MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, October 28, 2024, 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:

Angela Cobb, Chair
Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair (Not Present)
Valerie Bogues
Tommy Old
Rodney Walton (Not Present)
Sharon Warden
Dr. Shelia H. Williams

1. Meeting Call to Order by Chair

2. Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia H. Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, 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 (Not Present), Valerie Bogues, Dr. Shelia H. Williams, Rodney Walton (Not Present), Tommy Old, and Sharon Warden.

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Zachary Robeson, 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 back to order at 6:04 p.m.

Excellent Educators Committee

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 Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to accept the Superintendent's Report for Personnel as presented. There were four unanimous votes for "yes."

Chair Cobb welcomed everyone to the Board of Education meeting for October 28, 2024.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Angela Cobb
Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair (Not Present)
Valerie Bogues
Tommy Old
Rodney Walton (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
Mr. Sammy Fudge, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Inst.
Meredith Collins, Executive Director of Accounting Services
Dr. Katina Jones-Waples, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Marlene Wilkins, Director of Maintenance
Tammy Rinehart, Director of Child Nutrition
Kelly MacPherson, Director of Exceptional Children's Dept.
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing & Accountability
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
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:
Zachary Roberson, School Board Attorney

4. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

5. Roll Call

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

6. 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.

7. Approval of Agenda

Chair Cobb stated one item has been added to the agenda this evening. Chair Cobb stated, we need to amend the agenda by adding an additional EC contract. A motion was made by Sharon Warden,

seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to amend the agenda for October 28, 2024. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Wiliams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the agenda for October 28, 2024. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

8. Recognitions:
Dr. Parker stated we have recognitions with Sheep-Harney Pre-K, staff and students. Ms. Dani Morris-White, Pre-K coordinator at Sheep-Harney Elementary School recognized two employees for exceeding excellence. Ms. Morris-White recognized Crystal Chavis for her outstanding work with children with special needs. Ms. Morris-White stated Ms. Chavis has been chosen by her peers as the 2024-2025 employee of the year. Ms. Morris-White also stated Ms. Winslow has been chosen for the 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Snead, Principal of Sheep-Harney Elementary School recognized several staff members and students for exceeding excellence.

Dr. Parker stated October has been designated nationally as principal appreciation month. Dr. Parker stated this evening, we have some extremely dedicated school principals' that help our buildings function on a daily basis. Dr. Parker shared a brief message to the principals and thanked them for the work they do everyday.

Dr. Parker introduced the Dual Immersion Program teachers and several 1st grade students from J. C. Sawyer Elementary School. Dr. Parker stated, we have launched the Dual Immersion Program at three elementary schools' this year (J.C. Sawyer, Central and Northside). Dr. Parker stated last week, students in the 1st grade class at J.C. Sawyer had an opportunity to present at the United Way Board of Directors meeting at P.W. Moore elementary school. Dr. Parker stated the 1st graders are here to share some of the things they are learning this year.

9. Instructional Highlights
The instructional videos include the Pre-K program and Sheep Harney elementary school. Mr. Snead stated the theme for this year is "together we soar". Mr. Snead stated there is collaboration between fifth grade and kindergarten as well as with parents and all our stakeholders. Mr. Snead stated we are all working together and by the end of the year, we can say Sheep-Harney has reached a level B and we have seen growth.

10. Public Comment *(Citizen Comments to the Board)*
Mr. Brian Lyon addressed the board about his concern at RRMS. Mr. Lyon stated RRMS lacks the resources that are necessary to give a learning environment that makes sense for our kids. Mr. Lyon stated he would like to see some of the basic facilities taken care of. Mr. Lyon also stated the unresponsiveness in terms of issues with power school and grades from being a transfer student in the school. Mr. Lyon stated he is happy to see all the progress other schools have made but would challenge you to look into RRMS.

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker recognized Mrs. Delishia Moore, Principal of Pasquotank County High School and Dr. Katina Waples-Jones, Executive Director for Elementary Education for being invited and accepted into the EVOS Academy which is a program being hosted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for educators that have demonstrated an exceptional understanding and knowledge of the growth system that tracks and measures how students make progress in in our schools. Dr. Parker stated they will be through a year long academy to learn more advanced features and best practices to ensure students' growth.

Dr. Parker stated he attended a sunrise service at Northeastern High School last week that the Student Government Association hosted.

Dr. Parker stated, we recently completed the third year of hosting the Ignite conference on October 14th. Dr. Parker stated the curriculum department held the conference on a teacher workday at Northeastern High School. Dr. Parker stated there were close to 100 sessions offered to the staff. Dr. Parker stated we had many community leaders to be a part of this conference as well.

Dr. Parker stated we recently had teams complete Inspiration visits to learn about programming that public school districts are implementing in North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated he traveled with the Innovation team to Wake County Public Schools and was able to visit several high schools.

Dr. Parker shared information on Parent Night that was held a few weeks ago. Dr. Parker stated the Innovation Department invited parents to come out and give feedback on three programs that we are launching. Dr. Parker stated one is a concept of a Micro school, the second is an Aviation Academy and the third is our Spark Lab which we currently have underway at Northeastern that we're expanding. Dr. Parker stated the goal is to launch these programs in Spring.

Dr. Parker stated we recently hosted a Health Care Summit and we're thinking how we can expand health care services to our staff and students in our buildings. Dr. Parker stated we have the best school nurses that you're going to find in our schools in North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated our school nurses go above and beyond what you would imagine a school nurse would do. Dr. Parker stated at the Ignite Conference the school nurses offered flu and covid shots at no cost to our employees.

Dr. Parker recognized the Student Board Members for becoming monumental advocates for the school board.

