

**Draft MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
January 26, 2026 Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, January 26, 2026, 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 Sharon Warden, and carried unanimously by those present (Angelique Boylan was not 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 5:01 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. (Angelique Boylan was not present)

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 6:02 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 (not present)
Angelique Boylan (not present)	

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

Others present were John Leidy, School Board Attorney, Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Rachael Haines, Meredith Collins, Kelly Cowell, Nina Griffin, Amanada Hill, Wilma Jordan, Morgan Murray, Tammy Rinehart, Dr. Debbie Stukes, Renee Tamarelli, Candy Tilley, Dr. Katina Waples, and Simona White.

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

Tommy Old 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 Sharon Warden to amend the agenda for January 26, 2026 to include item E. Activity Bus Purchase, seconded by Valeire Bogues, and passed unanimously by a show of hands by those present.

A motion to approve the amended agenda for January 26, 2026 was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden, and unanimously approved by those present.

8. Recognitions

Dr. Parker led the recognitions portion of the meeting.

Employee Recognition - Mr. Antonio Gomez

Dr. Waples recognized Mr. Antonio Gomez, Social Studies Teacher at Elizabeth City Middle School, for his leadership as Coordinator of Operations for the inaugural ECPPS Elementary Soccer League.

Mr. Gomez oversaw league organization, coaching staff coordination, and games across six elementary schools. He also serves as Director of Coaching for the Carolina United Soccer Association and was recently named a Top 28 Finalist for the Positive Coaching Alliance Coach of the Year award.

Mr. Gomez was presented with recognition for his dedication and service.

Northeastern High School Jazz Combo Performance

Mr. Delmonte Griffin, Director of Bands at Northeastern High School, introduced members of the NHS Jazz Combo:

Watty Martinez-Acevedo - Tenor Saxophone, Cameron Wenninger - Trumpet, Darius Eure - Trombone, Vincent Wiborg - Trombone, and William Vanvalkenburg - Keyboard.

The ensemble performed musical selections for the Board and audience.

Treasurer's Academy Completion Recognition

Candy Tilley recognized four ECPPS bookkeepers who completed the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials (NCASBO) Treasurer's Academy, which included 11 professional development sessions over three months. All recipients serve as both bookkeepers and data managers while assisting implementation of the Infinite Campus student information system.

Recognized employees:

Doriane Felton - Northside Elementary, Crystal Smith - P.W. Moore Elementary, Michelle Spence - Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Early College, and Michelle White - Sheep-Harney Elementary

Special Recognition - Dr. Debbie Hunley-Stukes

Dr. Parker recognized Dr. Debbie Hunley-Stukes for her continued service and commitment to ECPPS, including her role as Interim Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director. Dr. Stukes was commended for her leadership, mentorship, and advocacy for public education.

Martin Luther King Jr. Program Student Presentations

Dr. Parker acknowledged the NAACP Pasquotank Branch for its partnership and support of ECPPS and for organizing the community's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

The following students were recognized for their leadership and participation in the MLK program:

Ryan Spruill - Junior at Northeastern High, Gabrielle Rivers - Junior at Northeastern High, Jason, and Abel Sutton - Sophomore at Northeastern High

Students shared reflections on Dr. King's legacy and themes of leadership, courage, and the "fierce urgency of now."

Board Member Appreciation Month Recognition

Dr. Parker recognized January as Board Member Appreciation Month and expressed gratitude for the Board's service and commitment to public education.

Board Members Recognized:

Angela Cobb - Chair, Pam Pureza - Vice Chair, Angelique Boylan, Valerie Bogues, Sharon Warden, Tommy Old, Dr. Shelia Williams.

Student Board Members Recognized:

Natalie Gallop - ECPEC, Kathryn Hutto - NHS, and Chaiyanne Barrett - PCHS

Board members were commended for their dedication to students, staff, and the community.

Recess

A brief recess was called to allow Northeastern High School Jazz Combo to dismantle equipment.

9. Instructional Highlights

Chair Cobb reconvened the meeting and announced that the Board would proceed with Instructional Highlights, featuring H.L. Trigg School. Dr. Parker introduced Mr. Chris Pullet.

Presentation by Mr. Chris Pullet, Principal, H.L. Trigg

Mr. Pullet thanked the Board for its support and collegial approach to leadership. He expressed appreciation for Dr. Parker's trust and leadership and shared his pride in serving students at H.L. Trigg.

Mr. Pullet described H.L. Trigg as a unique and innovative program within the district, noting that the school operates differently from traditional campuses. He emphasized the school's philosophy of "same destination, different path," with the goal of helping students reach high school graduation through individualized and supportive approaches.

As part of his presentation, Mr. Pullet engaged Board members in a brief activity to consider the primary reasons students attend H.L. Trigg. He shared data indicating that the majority of students were enrolled due to attendance issues rather than behavioral infractions. Additional student needs include:

Long-term suspensions (2 students), Social-emotional and anxiety-related concerns, External legal matters (4 students), Parenting students (2 students), Significant behavioral challenges (2 students), and Transfers from other alternative settings

Mr. Pullet explained that many students arrive with barriers that have prevented success in traditional settings. The school prioritizes building trust, developing individualized graduation plans, and fostering a supportive environment from the first day of enrollment. Each student meets individually with Mr. Pullet to review transcript status, credit requirements, and a personalized path to graduation.

