

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
March 24, 2025 Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, March 24, 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 5:00 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, Zach 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 to order at 6:08 p.m.

Chair Cobb welcomed everyone to the Board of Education meeting for March 24, 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
Antoinette Reid, Director of Student Services
Shelia Hughes Overton, Director of CTE
Renee Tamarelli, Asst. Director of Exceptional Children
Sandy Kinzel, Interim Title I Coordinator

Brandon Moore, Student Board Member
Arykah Moore, Student Board Member
Rubi Nunez-Anaya, Student Board Member
Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:
Johny Hallow, 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 March 24, 2025 to include a presentation from Sandy Kinzel on a grant which will be item 15B and return to close session at the conclusion of this meeting which will become Item 16. Chair Cobb stated adjournment would now be moved to Item 17. Pam Pureza made a motion and Dr. Shelia Williams seconded, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the amended agenda for March 24, 2025.

6. 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.

7. Approval of Agenda

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve tonight's agenda for March 24, 2025. A motion was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to approve the amended agenda for March 24, 2025.

8. Recognitions

Dr. Parker stated we are excited to have some amazing young people, educators, families and guests here tonight. Dr. Parker stated we are going to have performances by the Central Elementary School Choir and River Road School Choir and musical artists under the direction of Christy Williams, Elizabeth Bill and Monica Williams.

Dr. Parker stated our young people were invited to perform at the Coast Guard Marathon dinner. Dr. Parker stated we have the Coast Guard Commander Heidi Kosky here this evening who is going to speak tonight. Dr. Parker stated the young people were invited to perform at the dinner in front of 4-star admirals and military brass.

Dr. Parker thanked Mrs. Christy Williams and Mrs. Bill for everything they do for our young people. Dr. Parker also stated this month is arts in the school and music appreciation in our schools.

Dr. Parker introduced Commander Kosky and her team to speak to us tonight. Commander Kosky stated the students brought the house down the night of the “Toast” of the Coast Guard dinner which is the Sponsored VIP Dinner. Commander Kosky stated the students performed in front of admirals, eight top senior leaders in the entire Coast Guard at the dinner. Commander Kosky stated this turned into an amazing time. Commander Kosky, we had the leader of the entire Atlantic area who oversaw operations from the Rockies all the way to Guam and everything in between. Commander Kosky stated her boss, who oversees all 26 Coast Guard bases, and stated the Elizabeth City Coast Guard base is the best. Commander Kosky stated we had representation from the Governor’s office, Senator Bud’s office and Senator Tillis’ office. Commander Kosky stated everyone provided a critical part of the Coast Guard Marathon weekend where we had 2400 participants come into town. Commander Kosky stated we had 50 states represented and 15 nations. Commander Kosky stated the theme of “Let your Light Shine,” was just amazing and fit in perfectly which led us to our theme for next year. Commander Kosky stated she looks forward to partnering with Dr. Parker for next year and see what we can do to bring the choir back. Commander Kosky thanked everyone for the opportunity.

The chaplain shared a word of encouragement with a statement: heroic work and service is often unseen, unnoticed and unrecognized. Chaplain stated even though that may be true, we should still do those acts of service. Chaplain stated tonight he is standing amongst “Unsung Heroes,” whose work sometimes is unseen, unnoticed, and unrecognized. Chaplain shared with parents, teachers, administrators, “we all serve a mighty cause”. Chaplain thanked them for their service and prayed for staff, students and parents.

Mrs. Jennifer Lee introduced Jane Snyder, Executive Director of the YMCA and Anella Tori, Executive Family Experience and Senior Membership Director who have worked tirelessly on our partnership that we are announcing this evening. Mrs. Lee stated beginning in the 2025-2026 school year all Early College students will have access to the YMCA facilities. Mrs. Lee stated we are excited about this opportunity and partnership with the YMCA.

Ms. Snyder thanked Dr. Parker and Mrs. Lee for the opportunity to serve the Early College Students. Ms. Snyder stated this is the first time the YMCA has been able to partner with the school system on a magnitude of this level. Ms. Snyder stated as we move forward, we think of communities growing stronger together, creating strong foundations and youth development. Ms. Snyder stated the Early College Program is amazing and it's integral to our community.

Mrs. Lee stated, Elizabeth City Pasquotank Early College received the Rising Star Award from the College of the Albemarle at the recent College and Career promise meeting. Mrs. Lee stated the enrollment is increasing and more students are taking college classes and being successful in those classes. Mrs. Lee thanked Heather Briner and Michelle Spence for helping our students be successful.

Mrs. Nina Griffin recognized three students that have been selected to attend the 2025 summer session of the North Carolina Governor's School East at Meredith College and North Carolina Governor's School West at Greensboro College. Mrs. Griffin stated the program is for gifted and talented high school students in the nation. Mrs. Griffin stated the program was administered by the State Board of Education and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction through the Advanced Learning and Gifted Education program. Mrs. Griffin stated each summer students are invited to Governor's School to help build a learning community during a four-week residential session. Mrs. Griffin stated, Broderick Hardy, Leiland Johns, and Cindy Zou will attend the 2025 session of North Carolina Governor's School.

