

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

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, February 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 February 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 (Not present)
 Rubi Nunez-Anaya, Student Board Member
 Pam Parker, Executive Assistant to Superintendent and Board

Others present:
 Zach Robeson, 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 member Arykah Moore was not present.

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

Dr. Shelia Williams 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 amend the agenda for February 24, 2025 to add to the letter H. Promotion Standards under New Business . 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 February 24, 2025.

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

8. Recognitions

Dr. Parker introduced Mrs. Shelia Overton, Director of CTE recognized members of our team followed with presidential mathematics awards by Mr. Joshua Sawyer and conclude with recognitions from Weeksville Elementary school by Mr. Schiffbauer.

Mrs. Overton stated this is Career and Technical Education Month. Mrs. Overton recognized Mr. and Mrs. Manzer from Northeastern High School and stated FFA is the largest chapter in Northeast North Carolina with 244 members at large. Mrs. Overton stated this qualifies them to apply for the National Gold chapter award this semester that could recognize them as a National Outstanding Chapter of Distinction at both State and National level. Mrs. Overton stated the Manzlers advised competitions such as veterinary science, natural resources, land judging and livestock.

Mrs. Overton recognized Mr. Tony Johnson as a leader at Northeastern High school and is never afraid to try anything new. Mr. Johnson is going to support the Aviation Academy through his pathways in CTE. Mrs. Overton stated Mr. Johnson has become a support buddy to many CTE teachers and non CTE teachers. Mrs. Overton stated Mr. Johnson serves as the CTE department chair and member of the SIT team.

Mrs. Overton recognized Mr. Christopher Richley who will be closing out his third year as a teacher at PCHS. Mrs. Overton stated Mr. Richley is a true leader in the building at PCHS. Mr. Richley is beginning to lead PLCs focusing on analyzing data, partners with various departments with cross-curricular integration and collaboration and leads hands-on initiatives. Mr. Richley coordinates projects with his construction students.

Mrs. Overton recognized Mrs. Shenita Moore as the Special Populations Coordinator. Mrs. Moore ensures every student who qualifies under the special populations category receives services and has access to career technical education classes and activities. Mrs. Moore works closely with the Exceptional Children's Department to ensure all of our students are successful in the programs. Mrs. Moore also led the fall semester interns ensuring all of the guidelines from DPI are followed successfully. Mrs. Moore does all the publications for CTE facebook and led the initiative of CTE student of the month.

Mrs. Overton recognized Mary Luton and Courtney Simspon who serve as Career Development coordinators. Mrs. Overton stated these ladies assist students in navigating through career paths, resume writing, interview techniques, networking with potential employers, and currently lead the Spring internship opportunities with students, plan and implement activities, course fairs, military and various other events.

Mrs. Overton stated they focus on Middle Schools where they know the focus is much needed, offering career awareness, they are also responsible for leading our CTE fifth grade event annually.

Mrs. Overton recognized Mrs. Helga Brown as the curriculum and instruction management coordinator. Mrs. Brown oversees the implementation and evaluation of curriculum and ensures that

it aligns with educational standards. Mrs. Brown is responsible for all CTE's accountability testing credentials, project based measures, and leads all the PLC's in CTE.

Mr. Joshua Sawyer recognized the presidential awards for excellence in Mathematics and Science. Mr. Sawyer stated these awards are the highest honors bestowed by the US Government. Mr. Sawyer stated specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or Computer Science teaching. Mr. Sawyer stated we are honored to recognize two teachers who have received nominations. Mr. Sawyer recognized Mrs. Erin Gray, NHS and Elizabeth Wooten, EC-PEC for excellence in mathematics teaching.

Mr. Schiffbauer. Principal of Weeksville Elementary School recognized several staff members and awesome students.

9. Instructional Highlights

Mr. Schiffbauer stated Weeksville is a "B" school for Elizabeth City Pasquotank and 11/2 percent from being a top "A" school. Mr. Schiffbauer shared the great initiatives Weeksville is doing this year with Mindfulness and Resiliency with Calm Mind Kind Hearts, SGA student body, advanced teacher role, and developing teacher leaders.

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

There are no public comments!

11. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker thanked families and staff for being patient and flexible as we had to adjust school schedules due to weather. Dr. Parker stated he does recognize when weather events happen that folks work and have commitments and anytime we delay or modify the school schedule we know that it has an impact on families. Dr. Parker stated that we prioritize safety first and realize the buses have a different approach on the highway.

Dr. Parker thanked the Education Foundation for a recent fundraiser held over the weekend. Dr. Parker stated the Education Foundation partnership with Andy Montero helped us with a soup sale. Dr. Parker also stated the Child Nutrition Department prepared rolls and sold them at the fundraiser at Monteros. Dr. Parker stated it was a successful fundraiser.

12. Student Board Members' Report

Rubi Nunez-Anaya stated Pasquotank County High School held its Fall Steam Expo last semester. Rubi recognized student winners. Rubi stated DECA has been preparing for the Career Development Conference through mock role plays, practice test, and fundraising. Rubi stated the competition is being held in Greensboro. Rubi stated the cafeteria staff also had a cookie fundraiser this month and all the proceeds benefited school nutrition. Rubi stated the lunch ladies are the heart of our school. Rubi state AFJROTC has been preparing for the unit inspection which is happening this Friday. Rubi stated AFJROTC conducted an awareness presentation at the middle school. Rubi stated through exposure we hope to recruit potential Cadets. Rubi stated PCHS has a course fair to showcase the multitude of courses and opportunities for rising freshmen. Rubi thanked the school counselors for all

the support they have given students applying for scholarships. Rubi stated the graduation coach has created a bulletin board outside of the library to celebrate the senior college acceptance letters. Rubi stated Mrs. Moore also held a student and staff check-in through Google meet this past week when we were virtual. Rubi recognized Ariana who placed fourth at the State Competition for wrestling. Rubi stated Brandon, Arykah and I had the opportunity to attend and speak at the Committee 100 in early January. Rubi stated we attended the Public Forum of North Carolina Eggs & Issues in late January and the Delta Kappa Gamma lunch in early February.

