

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
October 27, 2025 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, October 27, 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 4:59 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 5:00 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Chair Angela Cobb, Vice Chair Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Angelique Boylan, 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 6:05 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	

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, Meredith Collins, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, Amanada Hill, Wilma Jordan, Sandy Kinzel, Dr. Kelly MacPherson, Tammy

Rinehart, Candy Tilley, Simona White, Kim Whitehurst, Terrie Wilson, 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.

6. Ethics Awareness and Identification of Conflicts of 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 the Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pam Pureza to amend the agenda for October 27, 2025 to include the addition of item C. Sheep Harney Sewer Repair Quote under New Business, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams and passed unanimously by a show of hands. The agenda was adopted and amended.

8. Recognitions

Dr. Parker expressed appreciation to all attendees and introduced several recognitions highlighting district programs, partnerships, and staff achievements.

School Nutrition Program

Tammy Rinehart shared information on the district's Farm to School Program, highlighting partnerships with local farms and suppliers including Hickory Nut Gap Farms, Brasstown Beef, and Tidewater Grains. She recognized her staff for their dedication and recent Scratch Cooking Innovation Award and thanked them for preparing refreshments for the meeting.

America 250 "Revolution in the Kitchen" Cooking Competition

Colleen Brown McKinley, Pasquotank County Grant Coordinator, described the upcoming America 250NC initiative, celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary through a student cooking competition involving all ECPPS schools. The program integrates history, culture, science, and mathematics, culminating in a public recognition event on July 4, 2026, in downtown Elizabeth City. Participating school kitchen managers and students were recognized for their involvement.

Ignite 2025

Terrie Wilson provided a summary of the Ignite 2025 professional learning conference, held October 6, 2025, at Northeastern High School with 496 staff attendees and over 100 sessions. She recognized key contributors, including:

- ECPPS Education Foundation and Ms. Judy Stallings
- Ms. Amy Bundy (for coordinating refreshments)
- Northeastern High School custodial team

Beginning Teacher of the Year Recognitions

School-level honorees were recognized, along with finalists and the district winner:

- Finalists: Ms. Holly Brown (J.C. Sawyer) and Ms. Janice Roger (Weeksville Elementary)
- District Winner: Mr. Seth Moore, Pasquotank County High School

Teacher Cadet Program

Ms. Byum shared updates on the Teacher Cadet Program, which introduces high school students to the teaching profession. She recognized current cadets from Northeastern and Pasquotank County High Schools and shared recent college partnerships and student success stories.

Pasquotank County High School 25th Anniversary

Principal Delishia Moore celebrated the school's 25th anniversary and recognized charter staff members Ms. Patricia Townson and Ms. Cheryl Boone Brown for their long-standing service. She also presented gifts to the Board in appreciation for their support.

Technology Department Summer Internship Program

Heather Edmisten reported on the department's summer internship initiative, funded by a \$13,500 Governor's Business Committee grant. She recognized mentors Wendy Lawson, Amy Self, Thaddius Ellis, Cheryl Ramdale, and Paul Wandell, as well as student interns Kai Buckley-Williams, Cameron Butts, Darius Ury, Mo Outlaw, and Ray Christie.

Sheep Harney Elementary Recognitions

Jonathan Snead recognized the following groups and individuals:

- School Nutrition Staff for resilience during building repairs.
- Multiclassroom Leaders: Ms. Tina Riddick and Ms. Maya Cox.
- Eagles of the Month (September): Students exemplifying respect and kindness were named and applauded.

Pre-Kindergarten Program Recognitions

Dani Morris-White, Director of Pre-K, presented recognitions for the following:

- Pre-K Teacher of the Year: Ms. Holly Cartwright
- Pre-K Employee of the Year: Ms. Madison Spencer
- Pre-K Beginning Teacher of the Year: Ms. Jamie Curls

Ms. Morris-White highlighted the Family Support and Engagement Committee and recognized members for their contributions, as well as Pre-K students Archer Smith, Sophia Molina, and Zire McPherson for their participation in the Pre-K promotional video.

9. Instructional Highlights

A video presentation showcased Sheep Harney Elementary's participation in the Participate Learning Global Program, focusing on global citizenship, cultural awareness, and community engagement.

The second video presentation showcased the Pre-K program ...

Chair Cobb called a brief recess at approximately p.m. to allow guests to depart and enjoy refreshments provided by the School Nutrition Department.

Chair Cobb reconvened the meeting.

10. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)

Chair Cobb introduced the Public Comments portion of the meeting and reviewed Policy C0de 2310: Public Participation at Board Meetings, reminding attendees of the procedures and expectations for public comment.

She noted each speaker is allotted three minutes, the total comment period is limited to 30 minutes unless extended by Board vote, and Board members do not respond to speakers except to seek clarification.

Chair Cobb announced that two individuals had signed up to speak.

Mr. Tony Sawyer approached the podium and presented comments regarding his concern with restrictions on his ability to volunteer with the school system.

Mr. Sawyer stated that information provided to him regarding the reasons for his volunteer status was inaccurate and expressed disagreement with references to prior legal matters that he stated has been expunged. He asked the Board to reconsider his volunteer status and to "do the right thing" by allowing him to return to school volunteer activities.