Dr. Katina Jones-Waples recognized competition winners for the Cornell Cooperative Extension Graphic Arts, Elementary Science Fair winners, Elementary Cheerleaders and Elementary Basketball League winners.

Dr. Waples recognized Dr. Hipp Barclift for being an advocate and supporter of the basketball program.

Mrs. Shelia Overton, Career Technical Education recognized three students from Northeastern High School who are currently participating in the Healthcare Explorer program with Sentara Albemarle Medical Center.

Mrs. Overton introduced Dr. Bowling, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Sentara Albemarle Medical Center. Dr. Bowling shared information on the Healthcare Explorer program. Dr. Bowling stated Sentara is invested in its local communities and growing the next generation of health care professionals. Dr. Bowling stated Health Care Explorers students are given hands-on activities such as going to the OR where students were able to scrub like a surgeon, handle surgical instruments, speak to the anesthesiologists, CRNA, general surgeon and the training for each of those professions. Dr. Bowling stated students may spend time learning about physical therapy, speech, and occupational therapy. Dr. Bowling stated all this exposes students to health care careers.

Dr. Bond recognized an amazing group of students and her staff. Dr. Bond recognized Mrs. Williams, Band Director for bringing it to my attention those students who wanted to sing. Dr. Bond stated Mrs.

Williams took those students twice a week during an intervention block and it turned into a performance with the Coast Guard. Dr. Bond recognized the coaching staff as well as students.

Coach Stallings, Football and Baseball coach. Coach Stallings stated we are students first and athletes second. Coach Stallings recognized several of his athletes.

Mr. Fonville recognized his staff at Northeastern High School who are the unnoticed, unrecognized heroes. Mr. Fonville stated they are the ones who are there day in and day out like our coaches. Mr. Fonville recognized his coaches for going above and beyond to make sure our students are recognized and taken care of after hours.

Mrs. Perry followed up with the Fine Arts, office staff, and several academic teacher awards. Mr. Everett presented the Eagle Pride Awards and several academic support awards. Mr. Fonville recognized the EC teachers for working with students.

9. Instructional Highlights

River Road Middle School shared their video highlights of their school. Dr. Bond highlighted several areas the school is working on to prepare for exams. Dr. Bond stated the goal is to keep students focused and energized going into the end of the school year. Dr. Bond stated at River Road it is one belief, one focus, and one goal.

Northeastern shared their video highlights of their school. Northeastern High School focuses on internship and collaboration, team teaching, and project based assignments.

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

There are no public comments!

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker recognized the incredible work the school principals are doing. Dr. Parker stated we are 18 days away from Spring break. Dr. Parker stated we have been launching our 60 days of purpose plans across the district. Dr. Parker stated the elementary, middle and high schools are focused on end of grade and end of course exams.

12. Student Board Members' Report

Rubi shared her report from Pasquotank County High School and student accomplishments.

Brandon shared his report from Early College and highlighted their events and accomplishments.

Arykah shared her report from Northeastern High School. Arykah stated students are preparing for their exams. Arykah shared the schools' highlights and accomplishments.

Pam Pureza stated she is in the process of selecting student board members for next year and our current student board members are going to be leading the effort this year.

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve the consent agenda including the superintendent's recommendations for personnel.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, to approve the consent agenda and the superintendent's recommendation for personnel, seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

14. Items for Information

Rachael stated Mrs. Rinehart is not here tonight. Rachael shared school nutrition along with the help of finance and technology will be migrating to a new software beginning April 2nd with Heartland Mosaic.

Rachael stated the customer facing portal for student lunch accounts will become my school books. Rachael stated this will only affect or impact those students that purchase a la carte. Rachael stated information should go out to staff and families.

Mr. Fudge shared an overview of the summer school retest for 2024-2025. Mr. Fudge stated last year students were given the opportunity to retest in the subject areas of English and Math. Mr. Fudge stated due to the new science standards in grades 5 and secondary schools they will not retest this year. Mr. Fudge stated we have seven sites for summer school and it will be held on June 10th through June 20th.

15. New Business

Wilma Jordan is requesting authorization to make adjustments to the existing Lawn Care Contract. Ms. Jordan is requesting approval of Item A. Amendment of Lawn Care Services.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item A: Amendment of Lawn Care Services. A motion was made by Pam Pureza to approve the Amendment to Lawn Care Services as presented; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands.

15B.

Sandy Kinzel shared information on a grant opportunity on DoDEA Military Connected Students Grant. Mrs. Kinzel stated this will target military connected families and students.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item B. to allow for the submission of this grant application. A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Pam Pureza, and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands.

16. Return to Close Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Angelique Boylan, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to return to closed session at 8:11 p.m.

17. Adjournment

A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and carried, as confirmed by show of hands, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Chair

Secretary