

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 5:00 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:

1. Meeting Call to Order by Chair

2. Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia H. Williams, seconded by Angelique Boylan, 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 5:02 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Cobb, Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Angelique Boylan, Dr. Shelia H. Williams and Sharon Warden. Tommy Old was not present

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Johny Hallow, School Board Attorney, was in attendance. The Board and staff discussed confidential personnel matters during the closed session.

3. Meeting Called to Order by Chair - Open Session

Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Chair Cobb welcomed everyone to the Board of Education meeting for January 27, 2025.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Angela Cobb

Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair

Valerie Bogues

Angelique Boylan

Tommy Old (not present)

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

Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of C&I

Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services

Dr. Katina Jones-Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation
Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition
Kelly MacPherson, Director of Exceptional Children's Dept.
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing & Accountability
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Safety and Security
Wilma Jordan, Director of Maintenance
Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Ed.
Antoinette Reid, Director of Student Services
Shelia Hughes Overton, Director of CTE
Renee Tamarelli, Asst. Director of Exceptional Children
Sandy Kinzel, Interim Title I Coordinator
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:

Johny Hallow, School Board Attorney

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Roll Call

Pam Parker called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting. Tommy Old was not present. Others not present were student board members: Arykah Moore, Brandon Moore, and Rubi Nunuz-Anaya.

6. 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.

7. Approval of Agenda

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the agenda for January 27, 2025. Tommy Old was not present.

8. Recognitions

Dr. Parker introduced Scott Hinton, Economic Development Commission who also manages and operates the airport in Elizabeth City. Dr. Parker also introduced students Roger and Ryan. Dr. Parker stated we have an exciting program through a partnership with Scott where every seventh grader will have the opportunity to fly. Dr. Parker stated Roger and Ryan had recently done this and each shared their experience. Mr. Hinton shared information about the program and how aviation is introduced to young kids. Mr. Hinton stated this program will give every 7th grader an opportunity to fly.

Dr. Waples stated through a partnership with Sentara, we were able to apply and send one of our Global teachers to the Netherlands this summer. Dr. Waples stated applications were open to all

Global schools and interviews were conducted. Dr. Waples stated Miss Tiffany Bogue was selected and will be representing ECPPS as the Go Global Netherland teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Dr. Waples thanked Sentara for their financial support, and stated “you are truly a game changer and difference maker for our community”.. Dr. Waples introduced Mrs. Teresa Watson, President of Sentara Albemarle Medical Center to share a few words. Mrs. Watson stated we want this to be life changing recruitment opportunities for others to see how progressive the school system is and the investment that has been made for other teachers and the community.

Dr. Waples stated we have introduced the elementary basketball program back to our district. Dr. Waples stated we have not had a basketball league since 2020. Dr. Waples stated we have two people that have been instrumental to its success. Dr. Waples stated Mr. Hipp Barclift who is not with us tonight will be recognized at another board meeting. Dr. Waples stated Julie Gregory, is a veteran teacher who has been with ECPPS for the past 24 years. Dr. Waples stated Julie is a first responder, beginning teacher mentor and a substitute bus driver on occasion. Dr. Waples stated Julie’s kindergarten swimming program was the inspiration of the YMCA’s Every Kid Swim program. Dr. Waples stated Julie has organized numerous school level events as well as the elementary PE basketball season and March Madness tournament for many years. Dr. Waples stated Julie’s career highlights include lobbying on Capitol Hill for higher nutrition standards for school cafeterias, publication of an article of strategies the Physical Education journal hosted by the Carolina Panthers team, and the creation of Hillville, a fictitious town that integrates multiple subjects in life skills.

Dr. Waples stated Julie has won numerous grants and awards and is a two time school level teacher of the year. Dr. Waples stated in Julie’s spare time she is working on completing her dissertation for her doctorate. Dr. Waples stated she also teaches, is an adjunct professor, and despite all of that she is a PE teacher at J.C. Sawyer Elementary School. Dr. Waples stated Julie has been working and organizing concessions from 1989-2019 for the basketball program. Dr. Waples stated Julie has been involved in the district basketball season and tournaments from 2004-2020. Dr. Waples stated we want to recognize Julie this evening. Dr. Waples also stated March Madness begins March 7th.

Candy Tilley recognized school treasurers who have completed the Treasures Academy offered by the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials better known as NCASBO. Mrs. Tilley stated these ladies attended 11 academy classes in Greenville NC. Mrs. Tilley stated they gain professional development and also network with school treasurers throughout the region. Mrs. Tilley stated as the ECPPS finance officer and president of NCASBO it is my honor to recognize them tonight. Mrs. Tilley recognized Misty East, RRMS, Cassie Reiber, J.C. Sawyer Elementary, Joann Strawther, Sheep-Harney Elementary, and Kim Underwood, Elizabeth City Middle School.

