

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, September 23, 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

Valerie Bogues

Tommy Old

Rodney Walton

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 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 5:03 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, Johny Hallow and Zachary Robeson, School Board Attorneys, were 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 6:03 p.m.

4. 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 Rodney Walton, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to accept the Superintendent's Report for Personnel as presented.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Angela Cobb

Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair

Valerie Bogues

Rodney Walton

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
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
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
Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology
Amanda Hill, Director of Transportation
Sandy Kinzel, Interim Director of Federal Programs
Shelia Hughes, Director of CTE
Stephanie Ambrose, Principal P.W. Moore Elementary School
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:

Johnny Hallow, School Board Attorney
Zachary Robeson, School Board Attorney

5. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

6. Roll Call

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

7. Ethics Awareness and Identification of Conflicts or Potential Conflicts of Interest

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

8. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the September 23, 2024 meeting agenda. Unanimous vote to approve tonight's agenda.

9. Recognitions:

Dr. Parker stated we have the president from Sentara ,Ms. Teresa Watson here with her team. Dr. Parker thanked Sentara for their support. Dr. Parker stated a few months ago we had an opportunity to join a program in North Carolina called NC Global. Dr. Parker stated this program allows participating districts to send one teacher every summer on a fully funded fellowship in a foreign country. Dr. Parker stated the teacher will learn how the country works, gain experience and learn about education. Dr. Parker stated the teacher will then return to their home district and teach other teachers about that experience. Dr. Parker stated there is no cost to the teacher, but districts that join NC Global there will be a one-time contribution of \$40,000.00. Dr. Parker stated districts have to find private donations to fund this initiative and no additional cost to the teacher. Dr. Parker stated, we went to Sentara and asked for their support and they gladly helped us. Dr. Parker stated, we will be able to send a teacher every summer and mentioned this would not have happened without the support from Sentara. Dr. Parker stated in 2023, Sentara gave back to rural communities to support initiatives like this and we are deeply grateful. Sentara presented a check to Dr. Parker and the Board of Education. Dr. Parker stated, we named this as the Sentara Global Scholarship.

10. Instructional Highlights

Stephanie Ambrose, Principal of P.W. Moore Elementary School shared information on what P.W. Moore is doing this school year. Mrs. Ambrose stated P.W. Moore is excited about the 21st Century After School Learning Platform. Mrs. Ambrose stated this is going to be an extension of the Lion Pride time that is offered every morning for 45 minutes. Mrs. Ambrose stated P.W. Moore will be able to offer after school tutoring and enrichment for an additional 120 students until 5:15 every day, and during this time we will provide a snack and hot meal. Mrs. Ambrose stated students will have lessons from their teachers based on the data that was collected thus far.

Mrs. Ambrose stated the Community Schools summer camp that was held over the summer the students' data stayed the same. Mrs. Ambrose stated this coming summer P.W. Moore will offer this again for students and it will be a Community Schools Partnership.

Mrs. Ambrose stated she appreciates her staff everyday. Mrs. Ambrose gave a shout out to several of her students and staff.

Dr. Parker stated, we had several students that helped us in a paid student internship this summer in the Technology Department.

Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology stated the Technology Department hosted their first summer technology internship. Heather stated this was sponsored by the North Carolina Business Committee on Education, which is an organization that fosters the critical connection between North Carolina employers and education systems through work-based learning experiences.

Heather stated the internship program began the week of July 16th and went through August 26th. Heather stated the interns learned various tasks and roles throughout the tech department and experienced firsthand the processes used in the technology department to provide support across the entire school district. Heather recognized the student interns.

Mrs. Sharon Warden shared board participation information. Mrs. Warden stated she has had the distinct honor to serve on the legislative committee through the North Carolina School Boards Association representing Elizabeth City Pasquotank County Schools. Mrs. Warden shared an update of the participation of school boards across the state, the variety of topics discussed, and developed a survey that was sent out to all 133 school boards across the state. Mrs. Warden stated, our school board members were one of 17 across the state who had 100% participation in that survey. Mrs. Warden stated this means, our voice was loudly heard by legislators in Raleigh about what topics are of concern as we go forward for our school systems.

