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

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, November 25, 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	Rodney Walton (Not Present)
Valerie Bogues	Sharon Warden
Tommy Old	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 5:01 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, John Leidy, 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 6:05 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 Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to accept the Superintendent's Report for Personnel as presented. The vote was unanimous for "yes."

Chair Cobb welcomed everyone to the Board of Education meeting for November 25, 2024.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Angela Cobb	
Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair	Rodney Walton (Not Present)
Valerie Bogues	Sharon Warden
Tommy Old	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
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
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:
John Leidy, 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. Rodney Walton was not present.

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 we need a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia H. Williams, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the agenda for November 25, 2024. Rodney Walton was not present.

8. Recognitions:

Dr. Parker stated last week Andy and Karin Montero were recognized by the Albemarle United Way for being recipients of the United Way Keel Club Philanthropy award. Dr. Parker stated this award is given annually to a community partner that has demonstrated philanthropy and giving in the community. Dr. Parker stated Andy and Karin have been members of the ECPPS family. Dr. Parker stated Andy currently serves as the chairperson of the Education Foundation Board. Dr. Parker stated Karin led the Central Elementary School PTA for 11 years. Dr. Parker stated that philanthropy and giving back is part of the Montero family DNA. Dr. Parker stated Andy's father founded a medical clinic in Chesapeake in 1992 to give back to the community and the legacy lives on with Andy and Karin in Elizabeth City. Dr. Parker stated the safe schools initiative became a priority across the nation a few years ago. Dr. Parker stated ECPPS was trying to install safety mechanism cameras, electronic door lock boxes in our school system. Dr. Parker stated Andy and Karin raise money and through their initiative from the community they raised over $300,000 to support our schools to provide magnetic locks, cameras, and also cameras on all of our ECPPS buses. Dr. Parker stated we are thankful for their dedication.

Mrs. Candy Tilley shared information on the North Carolina Association of School Business officials better known as NCASBO which offers certification through their School Business Management Academy. Mrs. Tilley stated there are three levels that require commitment and dedication due to time out of the office. Mrs. Tilley stated Amy Bundy began classes in the specialist academy in March of this year. Mrs. Tilley stated the instructor saw the ambition and drive that Amy Bundy possesses. Mrs. Tilley stated they asked Amy if she would be willing to add five additional classes to graduate as a manager. Mrs. Tilley stated Amy graduated at the beginning of this month as a certified school business manager.

Mrs. Coby recognized several of the Elizabeth City Middle School staff and students for their commitment to the HIVE.

Mrs. Moore recognized several of the Pasquotank County High School staff and students.

9. Instructional Highlights

The instructional videos highlight some of the work going on at Elizabeth City Middle School and Pasquotank County High School. Dr. Parker stated some of the work and initiatives have made some significant academic progress through the hard work of staff that are in this room as well as students and families.

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

Mr. Tony Sawyer requested to be reinstated and would like to be a part of the journey. Mr. Sawyer stated he would be devastated if he could not be reinstated to work the football game. Mr. Sawyer asked the board to please consider his request.

Mrs. Elizabeth Shaken shared information on the Butterfly effect which is a social phenomenon that rests on the notion that the world is deeply interconnected. Ms. Shakin submitted a proposal to

reimagine their social media platforms to be more inclusive to parents and to share community resources that strengthen families.

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker thanked everybody that participated in the Global Symposium that was hosted on October 29th at J.C. Sawyer Elementary. Dr. Parker stated, we had the opportunity to tour some of the Spanish Immersion classrooms along with some of our partners that are helping us build a global vision for our students in Pre-K through 12th grade. Dr. Parker stated Elizabeth City Middle School added a spanish class this year for their students along with global programming associated with IB. Dr. Parker stated we are working to build a way for students to learn languages at a young age and learn about the world around them up until 12th grade. Dr. Parker stated we have opened our dual language immersion interest survey for next year.

Dr. Parker thanked our students for helping us out with an event to honor veterans on Veterans Day. Dr. Parker stated board member Pam Pureza along with Sentara president, Teresa Watson invited us to attend a ceremony at the hospital to recognize veterans on Veteran Day. Dr. Parker stated students at Pasquotank County High School under the direction of board student Rubi Nunez Anaya organized the entire program. Dr. Parker stated the choir participated along with ROTC.

Dr. Parker stated the Board attended the NCSBA conference last week and was invited to make a presentation to other school boards about the work we are doing in the district. Dr. Parker thanked the board for the presentation and sharing some of the work going on in Elizabeth City. Dr. Parker stated board members from other schools came up and were interested in what we are doing in Elizabeth City. Dr. Parker stated board member Warden was asked if board members from other districts could visit our schools.

Dr. Parker thanked Dr. Williams for the invitation to attend an induction ceremony for 21 students at Elizabeth City State University that were inducted into the College of Education. Dr. Parker stated this is the highest number that ECSU has had for students that want to go into the teaching profession.

Dr. Parker stated, Wednesday of this week is a teacher workday for our students. Dr. Parker stated teachers have the option of working virtually if they choose. Dr. Parker stated Thursday and Friday of this week will be holidays and then we will be in full swing until December 20th which is an early release day.

12. Student Board Members' Report

Rubi Nunez Anaya highlighted some of the things going on at Pasquotank County High School. Rubi stated the choral students had the opportunity to take a trip to Greenville for the ECU High School Invitational Choral Fest. Rubi stated that this event drew over 900 high school choir students and each had a 15 minute onstage clinic with an ECU director which helped them improve vocal techniques. Rubi stated the AFROTC unit along with our choir presented the Veterans Day program at Sentara Albemarle Hospital. Rubi thanked Mrs. Pureza for giving us this opportunity. Rubi stated it was an honor to be able to honor our heroes.

