

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, December 16, 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

Angelique Boylan

Tommy Old

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 5:03 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Cobb, Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Angelique Boylan, Dr. Shelia H. Williams, 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 6:02 p.m.

Excellent Educators Committee

Angela Cobb requested the board approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as presented by staff during the closed session.

A motion was made by Angela Cobb, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to accept the Superintendent's Report for Personnel as presented. The vote was unanimous for "yes." Dr. Shelia Williams was not present.

Chair Cobb welcomed everyone to the Board of Education meeting for December 16, 2024.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Angela Cobb

Pam Pureza, Vice-Chair

Valerie Bogues

Angelique Boylan

Tommy Old

Sharon Warden

Dr. Shelia H. Williams (nor present)

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

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. Dr. Shelia Williams 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 Sharon Warden, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the agenda for December 16, 2024. Dr. Shelia Williams was not present.

8. Recognitions:

Dr. Parker thanked Nick Stanley, Band Director and PCHS Band for the entertainment tonight. Mr. Stanley stated the PCHS band has been involved in competitions, band camp, football games, two Christmas Parades, ECSU homecoming parade, and hosting a competition. Mr. Stanley stated this has been our best year yet. Mr. Stanley stated the band has worked outrageously hard and have put in a lot of time.

Mr. Stanley also shared information on three competitions the band had before ending their season. Mr. Stanley shared that the band came in first place at the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade. Mr. Stanley shared information on the blue and green event with Northeastern High School, and other events coming up.

Mr. Stanley recognized the band staff and band parents for all they do for the band. Mr. Stanley also mentioned the band cards.

Chair Cobb recognized the incoming and outgoing board members. Chair Cobb recognized Rodney Walton as the outgoing board member and stated he is quite the comedian sometimes. Chair Cobb stated Rodney has a passion for education and our community, he loves kids and builds strong relationships. Chair Cobb stated we are honored and privileged to have him serve on the board. Chair Cobb stated the board appreciates your service to the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public School Board and the students of our community.

Chair Cobb recognized Angelique Boylan as the new incoming board member. Chair Cobb stated we would like to take this opportunity to welcome and recognize the new member to the pack.

Rachael Haines stated the Child Nutrition department participated in the summer food service program and this past summer they served at 19 sites. Mrs. Haines stated nine hybrid sites which were out of school sites, nine congregate community sites and this year they added one new non-congregate site at Pasquotank Public Library. Mrs. Haines stated through the partnership with the Library, Elizabeth Pasquotank Public Schools Child Nutrition served 12,325 meals. Mrs. Haines stated from all sites the school nutrition department served over 60,000 meals. Mrs. Haines stated the library accounted for approximately 20 percent of the meals that were served.

Mrs. Haines stated on November 21, 2024, Child Nutrition attended the Summer Palooza in Greenville, NC which is an event sponsored by DPI and the NC Summer Nutrition programs "No Kid Hungry North Carolina initiative. Mrs. Haines stated food services brought home the Rural Non-Congregate Innovation award which was only awarded to two districts in the state. Mrs. Haines recognized Tammy Rinehart for being innovative, creative and energetic. Mrs. Tammy Rinehart recognized her staff as well.

Caroline Gordon shared information on the submission of the holiday cards themed artwork created by amazingly talented students. Ms. Gordon stated the official holiday card will make its debut later this week. Ms. Gordon stated we have a special video featuring all the entries we received. Ms. Gordon stated following the video, principals and art teachers will come forth to recognize their students and a photo with the board.

Mrs. LaShekia Brothers recognized several of her exceptional staff at Central Elementary School as well as several of her students for being role models.

Mrs. Brothers introduced the first grade dual language class as they performed along with Mrs. Bill, music teacher, Ms. Gomez and Ms. Ochoa. The Central Elementary School students performed several songs as part of the Dual Language program.

9. Instructional Highlights

The instructional video highlights some of the work going on at Central Elementary School where they are raising the bar. Mrs. Brothers stated she has very high goals and we're working hard on exceeding growth this year.

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

Mr. Tony Sawyer stated the football team is playing in the state championship on Saturday. Mr. Sawyer stated he was a part of this team for 17 years and enjoyed three of those championships. Mr. Sawyer stated he did not want to miss this moment. Mr. Sawyer asked the board to reconsider allowing him to work the game.

