

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**April 15, 2024 - Public Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met at Pasquotank Elementary School in the multi-purpose room and via livestream, on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Angela Cobb, Chair  
Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair  
Valerie Bogues  
Tommy Old

Rodney Walton  
Sharon Warden  
Shelia H. Williams (not present)

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent  
Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction  
Adrian Fonville, Executive Director of Secondary Education  
Dr. Katina Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education  
Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services  
Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation  
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance  
Stephanie Ambrose, Principal P.W. Elementary School  
James Schiffbauer, Principal of Weeksville Elementary School  
LaShekia Brothers, Principal of Central Elementary School  
Simona White, Principal of Pasquotank Elementary School  
Kim Robertson, Principal J.C. Sawyer  
Dexter Jackson-Heard, Director of Community Schools  
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education

Others in attendance:

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

**1. Meeting called to order by Chair**

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Pam Parker called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting.

**3. Ethics Awareness and Identification of Conflicts or Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Tommy Old read the ethics statement and allowed members the opportunity to identify any conflicts or potential conflicts. The record reflects that no conflicts exist.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by roll call, to approve the agenda for April 15, 2024, as presented.

**5. Superintendent's Presentation**

Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, presented "A New Vision for Pasquotank Elementary School." Dr. Parker shared some of the process and thinking that has gone behind the plan we are recommending the board for approval on April 22, 2024.

Dr. Parker stated, we are committed to ensuring that every student attends a fully-staffed school and that each employee keeps a job. Dr. Parker stated in North Carolina Public Schools, funding is based on the number of students in our schools. Dr. Parker stated if students leave for any reason public schools will receive less money.

Dr. Parker shared a chart of the past decade where we have lost over 1000 students for various reasons. Dr. Parker stated some of the reasons for this are options that parents have on where to send their kids to school. Dr. Parker stated our enrollment patterns have changed, and as a result we receive less funding for our students and operating our schools. Dr. Parker stated, we have 13 schools in the district but we do not have enough students to operate 13 schools.

Dr. Parker stated, we have to think about the renovation and capital investment costs that go along with ensuring every student attends a fully equipped, fully functional school over the next decade. Dr. Parker stated this has been the driving force that has led us to this plan.

Dr. Parker stated, we have one of the best 5-star Pre-K programs in eastern North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated, we will have the need to expand Pre-K classrooms for more students. Dr. Parker stated students who are in the Pre-K program are better prepared to go into kindergarten. Dr. Parker stated Pasquotank Elementary School serves as an opportunity for us to reconcile the overages and teaching positions.

Dr. Parker shared the "Process" of going through this change and the steps we have taken. Dr. Parker shared how teacher allotments are based on various different areas. Dr. Parker stated the goal of this facility is an Early Childhood Center, our Pre-K program, and our community has the ability to use this facility and multi-purpose room.

Dr. Parker stated since we announced this proposal over a month ago we've done a few things. Dr. Parker stated, we have met with staff, three community meetings, made phone calls to families and had staffing, facilities, and transportations studies. Dr. Parker shared the rezoning map where the Pasquotank Elementary School students will now attend. Dr. Parker stated the Pre-K program will be in a centralized area for our pre-k children.

Dr. Parker shared information on expanding the NC PRE-K program which is now housed at Sheep Harney Elementary School. Dr. Parker stated Pre-K currently has ten classrooms, and our goal is to expand classrooms. Dr. Parker stated, we plan to transition from Sheep-Harney Elementary School to Pasquotank Elementary School in the summer of 2025.

Dr. Parker shared the K-12 Pathway in ECPPS. Dr. Parker stated parents can have a choice by staying right here in the public school system. Dr. Parker stated, we are committed and focused on expanding the programming that we offer through different choices for their child. Dr. Parker stated in August, we will be offering Dual Language Immersion in three of our elementary schools. Dr. Parker also stated in August, Elizabeth City Middle school will become the first International Baccalaureate Middle School. Dr. Parker stated, we want our students to have choices through elementary, middle and high school and become successful.

## **6. Public Comment**

Mr. Tony Sawyer requested the board extend his time beyond the 3 minutes as they have done in the past. "Mr. Sawyer then left the meeting without providing any comment and without using any of the 3 minutes allotted for his comment. No one else signed up for or asked to participate in the public comments."

**7. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting. Dr. Shelia Williams was not present.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary