
 Delishia Moore, Principal Pasquotank County High 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 - not present

Others present:

Johny Hallow, III, School Board Attorney
 Zach Robeson, School Board Attorney

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Chair Angela Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:02 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

Pam Pureza 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 Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the March 25, 2024 meeting agenda.

6. Recognitions

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 recognitions from Elizabeth City Middle School, Principal Sharron Bell. Mrs. Bell recognized a select group of students, staff, parents and community members for their commitment to the hive.

Mrs. Delishia Moore, Principal of Pasquotank County High School recognized several of her students and staff for their commitment, hard work and dedication.

Mrs. Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability introduced two candidates for the North Carolina Governor's School. Mrs. Griffin stated each year our district is allotted one slot but the last two years we have been given two. Mrs. Griffin stated both recipients will attend Governor's School this summer.

7. Instructional Highlights

Mrs. Bell stated Elizabeth City Middle School is always striving for excellence and finding innovative ways to ensure our students succeed. Mrs. Bell stated as ECMS prepares for end of grade testing our dedicated teachers are using unique and creative approaches to make learning fun and effective. Mrs. Bell stated whether it's interactive digital tools to engage hands-on projects, we are ensuring our students are well prepared for their assessments.

Mrs. Bell stated this fall EMCS will begin an International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program for students. Mr. Ervin Jones, Restorative Facilitator, stated the IB program will take learning beyond textbooks and tests developing our students into critical thinkers and problem solvers ready for the challenges of the 21st Century. Mrs. Bell stated ECMS is ready to Excel Redefining Excellence the IB Advantage. Mrs. Bell stated at ECMS, we are shaping leaders for tomorrow.

Mrs. Moore stated at Pasquotank County High School, we focus on the student experience from freshman year until senior year. Mrs. Moore stated PCHS helps students with their decision on courses that will shape their lives. Mrs. Moore stated, we are offering the CCP program which is our

college career promise and CTE. Mrs. Moore stated if we can get our students centered around these programs, students will be game changers for the rest of their lives.

8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Keith Parker thanked Mrs. Moore and her staff for hosting us tonight and PCHS and ECMS for sharing their recognitions. Dr. Parker stated we've made an investment in each of our school libraries to purchase brand new furniture and use the space when needed. Dr. Parker stated we have 42 instructional days until high school students take their end of course exams. Dr. Parker stated in those 42 days, you can learn anything you need to learn to pass this exam. Dr. Parker stated at the end of February, we launched across the district what we've called our 60-day plan of purpose. Dr. Parker stated, we are encouraging every young person and every adult to find purpose in every day and value the learning moment. Dr. Parker stated if we do this, every student can demonstrate their personal best on those exams. Dr. Parker encouraged every parent to ask their child what they're doing every day with the 60-day plan. Dr. Parker stated if you're a community member, we would love your support through tutoring or encouraging our young people. Dr. Parker stated, Friday of this week is a holiday which had previously been a teacher workday. Dr. Parker stated, we will officially begin Thursday with high schools leaving between 1 or 1:30 for the beginning of spring break. Dr. Parker stated April 1st through April 5th is Spring Break.

Dr. Parker stated he is very excited about the work at both of our schools that are highlighted tonight. Dr. Parker stated Pasquotank High School has accepted a grant that has been funded in part by the Jeff Bezos Foundation, who owns Amazon. Dr. Parker stated Mrs. Moore has highlighted the team that she's put together for this grant. Dr. Parker stated this team has visited some of the most innovative Public Schools in the entire country. Dr. Parker gave a shout out to this team who made a commitment to travel and meet weekly on a design call with leaders across the country. Dr. Parker stated this team is thinking about how they can implement some of the things they have learned.

Dr. Parker gave a shout out to Elizabeth City Middle School for becoming the first International Baccalaureate School to have an approved application in Eastern North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated that the focus we're making on global education has some transformative power for our young people. Dr. Parker stated this will also give them the ability to speak a second language.

Dr. Parker stated he was able to share with the County Commissioners along with some of our young people some of the things we are doing in the Elizabeth City Schools.

9. Student Board Members' Report

Mitchel Manual, Pasquotank County High School stated, we had college field trip visits, 4E's event, which is Entrepreneurship, Enrollment, Enlistment, and Employment. Mitchel stated they had community leaders and partners come and give presentations and showcase their businesses and share what they can do for students. Mitchel stated the Battle of the Books came in first place, the PCHS Symphonic Band went to MPA and received a grade of two which stands for excellence. Mitchel stated here at PCHS we are focused on all of the students.

Gabby Johnson, Northeastern High School stated COA students had their midterms, the juniors took their ACT test, and I received great feedback about student flex time. Gabby stated the Student Government visited a couple of elementary schools and hung out with them for the day.

10. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the minutes from February 26, 2024 and March 18, 2024.

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

There were no public comments.

12. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, to approve the consent agenda for March 25, 2024 seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote.

13. Other Agenda Items

Financial, Business, and Technology Committee (FBT)

Sharon Warden, Chair

Mrs. Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology presented (FBT-07) School Exterior Signs for approval.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden and seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve (FBT-07) School Exterior Signs, as presented.

Personalized Education (PE)

Pam Pureza, Chair

Mrs. Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability presented the 2023-2024 Summer School Retest Program for approval.

Mrs. Griffin stated NCDPI grants PSUs the opportunity to administer the EOG and EOC tests during summer programs to students who have current test scores for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Griffin stated the Summer Retest Program is a remedial review program designed to provide any student that scored non-proficient on the EOG or EOC with “a second opportunity” to successfully retake the assessment(s).

A motion was made by Pam Pureza and seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the 2023-2024 Summer School Retest Program as presented.

Mr. Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction presented the International Baccalaureate Program for approval.

Mr. Fudge stated the International Baccalaureate (IB) is a global leader in international education - developing inquiring, knowledgeable, confident, and caring young people. Mr. Fudge stated there are four approaches to learning in all IB programs: Thinking skills, Research skills, Social skills, and Self-Management Skills.

Mr. Fudge shared the ECPPS International Baccalaureate Implementation Plan. Mr. Fudge stated offering an IB Program will address the Strategic Plan Goal through the provision of instructional pathways that: afford students, parents, and teachers, rigorous and engaging learning opportunities. Mr. Fudge also stated this will cultivate student "voice", ownership, and "creative choice" in instruction.

A motion was made by Pam Pureza and seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program as presented.

Policy Committee (PC)

Rodney Walton, Chair

Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented policies PC-01- PC-21 for approval.

A motion was made by Rodney Walton and seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the Policies PC-01 through PC-21.

Excellence Educators (EE)

Dr. Sheila H. Williams, Chair

Mrs. Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mrs. Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Development, and Mrs. Nina Griffin, Director of Testing and Accountability presented a presentation on Advanced Teaching Roles. Mrs. Haines presented a strategy that supports one of our priorities "developing the talent of our Educators." Mrs. Cowell presented information on Advanced Teaching Roles and shared a short clip on ATR. Mrs. Haines shared information on Grant opportunities. Mrs. Cowell stated ECPPS is going to have four cohorts over 4 years. Mrs. Cowell shared the role of the master teacher and the timeline.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams and seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to approve the Advanced Teaching Roles, as presented.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, 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 8:08 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Cobb, Vice-Chair Pam Pureza, Tommy Old, Valerie Bagues, Dr. Shelia Williams, Rodney Walton, and Sharon Warden. The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Rachael Haines, Johny Hallow, III and Zach Robeson, School Board Attorneys, were 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 8:51 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 Sharon Warden, 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 Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Chair

Secretary