Mrs. Elizabeth Shaken thanked everyone who has taken the time to work with her and answer her questions and read my opinion articles and proposals. Mrs. Shaken stated she was a huge fan of the Dual Language Immersion program. Mrs. Shaken stated the District Strategic Plan helped her learn more about public education and the kind of advocate she wants to become. Ms. Shaken expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Henry Johnson. Mrs. Shaken mentioned the superintendent, director of elementary schools and mentor stating she will be attending law school. Mrs. Shaken ended her comments stating "She knows education can change lives."

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker stated how impressive our young people were tonight. Dr. Parker thanked all the adults for getting our students here tonight and the endless hours our principals and staff put into the many programs we have available to students. Dr. Parker stated to all those who work in our schools and support our schools on a daily basis "thank you." Dr. Parker stated nights like tonight when we showcase students would not be possible without you.

Dr. Parker stated we are moving to the conclusion of the first part of the year and Friday of this week will be an early release day for students. Dr. Parker hopes everyone enjoys the holiday break and we will return in January. Dr. Parker stated the high schools will have three weeks to get ready for their final exams and finish coursework. Dr. Parker recognized Northeastern High School football team which completed an undefeated season, as well as their regional playoffs. Dr. Parker stated the

football team is moving toward the final round of this season which will be competing in the 2A state championship on Saturday at Keenan stadium competing against Monroe High School.

Dr. Parker stated he joined principal Fonville along with football coach Antonio Moore in Raleigh for a press conference hosted by North Carolina Athletic Association. Dr. Parker stated we are working with our local officials to plan a parade to send off the football team.

Dr. Parker stated as we move into the holiday season let us all find moments to be grateful for the things that we have, and remember that in this season there are many opportunities for us to be with family, share in the festivities, eat great food and celebrate each other with gifts. Dr. Parker stated at the same time, we live in a world where many people go without family and friends, a full meal and no opportunity to celebrate.

Dr. Parker thanked everybody that works tirelessly to make this the best place you can send your child to in North Carolina. Dr. Parker stated, he is proud of the work we're doing and thankful for the hard work that goes on to make this happen.

12. Student Board Members' Report

Rubi Nunez Anaya highlighted several things going on at Pasquotank County High School. Rubi stated the Deca chapter attended regional competition in Greenville, NC. on December 2nd and students competed in six events. Rubi stated PCHS hosted the second blood drive of the year, and hosted "PCHS Got Talent" and Dr. Parker was the MC. Rubi stated students and teachers were able to showcase their artistic style highlighting their talents. Rubi stated winter sports has also kicked off and the band performed in the EC Christmas Parade and performed the blue and green Christmas with Northeastern High School. Rubi stated ROTC had their end of semester awards ceremony, and we hosted a christmas party for our cadets. Rubi stated she hopes everyone has a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year's.

Brandon Moore stated the SGA participated in the Christmas parade with a float. Brandon stated the National Honor Society packed food boxes at the food bank. Brandon stated students have finished their COA exams and underclassmen are taking exams this week. Brandon stated we are beginning recruitment efforts for next year. Brandon stated on Friday, we had a hot chocolate bar to celebrate the last day of classes. Brandon stated he hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas!

Arkyah Moore stated the FFA attended the NC FFA Veterinary Science CDE competition placing second in the Northeast Region. Arkyah stated the Northeastern Football team is going to state. Arykah stated we have regional qualifiers in both track and swim this season. Arykah stated we're collecting items for the food bank before holiday break. Arykah stated we are having a holiday spirit week. Arykah thanked the board for an amazing year.

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

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

14. Unfinished Business

Chair Cobb turned the meeting over to Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Rachael Haines requested the board take action on the policies that were presented last month.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to adopt the policies. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by four positive votes and one abstain by Angelique Boylan. Mrs. Boylan was not on the board for first reading last month. Dr. Shelia Williams was not present.

15. New Business

Chair Cobb turned the meeting over to Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Mrs. Tilley presented the proposed Budget Calendar.

Mrs. Candy Tilley presented a quote from JCS Kindergarten Wing Renovation Change Order.

Dr. Kelly MacPerson presented Contracts for the School Psychologists, one for SLP and Psychological services and the agreement for New Story LLC for Exceptional Children.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve these items. A motion was made by Sharon Warden, to approve A. Budget Calendar; B. JCS Kindergarten Wing Renovation Change Order; and C. Contracts for the School Psychologists, SLP and Psychological services as presented; seconded by Valerie Bagues and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Dr. Sheila Williams was not present.

16. Adjournment

A motion was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sheila Williams was not present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Chair

Secretary