Chair Cobb stated on September 5th, members of the Board of Education attended the Leadership Education and Training Professional Development at Elizabeth City State University. Chair Cobb stated all seven members of the board were recognized at the regional meeting for winning a Golden Bell Award. Chair Cobb stated this award signifies, every member of the school board has completed a minimum of 12 hours of professional development during the 2023-2024 academic year.

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

Mr. Tony Sawyer stated he is requesting to be reinstated on the field. Mr. Sawyer stated he reapplied and the superintendent turned him down again. Mr. Sawyer stated, he did the proper paperwork to be put on the agenda and the board chair and superintendent turned me down. Mr. Sawyer is asking for a vote from the Board of Education tonight. Mr. Sawyer shared policy 2310 and stated he can appeal to the board and have this added to the agenda.

Attorney Hallow stated the Board can call for a motion.

Chair Cobb called for a motion by the board to have Mr. Sawyer's request be placed on the agenda this evening. Chair Cobb did not receive a motion by the board to place Mr. Sawyer's request on the agenda.

12. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker shared information on the 21st Century grant that will go into effect at P.W. Moore. Dr. Parker stated these grants are extremely difficult to be awarded across North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated at the press conference, we released the increase in student achievement and school performance grades across the district and P.W. Moore hosted us. Dr. Parker stated, we are excited to highlight the growth across our schools. Dr. Parker stated P.W. Moore is a case study and testament of possibilities.

Dr. Parker stated the first required teacher workday is October 14, 2024. Dr. Parker stated this day will be a professional learning conference for all of our staff in the district.

Dr. Parker thanked everybody in the community, families, friends and partners across the state that reached out to us after our press conference on academic achievement. Dr. Parker stated one of those partners is EdNC. Dr. Parker stated we were able to highlight some of the work our Board and staff are doing in a recent article with EdNC.

Dr. Parker stated in the coming months, we will be able to highlight to the board and community partners that we will visit three schools that launched Spanish Immersion classrooms this year.

13. Student Board Members' Report

Rubi Anaya Nunez highlighted some of the things going on at Pasquotank County High School. Rubi stated administration held class meetings for each class level. Rubi stated Ms. Wilder shared the senior activities, a senior trip to Orlando, Fla and work on a student council board. Rubi stated the seniors had an opportunity to talk with the underclassmen about clubs. Rubi stated the DECA club has gained almost 20 new members which is beneficial to obtain membership campaign goals. Rubi stated, we are recognized at the state level when we compete in Greensboro. Rubi stated the club is preparing for the annual toys and treats night, the band is preparing for competition this weekend, and several band students attended ECU and were music students for the day. Rubi shared information on ROTC and the CTE department explored different careers.

Brandon Moore stated SGA had elections and had begun to meet and plan events for school. Brandon stated the National Honor Society participated in Partnerships with Green Saves Green and a highway cleanup this past weekend. Brandon stated Early College will have their first school dance on September 28, and our first flex Friday on September 27th with a focus on clubs. Brandon stated the Freshman and Sophmores completed their first student led conferences and breakfast will be on October 18th.

Arkyah Moore stated, we have started the Face Group which is a family, community, and engagement group and had our first meeting on September 11th. Arkyah stated this meeting will give parents a voice to assist the school in events and present ideas to administration. Arkyah stated the next event will be on October 8th. Arkyah stated the NHS football team has been continuously undefeated this season, varsity volleyball team is five and six this season, Northeastern's Homecoming Game is October 25th. Arkyah shared a concern about the girls' bathroom.

14. Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Tommy Old and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

15. New Business

Dr. Parker stated we have several contracts for approval and policies updates.

Ms. Kelly MacPherson presented the Sentara Speech Contract and Coastal Evaluation and Stepping Stones Contracts.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the Sentara Speech contract. A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Tommy Old. Chair Cobb said let the record reflect there are five votes for yes and one recusal.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the Coastal Evaluation and Stepping Stones Contract. A motion was made by Rodney Walton, seconded by Valerie Bogues and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands.

Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented several policies for first read.

16. Board Member Comments

17. Adjournment

A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Chair

Secretary