

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
April 28, 2025 Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, April 28, 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 Angela Cobb, Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Angelique Boylan, Dr. Shelia H. Williams, Sharon Warden and Tommy Old.

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 to order at 6:13 p.m.

Chair Cobb welcomed everyone to the Board of Education meeting for April 28, 2025.

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

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
Heather Edmisten, Director of Technology
Kelly MacPherson, Director of Exceptional Children
Kelly Cowell, Director of Talent Ed.
Nina Griffin, Director of Testing
Wilma Jordan, Director of Maintenance
Antoinette Reid, Director of Student Services
Shelia Hughes Overton, Director of CTE
Sandy Kinzel, Interim Title I Coordinator

Brandon Moore, Student Board Member
Arykah Moore, Student Board Member
Rubi Nunez-Anaya, Student Board Member (not present)
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:
John Leidy, School Board Attorney

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Roll Call

Pam Parker called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting. Student board members were also in attendance.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to amend the agenda for April 28, 2025 to add Item E. Summer School Plan, and Item F. Classsize Waiver for Sheep-Harney Elementary School. Vice Chair Pam Pureza made a motion and Angelique Boylan seconded, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the amended agenda for April 28, 2025.

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

Angelique Boylan 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 as amended. Dr. Shelia Williams made a motion and Sharon Warden seconded, and confirmed by show of hands to approve the amended agenda for April 28, 2025.

8. Recognitions

Dr. Parker introduced Nick Stanley, Director of Bands at Pasquotank County High School. Mr. Stanley recognized several accomplishments beginning with March 19, 2025 the PCHS Symphonic Band traveled to Williamston, NC to participate in the NC BandMasters Music Performance Adjudication. Mr. Stanley stated PCHS Band placed as high as you can, which was a unanimous superior rating for the first year. Mr. Stanley shared the process, preparedness and some site reading which means the band had to play a piece for the first time. Mr. Stanley thanked several folks for making this happen.

Mr. Stanley invited the board to several upcoming performances on May 15, Spring Concert at COA Performing Arts Center at 7p.m. Mr. Stanley stated on Friday, May 16, the band is opening up for the Potato Festival as the first performance on the main stage. Mr. Stanley stated the band will also be performing at the opening night at the River City Skippers baseball game.

Mr. Stanley recognized the band students that were here tonight.

Mrs. Nina Griffin recognized two students that have been selected to attend the 2025 summer session of North Carolina Governor's School West at Greensboro College. Mrs. Griffin shared information about Governor's School and the process.

Mrs. Griffin recognized Leland John's and Cindy Zou who will attend the 2025 session at North Carolina Governor's School this summer.

Mrs. Shelia Overton recognized students from Northeastern High School and Pasquotank County High School who participated and graduated from the Youth Citizens Police Academy sponsored by the Elizabeth City Police Department. Mrs. Overton introduced Officer James Bray, who shared information about the academy. Officer Bray introduced his partner Officer Bowen..

Officer James Bray shared information on the community policing division with the Elizabeth City Police Department. Officer Bray stated, we plan and organize all the community events. Officer Bray shared information on the first ever Youth Citizens Police Academy. Officer Bray stated it was a six week program. Officer Bray stated the goal was to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the youth in our community. Officer Bray stated students had a graduation ceremony.

Officer Bray thanked Mrs. Overton and Mrs. Moore for recruiting a great group of kids. Officer Bray stated we plan on making the Youth Academy a yearly event.

Dr. MacPherson shared information on World Autism Day on April 2nd. Dr. MacPherson stated her department begin an annual event "celebrating our individuals with autism." Dr. MacPherson shared a brief insight into Autism. Dr. MacPherson wants to inspire schools to celebrate students with autism. Dr. MacPherson stated we want the schools to ignite their creativity and develop bulletin boards and doors depicting their support of students.

Ms. Terrie Wilson, Professional Learning and Talent Learning Coordinator, recognized several school teams that recently competed in a Renewal Energy Competition at the Coastal Students Institute. Dr.

Parker stated we have the organizer of that event, Mr. John McCord who is helping us livestream with Mr. Benny Baldwin for our board meetings.

Ms. Wilson recognized teachers and students who participated in the Renewable Energy Competition at Coastal Studies Institute on March 22, 2025 in Manteo. Ms. Wilson stated student teams were tasked with designing and constructing a wind or water turbine, Ms. Wilson stated students brought their design to the competition to test and compete against other teams from across the state. Ms. Wilson stated ECPPS had four teams compete and the team from Weeksville Elementary earned second place in the fourth through eighth grade win. Ms. Wilson stated at the event, teams tested their designs and then shared their design process in a team interview.

Dr. Waples shared the spelling bee process and stated each of the six elementary schools, each classroom in grades 3-5 holds a spelling bee competition. Dr. Waples stated the winner of each of these classrooms then competes with all classroom winners within their respective schools. Dr. Waples stated three school winners from each school are then promoted to the district level competition. Dr. Waples stated that on March 27th, our annual district-wide ECPPS Spelling Bee was held at the Museum of the Albemarle. Dr. Waples stated 18 of the top spelling bee scholars throughout the district engaged in a highly competitive match that lasted 12 rounds. Dr. Waples stated in the end, the winner, Jonathan Green from Weeksville Elementary School won the honor of being named the 2025 ECPPS spelling bee winner.

Kim Robertson, Principal of J.C. Sawyer Elementary School recognized students who did an outstanding job on their NC check-ins this school year. Ms. Robertson recognized Jackson Williams who participated at the state level in Raleigh. Ms. Robertson stated Jackson was recognized with a special 4-H award "Growing Engineer Award." Ms. Robertson recognized very special staff members who really do what matters. Ms. Robertson recognized the teacher assistants as well.

