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

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Pasquotank 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
Valerie Bogues
Tommy Old
Rodney Walton
Sharon Warden
Dr. Shelia H. Williams

The following staff members were present:
Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent
Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Mr. Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Inst.
Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services
Dr. Katina Jones-Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing & Accountability
Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Ed.
Antoinette Reid, Director of Student Services
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance
Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology
Sandy Kinzel, Interim Director of Federal Programs
Shelia Hughes, Director of CTE
Renee Tamrelli, Asst. Director of Exceptional Children
Arykah Moore, Student Board Member NHS
Rubi Nunez-Anaya, Student Board Member PCHS
Brandon Moore. Student Board Member EC-PEC
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:
John Leidy, School Board Attorney
Zachary 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
Rodney Walton 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
Chair Cobb stated we will need a motion to amend the agenda to add the following items: EC Contracts, I-Ready Quote, Weapons Detection Quotes, and Student Board Members.

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands to amend the August 26, 2024 meeting agenda. Unanimous vote to amend tonight's agenda.

A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the August 26, 2024 meeting agenda. Unanimous vote to approve tonight's agenda.

Recognitions:
Mr. and Mrs Manzer recognized several of their FFA students from Northeastern High School who recently competed at the North Carolina Environ State Competition. Mr. Manzer stated three years ago when these students were freshmen they told me before they graduated they were going to win. Mr. Manzer stated these students defeated everyone at the State contest and will be taking their talents to Indianapolis in October. Mr. Manzer stated they will compete at the National level against 41 other state winning teams representing North Carolina.

Dr. Denauvo Robinson presented a financial donation from the J.W. Wood Consistory #155 Masonic Lodge. Dr. Robinson shared background information on the JW Hood Consistory. Dr. Robinson stated in the past they have given donations to elementary schools. Dr. Robinson stated they wanted to do a little more than bookbags this year. Dr. Robinson stated JW Hood Consistory #155 is making a donation of $1000.00 to be used to purchase headphones for those elementary students who are transitioning from iPads to Chromebooks.

Mrs. Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition shared an update on the Summer Feeding Program. Mrs. Rinehart stated in addition to the school sites at every school, her team fed Just Girls, Parks and Rec, First United Baptist Church, the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, NEAAAT, Band and Football camps, and the Pasquotank County Library. Mrs. Rinehart stated the total meals this summer was just over 72,000. Mrs. Rinehart stated with the newest site at the library we delivered 16,540 meals. Mrs. Rinehart stated she had 15 ladies that provided meals and they really enjoyed the Community Partnership. Mrs. Rinehart stated in the past there were two supper locations at ECMS (these students walk over to PCHS and one at Sheep-Harney. Mrs. Rinehart stated she has applied for another location and is waiting on approval for a new summer program at P.W. Moore with the 21st Grant.

Mrs. Rinehart shared that one of her managers at Northeastern High school graduated with their Associates in Science degree. Mrs. Rinehart stated Allison Rollins could not be with us tonight.

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

Ms. Teresa Hemphill addressed the Board with a concern she has with the breakfast option of donuts and pop-tarts, no fresh fruit and fruit punch when dropping her child off at school. Ms. Hemphill stated the funding between public and private schools is very different but if this is the norm, we are setting our children up for failure. Ms. Hemphill stated, we are pumping children full of sugar first thing in the morning and expect them to focus in the classroom. Ms. Hemphill stated, we are expecting teachers to handle students in the classroom and label them as problematic, not functioning well, unable to listen and obviously health concerns.

Mr. Tony Sawyer stated today, ECPPS has started a new beginning and I am asking the Board to reinstate me to volunteer on the field.

Ms. Elizabeth Shaken shared her thoughts on promoting measures that maintain and strengthen the family. Ms. Shaken stated she is submitting a proposal that will strengthen unity in ECPPS. Ms. Shaken, proposed in two-four years, we rezone RRMS students to NHS creating a secondary school that will be a competitive option to our local Charter School. Ms. Shaken stated families in Elizabeth City can choose Global education compared to Stem education. Ms. Shaken stated this will expand the community school model to serve more students and families and provide more research on the effectiveness of community-based learning. Ms. Shaken stated she proposes ECPPS to rezone PW Moore, JC Sawyer, Weeksville and Sheep-Harney Elementary students to the RRMS facility. Ms. Shaken stated this will further expand the community school model. Ms. Shaken stated this will sustain the Dual Language Immersion program. Ms. Shaken stated this will also sustain the Advanced Teaching Roles model. Ms. Shaken included in the portfolio the "Leader in Me Framework."

7. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker welcomed Ms.Katie Dukes who is joining us from EdNC, which is a statewide education publication that covers a host of education related topics in North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated Katie is going to spend the year working on covering the expansion of our Pre-K program at Pasquotank Elementary School. Dr. Parker stated Katie specializes in Early Childhood learning and will be covering stories in this area.

Dr. Parker stated we also have a filmmaker that works with EdNC, Mr. Robert Kinlaw. Dr. Parker stated Mr. Kinlaw began his morning at P.W. Moore through a grant that is associated with the community schools grant. Dr. Parker stated Mr. Kinlaw is going to spend the entire year at P.W. Moore filming and producing a documentary on historic P.W. Moore. Mr. Kinlaw will focus on the progress that has been made over the past two years academically through the community school grant as well as the history.

Dr. Parker shared a video capturing stories from the first day of school. Dr. Parker stated, we sent professional photographers in our schools, Benny Baldwin, who is handling our live stream tonight, has been in the schools and was able to capture some video and highlights for tonight.