12. Student Board Members' Report

Rubi Anaya Nunez highlighted some of the things going on at Pasquotank County High School. Rubi stated the student leadership teams at PCHS have been busy and the senior council is beginning to mirror the voice from the district into our school. Rubi stated we had a new sound system installed in the gym, everyone is excited for basketball season and all the events we are going to host. Rubi stated the band participated in the 49th annual Peanut Festival battle of the bands and placed first in all categories. Rubi stated PCHS hosted the annual Panther band classic and drum major Maddie Ditro placed 3rd. Rubi stated ROTC visited the Virginia Air, Space and Science Center and had their

1st round of promotions. Rubi stated college app week was busy with guest speakers. Rubi stated the community came out to the NHS chapter and hosted a supply drive for hurricane Helene.

Arkyah Moore thanked Dr. Parker for the kind words that were said to the student board members. Arkyah stated NHS has new metal detectors and have made coming into the building more smooth and efficient. Arkyah stated they had a successful homecoming week with a powderpuff game, bonfire and game night. Arkyah stated Towne South church provided hot cocoa at the bonfire and Powderpuff game. Arkyah stated the FFA team, won a National Gold Award in Indianapolis Indiana, and we came in 2nd place in the state tennis match. Arkyah stated NHS is planning a Hallowfest on November 2nd.

Brandon Moore stated Early College students are registering for spring classes. Brandon stated during college week many seniors completed their applications for college, the National Honor Society volunteered at the food bank and collected items for the SPCA. Brandon stated the senior breakfast was a great success, the PTO is selling Captain Bob's barbecue chicken plates on November 15th. Brandon stated the SGA will be representing a trunk or treat sponsored by the police department. Brandon stated, we are midway through the semester and teachers and students are working hard.

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

Candy Tilley addressed the board briefly about the NHS Football T-mobile Grant Award. Mrs. Tilley stated our policy does not require the board to approve before the application but it does require this when it is received. Mrs. Tilley stated that NHS won $5000.00 and are now in the running for $100,000.00 for the football program at Northeastern High School.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Valerie Bogues and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

14. Reports/Items for Information

Dr. Parker introduced Mr. David Young, president of Participate Learning and his colleagues. Mr. Young shared a presentation on the Dual Language Immersion and Global programs. Mr. Freebird McKinney shared information on Global leaders, which is a program designed to provide students a view of the world, the challenges and how we can work locally to make a difference in solving these Global challenges.

Chair Cobb shared information on board feedback from Ignite. Chair Cobb stated the student board members worked the booth. Chair Cobb stated, we had the opportunity for staff members to share constructive feedback, thoughts or kudos. Chair Cobb stated, we received a good amount of feedback and were happy about the things that were shared with us.

Chair Cobb stated the board will be attending the North Carolina School Board Association conference which occurs in November. Chair Cobb made mention that the school board will be presenting at the conference.

15. Unfinished Business

Chair Cobb asked if there were any questions about any of the policies that were in second read tonight.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to accept the board policies. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

16. New Business

Dr. Parker turned the meeting over to Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance to introduce the auditors for the 2023-2024 audit review. Mrs. Tilley introduced Paul Carson with Anderson, Smith & Wike. Mr. Carson stated the financial statements cover two main areas that were required to issue reports on. Mr. Carson stated the audit opinion letter that was issued on the financial section of the audit, the firm is happy to report that is a clean unmodified opinion which is exactly what the board wants to receive. Mr. Carson stated the district is very well managed and their finances are very transparent.

Mr. Carson stated Mrs. Tilley, Mrs. Collins, and their staff do an outstanding job maintaining accurate financial records and ensuring that they maximize state and federal resources available to the district.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the 2023-2024 audit as presented. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Tommy Old and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Ms. Kelly MacPherson presented the Gate City Speech, Aveanna, is an amendment to the current contract with the School Psychologists Group to add four virtual speech language pathologists and Lingo Speech services. Ms. MacPerson stated Lingo Speech services is an updated contract. Ms. MacPherson stated she is proposing an addition to the current contract for the school psychologist group to add an additional school psychologist through December 1st.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the contracts. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams to accept the contracts as presented, seconded by Tommy Old. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Mrs. Candy Tilley presented the Weeksville Painting Project for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the Weeksville Paint Project. A motion was made by Tommy Old to accept the WES painting project as presented, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Mrs. Candy Tilley presented the RRMS Flat Roof Repair for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the RRMS Flat Roof Repair. A motion was made by Valerie Bogues to accept the RRMS Flat Roof Repair as presented, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Mr. Sammy Fudge and Dr. Katina Jones-Waples presented the ECPPS Improvement Plan Overview for the 2024-2025 school year for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Improvement Plans as presented. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams to accept the ECPPS School Improvement Plans as presented, seconded by Sharon Warden. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Mr. Sammy Fudge presented the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars for approval as presented. A motion was made by Tommy Old to accept the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars as presented, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present.

Mrs. Candy Tilley shared information on the RFQ for Renovation of PES to an Early Childhood Center. Mrs. Tilly stated RFQ is a request for qualifications which is a requirement when the architectural fees are expected to be greater than $50,000. Mrs. Tilley stated the project at Pasquotank Elementary School renovating it to an Early Childhood Center, we determined that an RFQ process was necessary and advertised that on our website as well as the state purchasing website.

Mrs. Tilley stated, we received proposals and a committee met from Human Resources, Maintenance, Pre-K department as well as Finance served on this committee. Mrs. Tilly stated we are presenting Oakley Collier out of Rocky Mount, NC as our recommendation for an architect on this project.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to accept Oakley Collier as the bidder for the RFQ. A motion was made by Tommy Old to accept the RFQ as presented, seconded by Sharon Warden. Pam Pureza and Rodney Walton were not present. Dr. Shelia Williams did not vote.

17. 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 8:12 p.m.

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Chair Secretary