9. Instructional Highlights

Ms. Robertson shared the instructional highlights from J.C. Sawyer Elementary School.

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

Elizabeth Shakin shared information on an annual event at the feeder high schools that aligns with the vision and purpose of the community school model.

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker recognized the maintenance and technology department. Dr. Parker stated the technology department took the lead on getting the digital signs activated that went live before spring break. Dr. Parker stated next week, we will be able to recognize teachers in the district for National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Dr. Parker stated in four weeks we will begin end of year testing for elementary, middle and high schools. Dr. Parker stated we are focused on the last remaining days of EOG and EOC prep. Dr. Parker stated the students in ECPPS can perform just as good and better than any other child in the state and nation. Dr. Parker stated the tests are one thing, we also are going to look at this as an

opportunity to prove that we can outperform anybody in the state. Dr. Parker stated we want our students to show their best. Dr. Parker stated the internal results show we are trending very well getting ready for those tests. Dr. Parker shared the three dates at the end of the school year which is May 16th, ECP-EC Graduation, June 6th, Pasquotank County High School will have their commencement ceremony and June 7th, Northeastern High School will have their commencement ceremony.

Dr. Parker shared with Ruby, Brandon and Arykah who will be graduating among hundreds of other seniors. Dr. Parker stated we are going to miss the Student Board Members. Dr. Parker stated they have set the standard for what can be accomplished by our student board.

12. Student Board Members' Report

Pam Pureza stated we are leading into the end of our school year, and we will have one more meeting with our student board members before they graduate. Pam Pureza turned the meeting over to the student board members as they shared updates from their school and the process for finding new student board members.

Brandon shared information about the Prom held on April 5th and recognized several individuals for making this happen. Brandon stated Early College held their second annual field day on Friday, April 11th. Brandon stated the PTO provided all the food and the staff recognized seniors at this event. Brandon stated Senior Awards night is April 29th at 6.00 p.m. Brandon stated COA exams begin on Friday, May 2nd and high school exams begin on Monday, May 12th. Brandon stated COA's graduation is on Wednesday, May 12th and Early College graduation is on May 17th. Brandon stated second semester awards for underclassman will be on Monday, May 19th.

Brandon shared a note of gratitude to the Board of Education.

Arykah shared information on spring sports. Arykah stated students are preparing for AP exams and end of year testing. Arykah stated seniors are planning for their senior brunch and field day. Arykah stated Senior Scholars will be held on May 1st and prom will be held on May 3rd.

Arykah stated she has taken the lead on recruitment for Student Board Members. Arykah stated the board will share the fundamentals and what we really do as board members. Arykah stated we hope students see this is an amazing opportunity for them in the leadership roles.

Dr. Parker stated Rubi is not here tonight, she is traveling with the Pasquotank County High School DECA program to the International Competition in Florida.

Dr. Parker stated we are using the month of May to solicit and recruit applications for the upcoming Student Board Members with the goal of bringing those applicants to the board meeting in June. Dr. Parker encouraged all of the rising seniors at the three high schools to apply to be a student board member.

Chair Cobb stated this is Brandon's last meeting before he graduates, on behalf of the board, you guys don't realize what you have brought to our table. Chair Cobb stated we are so honored and proud to have you; Vice-Chair Perez, the leadership that you have taken on and all that has been accomplished in the student board members is just amazing.

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.

14. New Business

Sandy Kinzel shared information on the HMH Dual Language Immersion Quote for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item A: HMH Dual Language K-1 New Schools. A motion was made by Pam Pureza to approve the HMH Dual Language quote as presented; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands.

Candy Tilley shared information on the ECPPS proposed budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item B. 2025-2026 Superintendent Proposed Budget. A motion was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Pam Pureza, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

Heather Edmisten shared information on the Weapons Detection - Safer School Grant.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item C. 2025-2026 Weapons Detection - Safer School Grant. A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

Wilma Jordan shared information on the Repair & Renovation Quote for Stage/Auditorium Curtains.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item D. Repair & Renovation Quote for Stage/Auditorium Curtains. A motion was made by Valerie Bagues, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

Dr. Katina Waples shared information on the Class size waiver for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item E. Class size waiver for Sheep Harney Elementary School. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

Nina Griffin shared information on the 2024-2025 end of school year readministration test window.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item F. Summer Retest Program. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Angelique Boylan, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

15. Return to Close Session

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to resume the closed session from earlier tonight.

Dr. Shelia Williams made a motion to resume closed session, seconded by Sharon Warden, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to return to closed session at 7:53 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Angela Cobb, Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Angelique Boylan, Dr. Shelia H. Williams, Sharon Warden and Tommy Old.

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.

The Board returned from closed session at 9:10 p.m.

Rachael Haines, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources requested to amend the board agenda to add Item G. Belfor Property Restoration and Item H. Belfor Property Restoration for approval.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to amend the agenda for April 28, 2025 to add Item G. Belfor Property Restoration 24-129-SAWYER_SCHO-3 and Item H. Belfor Property for J.C. Sawyer Elementary School 24-129-SAWYER_SCHO-4. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Angelique Boyan, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to amend the agenda for April 28, 2025.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item G. JCS Property Renovation Estimate 24-129-SAWYER_SCHO-3 in the amount of \$54,237.01 due to Code changes, which is covered under insurance and Item H. Belfor Property Restoration Estimate 24-129-SAWYER_SCHO-4 in the amount of \$22,650.25. A motion was made by Sharon Warden to approve Belfor Property Restorations Items G and H., seconded by Angelique Boylan, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the agenda for April 28, 2025.

16. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Pam Pureza, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Chair

Secretary