Chair Cobb thanked Mr. Sawyer for his comments.

Ms. Elizabeth Shakin shared remarks honoring her mother's example of perseverance and leadership in education. She discussed the importance of educational models that inspire exceptional leadership and referenced the "Leader in Me" programs as a framework that builds trust and inclusion in schools.

Ms. Shakin also spoke of data from a presentation by Dr. Andrew Harris at NEAAAT, noting that competitive applications for open positions demonstrate what families seek in quality educational systems. She concluded by quoting Dr. Parker's statement on preparing students for fulfilling lives and affirmed those goals with her own support.

Chair Cobb thanked Ms. Shakin for her comments.

10. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker expressed appreciation to Ms. Tammy Rinehart and the School Nutrition Department for their Farm-to-School initiatives and for preparing refreshments for the evening's meeting. He emphasized the value of federal support for nutrition programs and encouraged families to take advantage of healthy meal options available in district schools.

Dr. Parker also highlighted:

- The strength and success of the Teacher Cadet Program, noting that it provides local students with opportunities to explore education careers.
- The growth of Ignite 2025 Professional Learning Conference, which has expanded participation and partnerships with community organizations such as Sentara support staff wellness.

He concluded by thanking district staff, teachers, and students for their continued commitment and innovation.

11. Student Board Members Report

Vice Chair Pam Pureza introduced the district's student representatives, each of whom shared updates from their respective schools.

Kathryn Hutto from Northeastern High School reported recent highlights including:

- Homecoming victory (47-6)
- Cross Country success with a freshman runner qualifying for the 3A State Championship
- Band awards, including First Place overall, first place drum majors, and multiple category wins at competition
- Teacher celebrations for exceeding growth goals
- Student events such as the Homecoming Dance and Spirit Weeks

Natalie Gallop from Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Early College, reported that they have reached the midpoint of the semester. She also shared the following highlights:

- Senior Breakfast sponsored by the PTO
- Participation in Red Ribbon Week for drug and alcohol prevention
- Collaboration with COA, ECSU, and NC State to expand opportunities for college credit
- Student-led community service through National Honor Society trash cleanup
- Preparation for ECPD's Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Parade float

Chaiyanne Barrett from Pasquotank County High School shared updates, noting:

- End of fall sports seasons and senior recognitions
- Upcoming rivalry football game against Northeastern High School on October 31st.
- Active clubs, including DECA, hosting a Toys and Treats Night and fundraising events
- Senior activities centered on college applications and FAFSA completion
- Academic recognition for students with strong grades and attendance, culminating in a PBIS Halloween Celebration

Vice Chair Pureza thanked the student board members for their reports.

12. Approval of Consent Agenda

The items listed on the consent agenda for approval include the September 22, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes; Budget Amendments 102, 202, 302, 401, and 802; the September Purchasing Report; the October Fundraiser Report; the October Rental Report; the Quarterly Financial Report; and the Superintendent's Recommendations for Personnel. A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Pam Pureza, and passed unanimously by a show of hands.

15. New Business

A. School Improvement Plans

Kelly Cowell presented the 2025-2026 School Improvement Plans for Board approval. She outlined the collaborative process of school improvement teams, focus areas including academic growth, data-driven instruction, and community engagement, and ongoing efforts to improve school climate and student success.

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams to approve the School Improvement Plans as presented, seconded by Pam Pureza, and passed unanimously by a show of hands.

B. Policy 3420 - Student Promotion and Accountability (First Reading)

Sandy Kinzel, Director of Student Success, presented revisions to Policy 3420, focusing on updates to credit recovery procedures in alignment with new State Board of Education guidance. Key changes include:

- Credit recovery now applies only to required graduation courses
- New proportional grade calculation replacing prior pass/fail system
- Eligibility limited to students earning at least 55% in initial attempts
- Repeating a course for higher credit permitted with a minimum grade of C

This policy was presented for first read only, with no Board action required at this time.

Chair Cobb encouraged clear communication of changes to parents and students once the policy is adopted.

C. Sheep-Harney Elementary Sewer Line Repair

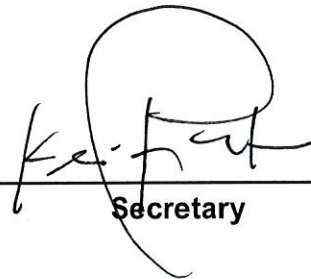
Wilma Jordan, Director of Maintenance and Facilities, presented a proposal for plumbing repairs at Sheep-Harney Elementary School, citing the need to restore the cafeteria to full service. Repairs will be contacted through KATE Services due to the district's lack of an in-house plumber.

A motion to approve funding for the request was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Pam Pureza, and passed unanimously by a show of hands by those present. (Tommy Old was not present)

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Cobb requested a motion to adjourn.

Sharon Warden motioned to adjourn the October 27, 2025 meeting of the board, was seconded by Pam Pureza and passed unanimously by those present (Tommy Old was not present). The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.


Chair
Secretary