Dr. Parker stated ECP-EC has become the first school in this county to be rated an “A” school of distinction. Dr. Parker stated out of 120 students, 95 percent of the students passed the state test. Jennifer Lee, Principal of ECP-EC recognized students and family members that make the Early College a great place to work and learn.

Chris Pullet, Principal H.L. Trigg stated he has eight students who were in danger of dropping out less than two years ago and have completed all their requirements for graduation this semester. Mr.

Paullet stated he potentially has six more students who will finish their cohort at the end of the school year. Mr. Paullet stated students come to us for a variety of reasons and noted his staff does a fantastic job of working in and around those situations to make sure students get what they need. Mr. Paullet stated Trigg's focus for this year is to tie the curriculum to the "real world" they are about to enter. Mr. Paullet stated the majority of the students do not qualify to go to a four year university directly from us but they do have the potential to go to COA or the world of work. Mr. Paullet stated we work very hard to tie the curriculum to those things so students can have the best start to begin their lives as an adult.

9. Instructional Highlights

Mr. Chris Paullet stated the video highlights just some of the work going on at H.L. Trigg School that helps meet the needs of our students. Mr. Paullet stated our focus is what will benefit students as they enter the world of work or community college. Mr. Paullet stated we have several initiatives for preparing students for when they leave H.L. Trigg.

Mrs. Jennifer Lee stated the video highlights having the school on the College of the Albemarle Campus offers students the advantages of being part of the community college experience. Mrs. Lee stated at the Early College every student has the potential to succeed at a high level of learning when given high quality instruction. Mrs. Lee stated our goal is to empower students to explore new opportunities and possibilities through technology while becoming an Apple School of Distinction.

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

There are no public comments!

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker stated January is Board of Education member appreciation month. Dr. Parker shared words of gratitude on behalf of our Board of Education. Dr. Parker stated we are very thankful for a devoted and invested Board of Education. Dr. Parker stated public education plays a fabric that holds rural communities together. Dr. Parker stated we would not have a school system without the Board of Education and that is a hallmark of public education. Dr. Parker stated this a governing body elected by the people of this county that directly represents this county. Dr. Parker thanked the board for representing the county and the students that are in our schools. Dr. Parker stated out of the seven board members, we are very fortunate to have our entire board invested in young people. Dr. Parker stated the board is completely comprised of one or all of the following: one or more board member either has been an alumni of the school system, has had children in or gone through or currently in our school system, works in education directly preparing future teachers to work in our school system or is and has been an advocate for young people throughout their entire life. Dr. Parker stated we do have a small token of appreciation for each of you.

Dr. Parker stated the student board members are in Raleigh. Dr. Parker stated the student board members were invited by the North Carolina Public School Forum to be guest keynote speakers at an annual event that the public school forum holds every year called "Eggs and Issues". Dr. Parker stated tomorrow the student board members will be speaking in front of 300 people about the benefits of a community school model that we have here in our schools.

Dr. Parker stated 5000 students were happy last week when the snow came down. Dr. Parker stated on the facebook account we were able to “shout out” some photographs of young people across the county. Dr. Parker stated we have kicked off the second semester for the high schools and early college. Dr. Parker stated in the days ahead we will be able to share results from our high schools and improvements students’ have made on end-of-grade testing. Dr. Parker recognized the school administrators that are here tonight. Dr. Parker stated we will be speaking about some exciting programs and opportunities that are coming available. Dr. Parker stated it would not be possible without the work of a school principal and school leader.

12. Student Board Members’ Report

Student Board Members were not present

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the consent agenda including the superintendent’s recommendations for personnel.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, to approve the consent agenda and the superintendent’s recommendation for personnel, seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands. Tommy Old was not present.

14. New Business

Chair Cobb turned the meeting over to Dr. Parker.

Dr. Parker shared a slide presentation on “New Opportunities for Students in ECPPS”. Dr. Parker stated there are four programs that we want to bring to the board and move forward on launching. Dr. Parker stated the focus of this work is based on a K-12 pathway. Dr. Parker shared the four programs: Dual Language Immersion, Global Leaders, International Baccalaureate Program and Career Academies/Magnet Programs/Micro School.

Dr. Parker stated the Community School Model is the heartbeat of what a public school is and these programs are already bringing our community together, and bringing the diversity in our community together. Dr. Parker stated these programs are a reflection of who our community is because we live in a diverse community of thought, diverse community of race and diverse community in a lot of ways and these programs will give opportunities for students of all backgrounds to have high quality programs.