Rubi stated the EC students were able to go into town visiting Walmart and Food Lion where they shopped for staff members. Rubi stated staff members gave each student shopping lists and cash and the students had to find the items and pay for them with cash and deliver groceries. Rubi stated the students also went to IHOP and Big Daddy's where they work on reading a menu, ordering their food and using their utensils while working on clear communication with the server. Rubi stated the trips were aimed at teaching students' skills they need to know before they graduate.

Rubi congratulated the football team for making it to the playoffs for the first time in several years. Rubi stated the DECA chapter along with Northeastern's chapter had the opportunity to attend the ultimate DECA Power Trip in the Queen City Charlotte NC. Rubi stated there were over 2500 members from the Central, North Atlantic and Southern regions with about 20 states in attendance.

Rubi stated the administration has created a wall of fame down the Fine Arts hallway titled "Panthers on the Prow," and were asking all alumni who participated in athletics, Junior ROTC or any Arts to send this information to be recognized by students. Rubi stated Dr. Roberto Fronsubaru from the department of Natural Science ECSU to spend time with the biology students to provide real world college lab experiences. Rubi thanked the community for supporting the band at Chick-fil a and the DECA annual Winter Wonderland. Rubi stated the wrestling team competed this past weekend in separate tournaments. Rubi thanked the board for all they have done for us.

Rubi stated she incorporated a video that each of our schools had to do for the NCSBA conference. Rubi stated NCSBA sponsored a video contest for high school students representing that our school is more than just a school.

Arkyah Moore stated on October 5th, Northeastern High competed at the Virginia Regional competition and received the second highest score of the entire competition. Arkyah stated in February they will travel to Orlando, Florida to compete in the UCA National High School cheerleading championships hosted by the Walt Disney World Resort. Arykah stated the FFA team attended several competition events this month. Arykah stated the swim team placed in the 200 meter freestyle and 100 meter backstroke and the girls relay team placed fourth in the 200 meter relay. Arykah stated the varsity football team is advancing to their round of playoffs after defeating Green Central. Arykah stated the next game will be this Friday against West Craven.

Arykah stated for academics, English II and Biology check-in scores went above the school's set goals. Arykah stated HOSA had a successful blood drive and 600 pounds of food have been donated to the food bank. Arykah stated there has been an increase in student activity with all these events. Arykah stated it was exciting to be able to go to Greensboro with the board members to experience a professional setting and meet people who are excited about our achievements and also see fellow board members placed in the competition against hundreds of other schools. Arykah stated in her video she focused on the Teacher Cadet and FFA program which makes a huge impact in our school. Arykah stated her video received an Honorable Mention.

Brandon Moore stated the National Honor Society made Thanksgiving cards for residents of Waterbrook and partnered with Green Save Green to pick up trash on the highway. Brandon stated

the SGA is working on their float for the Christmas Parade and the fall semester is winding down. Brandon stated final exams begin after Thanksgiving. Brandon stated, we took a trip to Greensboro and we placed third in the NCSBA video contest and won a thousand dollars.

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

14. Reports/Items for Information

Dr. Parker stated we have been thinking about what the future of learning looks like and the board knows that our number one main strategic priority is to reimagine education in the public schools in Elizabeth City. Dr. Parker stated we have spent a lot of time with the technology department thinking about what is reimagining the student experience through technology. Dr. Parker stated we are going to demonstrate this evening what we're thinking about. Dr. Parker stated Heather and Jennifer Lee and myself recently got back from a conference with Apple. Dr. Parker stated Early College is applying to become an Apple distinguished school. Dr. Parker stated we transitioned that school over a year ago to every student there has a Macbook. Dr. Parker stated every student has an Apple device. Dr. Parker stated we were with Educators from around the world and Heather, Jennifer and I walked away from that conference feeling humbled about the incredible things that are happening in the world with young people and how we replicate these experiences.

Heather shared a presentation on reimagining education in Elizabeth City Public Schools across the board. Heather stated we want to look at this instructionally but also from the instructional technology standpoint as well. Heather asked when you hear the word education what do you think of - schools, buildings, brick and mortar buildings, students with computers, books, textbooks, novels, chapter books, and pen and paper and other tools that students need. Heather stated we live with students on cell phones. Heather stated, students want hands-on learning experiences that are relevant to the real world.

Heather stated the student board members are going to show us an activity of exploring the Statue of Liberty through augmented reality. Rubi stated the iPad and augmented reality serves as a powerful learning tool because they make complex or distant subjects accessible, interactive and engaging. Rubi stated AR provides a hands-on 3D experience helping students better understand historical and cultural significance by turning traditional learning into an interactive activity and help sustain attention. Rubi stated iPads support a variety of learning apps and tools tailored to different learning styles and needs.

Heather stated this has been an ongoing focus for us this year and we are planning on having some definite decisions by the end of December. Heather stated we are looking for participants in our end of year focus groups as we continue to work towards our vision for what technology will look like moving forward.

15. New Business

Chair Cobb turned the meeting over to Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Rachael Haines presented Fall Policy updates for the first read.

Mrs. Haines presented the 2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting Schedule to change the organizational revision date to Monday, December 2, at 4:00 p.m. to align with our policy.

Mrs. Candy Tilley presented a quote from B&M electrical contractors to light up our signs. Mrs. Tilley stated the signs have been installed at all of our locations. Mrs. Tilley stated these funds are to light up the remaining signs.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve items C & D, the revised 2024-2025 Board of Education meeting scheduled and the Marquee Electrical Connection Quote as presented. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Rodney Walton was not present.

16. 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 7:37 p.m.

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Chair Secretary