MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
September 22, 2025 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Early Childhood Learning Center and was available via livestream at www.ecpps.k12.nc.us

1. Meeting Call to Order by Chair
The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chair Cobb.

2. Closed Session
A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Tommy Old, and carried unanimously by those present, as confirmed by a 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, Vice Chair Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Tommy Old, Sharon Warden, and Dr. Shelia Williams.

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Rachael Haines, and John Leidy, School Board Attorney. The Board and staff discussed confidential matters during the closed session.

3. Return to Open Session
A welcome was extended to all attendees and the meeting was officially opened at 6:08 p.m.

The following Board Members were present and constituted a quorum:

Chair Angela Cobb	Tommy Old
Vice Chair Pam Pureza	Sharon Warden
Valerie Bogues	Dr. Shelia Williams
Angelique Boylan (not present)	

Student board members in attendance were Chaiyanne Barrett, Natalie Gallop, and Kathryn Hutto

Others present were John Leidy, School Board Attorney, Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Rachael Haines, Candy Tilley, Meredith Collins, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, Wilma Jordan, Dr. Kelly MacPherson, Antoinette Reid, Tammy Rinehart, Renee Tamarelli, Dr. Katina Waples, Simona White, and Bernadine Wood.

4. Pledge of Allegiance
The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Cobb and followed by a moment of silence.

5. Roll Call
Amy Bundy called the roll and recorded members in attendance for the meeting. Angelique Boylan was not present.

6. Ethics Awareness and Identification of Conflicts of Potential Conflicts of Interest
Vice Chair 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 the Agenda
A motion was made by Vice Chair Pureza to remove "Balance Fire Hood Inspections" from the agenda, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by those present.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

8. Recognitions
Dr. Parker introduced Candy Tilley, Assistant Superintendent of Finance to recognize Ashlie Nixon, Accounts Payable Clerk for her completion of the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials (NCASBO) Specialist Academy, including 16 courses and assessments. Ms. Nixon was praised for her dedication and immediate application for learning to district operations.

Maryann Everett, Principal at P.W. Moore Elementary recognized Lisa Giarmono, Crystal Smith, and Monata Johnson who she praised for her dedication and family support. Mrs. Everett also gave a special recognition to her custodial team for building upkeep and responsiveness.

The video presentation for P.W. Moore Elementary showcased multi-classroom leaders and advanced teaching roles; Kindergarten Dual Language Immersion in Spanish; After-school "Lion Pride" 21st Century Program; Community Partnerships; the Family Resource Center for food, clothing, and school supplies; and an emphasis on social-emotional learning and equity-based activities. Principal Everett emphasized a renewed vision to empower students academically and personally.

9. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)
Chair Angela Cobb stated the Public Comment portion of the meeting is governed by Policy 2310, and recognized Tony Sawyer as the sole requestor to speak before the board.

Mr. Tony Sawyer expressed frustration with the volunteer application process delay for football coaching. He also cited a lack of response from administration despite completion of the

background check. Mr. Sawyer requested Board support to reinstate his volunteer coaching eligibility, and shared emotional support received from current coaching staff.

10. Superintendent's Report

The superintendent's report was given by Dr. Keith Parker and included the following highlights:

- Academic Progress and Press Conference with celebrated improved academic trends district-wide and acknowledged contributions from school Board members and principals.
- Upcoming Ignite Professional Learning Conference scheduled for October 6, 2025 where staff will attend workshops from 8:00am - 12:00 pm followed by classroom work in the afternoon, Free flu and Covid vaccines offered through a partnership with the Pasquotank County Health Department, and a Mammogram screening van provided by Sentara Healthcare.
- Health and Wellness Initiatives such as launching the telehealth clinic at Pasquotank County High School in October fully funded by Sentara, having the clinic available to students and staff from multiple nearby schools, and an aim to reduce barriers to pediatric and primary care access.
- Enhanced Security at Athletic Events by implementing new policies to include only clear bags no larger than 12 inches x 12 inches permitted, weapons detection systems deployed for entry, and an increased law enforcement presence. These policies have been prompted by a recent incident at a Tarboro football game.
- Elementary Athletics Launch of soccer teams for grades 3-5 at all six elementary schools, ECPPS is believed to be the first public school district in NC with an elementary athletics league, with an emphasis on sportsmanship, academic responsibility, and talent development.
- Strategic Statewide Education Plan for which Dr. Parker recently attended a presentation by NC State Superintendent Mo Green and State Board Chair Eric Davis. Key goals of the plan include making NC the nation's top-ranked public school system by 2030 and restoring societal reverence for public school educators.

11. Student Board Members Report

At the invitation of Vice Chair Pureza, the Board heard updates from the student board members representing each high school with the district.