Dr. Waples shared the additional expansion of the Dual Language Program. Dr. Waples stated we have three Dual Language programs and we look to expand the other three elementary schools which are P.W.Moore, Sheep-Harney and Weeksville Elementary School. Dr. Waples stated students are learning to think critically about our world as a nation.

Freebird McKinney shared a handout called from “Classroom to Career” the global leaders advantage. Mr. McKinney stated we are the only district in North Carolina that has made a commitment to provide dual language opportunities and global leader opportunities to every student.

Mr. Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction presented the expansion of the IB program. Mr. Fudge stated the middle year program set the foundation and pathways for learning. Mr. Fudge shared the application process and timeline for the IB program. Mr. Fudge stated the IB program will cultivate student levels of inquiry that foster an increased knowledge of caring youth who aim to create and improve a more peaceful world through educational programs.

Ms. Colina Bartlett shared information on the ECPPS Mirco School. Ms. Bartlett shared the benefits of the ECPPS Micro School which are: Personalized Learning, Learning Across Grade Level, Benefits of a Cohort Model and Real-World Experiences. Ms. Bartlett also shared information on the Inspirational Trip to Long-view Mirco School and Ascent Academy in Austin Texas. Ms. Bartlett shared information on the application process and a sample schedule. Ms. Bartlett introduced Lauren Luther as she shares the partnership and the role she will play in the community connect time.

Ms. Lauren Luther, Director of Arts of the Albemarle, shared a three year plan of bringing the School of Arts back to life. Lauren stated this has included after school classes for K-12 students and weekend workshops for adults. Lauren stated the after school Arts instruction is bursting at the seams which means we are not serving every child. Lauren stated making Fine Arts a part of students’ curriculum is a dream of ours and the model of the micro school is perfect. Lauren stated AOA has grown the school of the arts program and we now have a third commercial space downtown Elizabeth City to serve students. Lauren stated the Micro School students will come to the Arts of the Albemarle to receive fine arts training with a variety of options.

Dr. Parker stated Colina is leading the school with one other staff member. Dr. Parker stated Colina will be using “Overarching Project Based Learning” to teach grade level standards. Dr. Parker stated at the end of the day the 5th grade will be responsible for the 5th grade curriculum and the 8th grade will be responsible for the 8th grade curriculum. Dr. Parker stated they will access the introduction through an overarching problem of practice that the whole school will work on throughout the year and “problem and practice” is going to be connected to a community partner. Dr. Parker stated students will leave the school and they will engage in their learning in the community working with a business.

Mrs. Nina Griffin and Mrs. Courtney Simpson shared information about the Aviation Academy. Mrs. Griffin introduced Mrs. Courtney Simpson, CDC or Career Development facilitator at Northeastern High School. Mrs. Griffin stated the Aviation Academy will be at Northeastern High which will be an opportunity for students to explore careers in Aviation, Aerospace mechanics and engineering, Mrs. Griffin stated this program not only facilitates the pursuit of college credits but also prepares students through certification through the Federal Aviation Administration. Mrs. Griffin shared the application process and sample course sequence. Mrs. Griffin also shared the benefits of the aviation academy. Mrs. Courtney Simpson stated her role at RRMS and NHS is the Career Development Facilitator. Mrs. Simpson stated she helps students learn durable skills and work based learning experiences,

and business and community connections. Mrs. Simpson stated this semester she has taken on internships.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve these programs for the 2025-2026 school year. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, to approve Item A. New Programs for 2025-2026 School Year this includes Dual Language Immersion for P.W. Moore, Sheep-Harney and Weeksville; Micro School Program for grades 5-6 expanding to grade 8; an Aviation Academy for Northeastern High School and an International Baccalaureate program for Pasquotank County High School and Middle IB for River Road Middle School as presented; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Tommy Old was not present.

Candy Tilley presented the NES Serving Line Quote and the Quote for Lawn Care/Grass Cutting Services as presented.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the NES Serving Line Quote and Lawn Care/Grass Cutting Services.

Sharon Warden moved to approve Item B. NES Serving Line Purchase Singer Quote #SF9533M; and Item C. Quotes for Lawn Care/Grass Cutting Services for Sunshine to renew services for CES, HLT, JCS, NHS and adding WES, PWM, SHES in the amount of \$3,050 per week and Suttons to renew services for CO, PES, RRMS in the amount of \$2,550 per week, as presented; seconded by Pam Pureza and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Tommy Old was not present.

15. Adjournment

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Angelique Boylan, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. Tommy Old was not present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Chair

Secretary