Rubi thanked everyone for trusting us and providing us with these opportunities.

Brandon stated at the Early College, Sophomores and Juniors have had the opportunity to receive ACT prep to help with ACT scores. Brandon stated on Saturday we will have a semiformal dance, the PTO is hosting a Captain Bob's pork chop plate sale on Wednesday, March 5 from 11-2 in the COA parking lot. Brandon stated prom is Saturday, April 5th at Arts of the Albemarle. Brandon stated the semester is one half over and we have many events planned for students. Brandon thanked the board for this opportunity!

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 Valerie Bogues and unanimously carried, as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

14. Items for Information

Dr. Parker turned the meeting over to Kelly Cowell.

Kelly Cowell introduced Dr. Bennett Jones, Director of North Carolina Teaching Fellows program. Mrs. Cowell shared information about the partnership with the North Carolina teaching fellows program. Mrs. Cowell stated the commission has selected 20 school districts across the state to receive a recruitment grant to promote the teaching fellows program and the teaching profession as a whole. Mrs. Cowell stated we are proud to be one of them. Mrs. Cowell stated this program allows us to expand awareness of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program and launch the teacher Cadet program.

Dr. Bennett Jones, Director of the North Carolina teaching fellows program shared some history of the Teaching Fellows program. Dr. Bennett stated the program continues to be a merit-based loan forgiveness program for anyone interested in becoming a teacher in North Carolina, STEM or Exceptional Children teacher licensure areas. Dr. Bennett stated it is vital we reinvest our efforts to recruit actively in high schools. Dr. Bennett stated there is a recruitment grant of \$55,000 annually and renewable for up to three additional years. Dr. Bennett stated this is a four year pilot where we will work with districts on implementing some type of teacher preparation program that would promote teaching fellows and teaching profession. Dr. Bennett stated Elizabeth City Pasquotank is one of the

20 districts we are working with and excited about the direction this district is taking. Dr. Bennett stated in order to prepare great students we need great teachers. Dr. Bennet presented a check to ECPPS for the Teaching Fellows program.

15. New Business

Dr. Parker asked the board to take action on the 2025-2026 ECP Early College School Calendar. Mr. Sammy Fudge highlighted several important dates on the ECP Early College Calendar.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve Item A: Early College School Calendar for 2025-2026 school year. A motion was made by Sharon Warden to approve the Early College School Calendar for 2025-2026 as presented; seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Mrs. Candy Tilley introduced the architect, Mrs. Anne Collier for the Early Childhood Center. Mrs. Anne Collier shared information regarding the Oakley Collier Architectural Design Proposal for the Early Childhood Center.

A motion was made by Tommy Old to approve Item B: Oakley Collier Architectural Design Proposal as presented; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Dr. Kelly MacPherson presented an updated contract on Item C: Rivermont/New Story and Item D: Sky Rocketing Dreamz Transportation for approval.

A motion was made by Valerie Bogues to approve Item C: Rivermont/New Story as presented; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

A motion was made by Pam Pureza to approve Item D: Sky Rocketing Dreamz as presented; seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Mrs. Sandy Kinzel presented information on the Scholastic Summer Self Select Quote for approval.

A motion was made by Sharon Warden to approve Item E: Scholastic Summer Self Select Reading Program as presented; seconded by Pam Pureza and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Mrs. Rachael Haines stated in 2024 the North Carolina School Board Association issued policy updates to address changes in response to the new Title 9 regulations issued by the Department of Education that went into effect on August 1st of 2024. Mrs. Haines stated Title 9 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination including sex-based harassment which includes all school system operation services and activities. Mrs. Haines shared information on the new proposed regulations

on Title 9. Mrs. Haines shared a summary of the changes on the policies. Mrs. Haines is requesting the board to take three actions; first to suspend the requirement of policy 2420, adopt these six policy revisions immediately and then reinstate policy 2420.

A motion was made by Pam Pureza pursuant to policy 2450 to suspend the requirement of policy 2420 that the policies are here before action in order to adopt them with immediate effect; seconded by Tommy Old and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Chair Cobb stated we need a vote to suspend the policy. Chair Cobb asked for a show of hands; let the record reflect that it is unanimous.

A motion was made by Pam Pureza to approve the six new policies effective immediately; seconded by Tommy Old and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Chair Cobb stated we need a vote to reinstate policy 2420. A motion was made by Pam Pureza to reinstate policy 2420; seconded by Valerie Bogues and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands, let the record reflect that it is unanimous. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Mrs. Candy Tilley shared information on the 2025-2026 Participate Learning Financial Proposal. A motion was made by Valerie Bogues to approve Item G: 2025-2026 Participate Learning Financial Report as presented; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

Chair Cobb stated Item H: amendment of the agenda on Promotion Standards. Chair Cobb turned this section over to Dr. Parker.

Dr. Parker shared the proposal on the current high school promotion standards. Dr. Parker shared information on the proposed revision Option 2 to the promotion standards.

Chair Cobb stated we need a motion to approve these revisions on the promotion standards Item H. A motion was made by Pam Pureza to approve Item H: Current High School Promotion Standards; seconded by Sharon Warden and unanimously carried as confirmed by show of hands, let the record reflect that it is unanimous. Angelique Boylan was not present.

15. 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. Angelique Boylan was not present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