Chaiyanne Barrett, Paquotank County High School Student Board Member, shared several updates regarding student life and achievements highlighting the following:
The football team is currently undefeated with a record of 5-0 with the next game against Hertford County; the ROC Club participated in the 9/11 Memorial Walk in the Outer Banks and is now recognized as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course; the DECA Club recently attended a Tides baseball game ad is preparing for the upcoming "Toys for Treats" night; Homecoming Court nominations have begun, with Ms. Barrett announcing her candidacy; Student Government Association (SGA) elections are underway, Ms. Barrett is running for school treasurer; the school will be hosting its FASFA College Connect event from October

20-26, operating from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; the school year has started with enthusiasm as Pasquotank County High School celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Natalie Gallop, Early College Student Board Member, provided highlights from the Early College including:
Students are actively utilizing their YMCA memberships, over 50% participate in regular fitness sessions; Student-led conferences were recently held, with string positive feedback, particularly from freshmen families; Seniors participated in an informational session that covered prom,FASFA Night, senior breakfast, transcript requests, and scholarship opportunities; Clubs and organizations are holding interest meetings. Active clubs include SGA, Yearbook, DAVE Club, Sports Club, Books Club, and Science Club; The Kickback Dance is scheduled for September 27th; School counselors are meeting individually with students to review four-year plans and academic schedules; FAFSA Night for juniors and seniors and their families will be held September 30th; The first quarter concludes on October 10th. Sophomores will take the Pre-ACT on October 15th; English teacher Mrs. Robinson was selected for the NC Center for Teacher Advancement's Teaching the Holocaust Program in Washington, D.C., following a competitive application process; Students are integrating MacBook tools such as Keynote and iMovie into classwork and projects.

Kathryn Hutto, Northeastern High School Student Board Member, reported the following information:
Multiple field trips were conducted in September, including: College tours to Norfolk State University and Howard University, a joint DECA trip with Pasquotank High School to a Tides baseball game, and a visit to Meredith College by the Teacher Cadet group; Two new clubs were introduced: Choir Club (led by Mr. McNeel) and Graphic Design Club (led by Ms. McMurrin); Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) began with strong student participation; Events included a school spirit "band walk" and voting for the spring theater production; The student store recently concluded sales for Powder Puff game and Pink Out shirts, The "Dad Strong Showdown" event welcomed fathers to a seminar, free tailgate, and football game admission; Northeastern High School will host its first Homecoming Dance in over two years, organized by SGA; and FFA members will participate in "Wake Up to Ag Day" on October 3, hosted by FFA alumni.

The Board thanked all student board members for their comprehensive and enthusiastic reports, noting the wide variety of academic, extracurricular, and leadership activities across schools.

12. Approval of Consent Agenda
A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present by a show of hands.

13. Items for Information
Dr. Parker introduced Bill Blake, Executive Director of the Albemarle Area United Way to present information regarding the 2025 United Way Campaign. Caroline Gordon shared the campaign dates September 23-October 17, the purpose to support local programs focusing on education, health, financial stability, and family strength; $8,000 was raised by ECPPS staff in

2024, donation methods through payroll deduction, cash/check, or online via United Way website, and this year's incentives of time-off passes based on donation amount, $500 raffle entry for each $25 donated to the ECPPS Education Foundation, additional prizes and community participation is encouraged.
Mr. Blake gave a historical overview of United Way's origins dating back to the 1929 Great Depression and emphasized the importance of collective community support.

Chair Cobb and Dr. Parker expressed their appreciation and encouraged full board participation in campaign activities, noting possible involvement in fundraising events.

14. Unfinished Business
Rachael Haines presented the second reading and recap of the following policy revisions from Summer 2025:

- **1310/4022**, **3320**, **3620** – Clarified provisions for students sharing sleeping quarters
  3210 – Revised parental review process for instructional materials; includes parental control over library book access and online catalogs
- **3510** – Updated language on religious exemptions from assignments and activities
- **4120** – Added statutory requirements for enrollment of military children
- **5024, 6127, 276**, and **6125** – Updated terminology to include all epinephrine delivery systems (e.g., nasal sprays)
- **5070/7350**, **7820** – Revised public information provisions for personnel files
- **6340**, **7100** – Aligned language with statutory changes regarding criminal history checks

Clarification was requested and confirmed that both school and classroom library catalogs are available online and inventory procedures are in place.

A motion was made by Tommy Old to adopt all policy revisions as a group, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present through a show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

15. New Business
Chair Angela Cobb cited Policy 2230, section B, regarding the creation of ad hoc and special committees. Mrs. Cobb requested board approval to create an Ad Hoc Policy Committee to review and revise specific policies.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams to approve the development of an ad hoc policy committee, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present by a show of hands. Angelique Boylan was not present.

16. Adjournment
Tommy Old motioned to adjourn the September 22, 2025 meeting of the board, was seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams and passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Chair **Secretary**