MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
April 27, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Pasquotank Early Childhood Center and was available via livestream at www.ecpps.k12.nc.us

1. Meeting Call to Order by Vice Chair
The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Pam Pureza.

2. Closed Session
A motion was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Valerie Bogues, 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 5:06 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Vice Chair Pam Pureza, Valerie Bogues, Tommy Old, and Sharon Warden. Chair Angela Cobb, Angelique Boylan, and Dr. Shelia Williams were absent.

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent 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 (not present)	Tommy Old
Vice Chair Pam Pureza	Sharon Warden
Valerie Bogues	Dr. Shelia Williams (not present)
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, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, Amanada Hill, Wilma Jordan, Sandy Kinzel, Morgan Murray, Tammy Rinehart, Renee Tamarelli, Candy Tilley, and Simona White.

4. Pledge of Allegiance
The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice Chair Pureza 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
Valerie Bogues 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 Tommy Old and seconded by Sharon Warden to approve the April 27, 2026 agenda, amended to include Item H. Contract Amendment for Debbie Stukes. The motion passed unanimously by those present..

8. Recognitions

River Road Middle School Band

Band Director Christi Williams highlighted student performances and program accomplishments throughout the school year. The River Road Band performed several student pieces showcasing instrumental ensembles.

Micro School Theater Presentation

Dr. Parker introduced Principal Colina Bartlett and the district's new Micro School (grades 5-6). Students, under the direction of Natalie Hill from Arts of the Albemarle, performed a short excerpt from *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Plans for future performances of *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* were announced.

Governor's School Recipients

Nina Griffin announced two Early College students, Chariss Jordan and Victoria Stafford, selected for the 2026 Governor's School West program. Principal Jennifer Lee accepted certificates on their behalf.

Renewable Energy Competition Recognition

Kelly Cowell recognized Michelle Flach and Jill Turner and the teams from Weeksville Elementary, P.W. Moore Elementary, and River Road Middle for outstanding achievements at the North Carolina Renewable Energy Competition.

Battle of the Books Champions

Heather Edmisten recognized Sheep-Harney Elementary students and their Coach Mrs. Sharnanna Edmondoso as district champions for the ECPPS Battle of the Books Competition. A student video presentation was shared.

Choral and Theater Recognition

Monica Williams and Emily Tabolt recognized students from Pasquotank County High and Northeastern High for earning Superior Ratings at the North Carolina Solo Vocal Adjudications and participating in the All-East Regional Chorus.

JC Sawyer Elementary Cheerleading and Readers Recognition

Dr. Katina Waples recognized J.C. Sawyer's Elementary Cheerleading Team as district champions. The team then performed a few of their cheers.

Kim Robertson recognized top student readers across grade levels and outstanding faculty and staff members for excellence and dedication.

Micro School: Exceeding Excellence Presentation

Colina Bartlett shared the story of ECPPS's new Micro School, recognizing memes of the Innovation Team, Community Partners, and staff "Exceeding Excellence." Fifth and sixth grade scholars were honored individually.

9. Instructional Highlights
The video from J.C. Sawyer shared a school focus involving Opportunity Culture.

The video from the Micro School shared a learning focus using an AI tutoring program called Conmigo and NXU Lessons.

10. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)
Amy Bundy reported that no public comment sign-ups were received.

11. Superintendent's Report
Dr. Parker commended students, staff, ans principals recognized during the evening and highlighted:

- The success of the districtwide theater production Alice by Heart, including participation by student conductor Darius Eure.
- The installation of Dr. Keith S. Hargrove as the new Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University and recognition of the university's recent $42 million gift from MacKenzie Scott.

12. Student Board Members Report
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Early College - Natalie Gallop

Natalie Gallop shared updates from the Early College including a recent play, field day, upcoming exams, senior awards, 88% of seniors are graduation with an Associates degree from COA, and the National Honor Society induction ceremony.

Pasquotank County High School – Chaiyanne Barrett

Chaiyanne Barrett shared senior recognition week, national signing day including all seniors, testing, prom, senior scholars, and the National Honor Society induction ceremony.

Northeastern High School – Kathryn Hutto

Kathryn Hutto reported Northeastern has 19 senior scholars, 147 SAT recipients, the Eagles Eye Magazine, theater production, prom, and military ball.

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

The items listed on the consent agenda for approval include the March 23, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes; the Fundraiser Report; the Purchasing Report; the Rental Report; and the Superintendent's Recommendations for Personnel. A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Tommy Old seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by a show of hands by those present.

14. Unfinished Business

Policy 3620 Revision

Racheal Haines presented a second read of Policy 3620 Revisions for approval. A motion was made by Sharon Warden to accept the revisions to Policy 3620 as presented, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

15. New Business

A. Grades 3-12 High Quality Instructional Materials ELA Adoption

Dr. Katina Waples, Teri Doughty, and Jennifer Darnell gave a presentation for an ELA curriculum adoption with recommendations for ELA Guidebooks for grades 3-5 and a hybrid of ELA Guidebooks and CommonLit for grades 6-12.

A motion to approve the Grades 3-12 HQIM ELA Adoption was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

B. ECPEC 2026-2027 Calendar Revision

Sandy Kinzel presented revisions to the Early College calendar to correct duplicate holiday/annual leave day and adjust workdays.

A motion to approve the ECPEC 2026-2027 Calendar revision as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

C. EC Teacher Assistant Contracts
Renee Tamarelli presented a contract to increase from 3 to assistants to 4 teacher assistants. A motion to approve the EC Teacher Assistant contracts as presented was made by Valerie Bogues, seconded by Tommy Old, and approved unanimously by those present.

D. 2026-27 Budget
Candy Tilley presented the 2026-2027 Budget. The proposed total budget $74.5 million, with county request of $15.8 million ($12.3 million current expense, $3.5 million capital outlay). The budget includes 3% salary increase, step increases, and various program expansions.

A motion to approve the 2026-27 Budget as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

E. Driver's Education Services RFP and Service Fees
Simona White presented the Driver's Education Services RRP with a recommendation to continue the partnership with the North Carolina Driving School, Inc. and increase the student fee from $45 to $65 effective September 1, 2026.

A motion to approve the Driver's Education Services RFP and Service Fees as presented was made by Sharon Warden, seconded by Tommy Old, and passed unanimously by those present.

F. PCHS Chiller
Wilma Jordan presented a request to approve the purchase and replacement compressor for a chiller at Pasquotank County High School in the amount of $77,346.95 following a system failure.

A motion to approve the PCHS Chiller quote as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden and passed unanimously by those present.

G. Policy 6140 (Revision)
Rachael Haines presented revisions to Policy 6140 for a first read. The revision aligns ECPPS policy with the State Board's Healthy Active Children Policy to clarify "students must be provided the opportunity to participate" in 60 minutes of weekly physical activity.

H. Contract Amendment Hunley-Stukes Educational Consultants, LLC
Rachael Haines presented an amendment to the contract to expand the consultant scope of work.

A motion to approve the contract amendment for Hunley-Stukes Educational Consultants, LLC was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

16. Adjournment

Tommy Old motioned to adjourn the April 27, 2026 meeting of the board, was seconded by Sharon Warden , and passed unanimously by those present (Chair Angela Cobb, Angelique Boylan, and Dr. Shelia Williams were not present). Vice Chair Pureza declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Chair **Secretary**