Dr. Parker stated, we have completed the parking lot projects at four schools, most of the landscaping is finished, several schools have been repainted and are near completion, as well as new playgrounds at the elementary schools. Dr. Parker stated, we are working on installing murals that are a digitized version of historic artwork.

Dr. Parker stated he had the opportunity to visit some classrooms as well as the Spanish Dual Language Immersion classrooms. Dr. Parker stated anyone joining us tonight, we have a handful of spaces left in some of those programs. Dr. Parker stated teachers in the dual language classrooms welcome their students by speaking in spanish.

Dr. Parker shared highlights on the buses and also some areas that we're continuing to improve on. Dr. Parker stated, we have added bus drivers and hopefully by October add additional routes. Dr. Parker stated, we have also significantly decreased the number of students on a waiting list to get on a bus route. Dr. Parker stated the cut off for bus routes is August 9th and the reason for this is staff has to build the routes. Dr. Parker, stated if you have questions about your child's school bus please call the school your child attends.

Dr. Parker stated, he is proud of the school and district leaders for the tremendous work they have done over the summer and particularly the past two weeks. Dr. Parker stated there are school leaders and teachers that have worked well into the weekend, stayed up late at night, and have been to school houses early on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and put in tremendous amounts of hours to make sure our schools are ready to open and run smoothly. Dr. Parker stated the level of dedication our employees make, "the only thing I can say is thank you." Dr. Parker stated, he appreciates the hardworking people we have in this school system to make it what it is.

Dr. Parker stated we have produced a video to share and this concludes the comments.

Mrs. Pam Pureza introduced the Student Board Members: Rubi Nunez-Anaya, PCHS; Brandon Moore, ECPEC; and Arykah Moore, NHS. Mrs. Pureza also recognized Mason Stuart, Alternate EC-PEC.

Rubi Nuniz-Anaya shared highlights from the first day of school at PCHS. Rubi stated the class of 2025 came together this morning and watched the sunrise come up. Rubi stated there were a lot of emotions this morning being the last/first day of high school. Rubi stated there was a lot of work over the summer with ROTC. Rubi stated ROTC visited the 8th grade class at ECMS and planned to meet first period with the students during the year. Rubi stated ROTC has worked on a new club called "Transcend" over the summer. Rubi stated this club basically consists of classmen who will get together and serve as mentors to the freshman class and anything else they may need throughout the year.

Brandon Moore shared the new students from ECP-EC are settling in well. Brandon stated, we had five students from school to join SGA-COA including myself. Brandon stated it has been a great school year so far and is happy to be a senior. It's a blessing to be here!

Arykah Moore stated she is very appreciative of the brand new parking lot at NHS. Arykah stated there was a lot going on at the school and is very appreciative of the new administration keeping up with everyone and helping us get to classes.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, to approve the consent agenda for August 26, 2024, including the minutes for July 22, 2024, Rental Report, Fundraisers, July Purchasing Report, and approval of 2024-2025 Budget Resolution, seconded by Sharon Warden, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands. .

9. New Business

Mrs. Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance presented EC contracts. Mrs. Tilley stated the EC Department has worked to reduce the contracted services for approximately $150,000. Mrs. Tilley stated there is still a slight gap in the plan and we will continue to work with the EC Department through other services. Mrs. Tilley stated all contracts have a 30-day clause.

Mrs. Tilley presented the iReady Quote, DLI Curriculum Quote, Stage Curtain Quote - WES, Stage Curtain Quote - NES, Lottery R&R Funds Application - SHES Chiller Replacement, Lottery R&R Funds Application - SHES DUO Temp Pipe Replacement, Resurfacing HS Tennis Courts and ES Basketball Courts, JCS renovation of Kindergarten wing quote, and Weapons Detection Quotes for both high schools and middle schools.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the contracts under new business with the exception of the EC contracts. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Rodney Walton, and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands.

John Leidy, Attorney, stated he has reviewed the contacts and there are three that have some provisions in them and would like to see if we can get the vendors to agree to change. Attorney Leidy recommended, we take action to approve the following three contracts subject to final approval by the board attorney. Attorney Leidy stated those contracts would be the AMN agreement, Atlantic Progressive agreement and the Stepping Stones agreement. Attorney Leidy suggested those three contracts be approved subject to final approval by the board attorney.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the three contracts, AMN, Atlantic Progressive and Stepping Stones contracts contingent upon board attorney approval. A motion was made by Pam Pureza to approve the AMN, Atlantic Progressive and Stepping Stones contracts contingent upon board attorney approval, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and unanimously approved by show of hands.

Dr. Sheila Williams made a motion to approve the remaining contracts listed, seconded by Sharon Warden, and unanimously approved by show of hands.

10. Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia H. Williams, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, 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 7:17 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Cobb, Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Dr. Shelia H. Williams, Rodney Walton, Tommy Old, and Sharon Warden.

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, John Leidy 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 8:31 p.m.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:
Chair Angela Cobb

Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair	Rodney Walton
Valerie Bogues	Sharon Warden
Tommy Old	Dr. Shelia H. Williams

The following staff members were present:
Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent
John Leidy and Zach Robeson, School Board Attorneys

Excellent Educators Committee
Dr. Sheila H. 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 H. Williams, seconded by Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to accept the Superintendent’s Report for Personnel as presented.

Vice Chair Pureza, recused herself from voting.

11. Board Member Comments

12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Chair Secretary