School Structure and Instructional Model

H.L. Trigg operates with a small staff consisting of:

Mr. Chris Pullet - Principal, Ms. Juvanda Crutch (Math Teacher), Mr. Rashawn Spencer (English/Language Arts Teacher), Ms. Dana Miller (Teacher Assistant/Administrative Support), and Ms. Roxanne Whitehurst (Custodian)

Mr. Paullet highlighted the team's collaborative efforts and multi-role responsibilities in supporting students.

Instruction is delivered primarily through the Edgenuity online learning platform, allowing students to work at their own pace. Classrooms often include students enrolled in different courses simultaneously. The flexible structure enables credit recovery and accelerated credit accumulation when appropriate.

Mr. Paullet shared the example of a student who entered the program with two credits and successfully earned seven credits in one semester through consistent effort and support.

Workplace Model and Cell Phone Policy

H.L. Trigg utilizes a workplace-style model. Upon arrival, students store personal belongings and cell phones in lockers and report to a structured learning environment. Students earn scheduled breaks every hour to hour and fifteen minutes, during which they may access their phones and relax in a designated break room.

Mr. Paullet reported that this model has significantly reduced conflict related to cell phone usage and increased productivity. The student workroom layout was designed collaboratively by students using existing furniture and resources.

Community Partnerships

Mr. Paullet outlined strong partnerships supporting the program, including:

Texas Roadhouse (career exploration and mentorship), College of The Albemarle (campus visits and enrollment guidance), NC Works (employment support and resume assistance), Elizabeth City State University (mentorship opportunities), Redemption Church (hygiene supplies and student support resources), Food Bank of the Albemarle, Commissioner Clifford Shaw (community support and advocacy), and ABC Play (student services collaboration)

These partnerships provide students with exposure to postsecondary education, workforce opportunities, and essential resources.

Graduation Outcomes

Mr. Paullet reported the following graduation outcomes:

2023–2024: 12 graduates, 2024–2025: 17 graduates, 2025–2026 (to date): 7 early graduates, with 10 additional students on track to graduate

He noted that while the numbers may appear small, they represent approximately 8–10% of the district's graduating class and reflect students who were previously identified as at risk of dropping out.

Mr. Paullet concluded by expressing his passion for serving this student population and reaffirmed the program's commitment to ensuring that students leave with a diploma and a plan for their future.

Board members and attendees applauded the presentation

Superintendent's Remarks

Dr. Parker commended Mr. Paullet and his team for transforming H.L. Trigg into a school of choice rather than a disciplinary placement. He emphasized that the program represents a viable public school choice option within the district, particularly during National School Choice Week.

Dr. Parker highlighted the small staff's dedication and collaboration and noted that the district is exploring additional opportunities to expand and strengthen the program in future years.

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 provided the Superintendent's Report.

P.W. Moore Documentary

Dr. Parker announced that a documentary highlighting P.W. Moore Elementary School has been publicly released. Produced by EducationNC and videographer Robert Kinlaw, the documentary chronicles the school's legacy and recent improvements under the community school model. Plans are underway to host additional community screenings.

Weather Monitoring and Safety

Dr. Parker emphasized the district's ongoing monitoring of winter weather conditions. He noted that district leadership actively tracks weather forecasts, communicates with the Department of Transportation and neighboring districts, and prioritizes student and staff safety when making operational decisions. He acknowledged the impact of schedule modifications on families and reaffirmed that decisions are made thoughtfully and cautiously.

High School End-of-Course Testing

Dr. Parker reported encouraging preliminary results from first-semester high school End-of-Course (EOC) testing. While official data has not yet been verified, early indicators show notable gains in several subject areas.

District Science Fair

Dr. Parker announced that the district Science Fair would be held Wednesday, January 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the 4-H Extension Center and invited the community to attend.

Dr. Parker concluded his report.

12. Student Board Members Report

Vice Chair Pureza introduced the Student Board Members.

Northeastern High School – Kathryn Hutto

Miss Hutto reported on athletic competitions, including basketball, swimming, and indoor track events. She highlighted school spirit activities coordinated by the Student Government Association and Community Schools, upcoming Career and Technical Education Title I Night events, and strong academic performance placing the school on track for a "B" rating. She also welcomed Mrs. Stallings as Interim Principal.

Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Early College – Natalie Gallop

Miss Gallop reported a strong start to the second semester. Seniors have finalized plans of study, scholarship information has been shared, and juniors are preparing for the ACT. She highlighted ongoing YMCA partnerships, recruitment efforts for the 2026–2027 school year, a community open house scheduled for March 26, and upcoming PTO fundraising efforts.

Pasquotank County High School – Chaiyanne Barrett

Miss Barrett provided updates on athletic achievements, including basketball, swimming, wrestling, and track accomplishments. She reported on upcoming club activities, including JROTC's Valentine's dance, DECA fundraisers, an HOSA blood drive, and FAFSA and WorkKeys preparation efforts. She concluded with an encouraging message to the senior class as they approach graduation.

Vice Chair Pureza concluded the Student Board Member reports.

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

The items listed on the consent agenda for approval include the December 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes; Budget Amendments, the January Fundraiser Report; Purchasing Reports for November and December; the Quarterly Report; the Rental Report; and the Superintendent's Recommendations for Personnel. A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Sharon Warden Valerie Bagues, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by a show of hands by those present.

14. Unfinished Business

Second Read Policy 6140 Student Wellness

Rachael Haines presented revisions to Policy 6140 to align with State Board Policy SHLT-000. A motion to approve the revisions was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Pam Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

15. New Business

A. Cate Plumbing Augmentation Services

Wilma Jordan requested approval to continue plumbing staff augmentation services due to difficulty filling a permanent position. A motion to approve item A. Cate Plumbing Augmentation Services as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

B. Grass Mowing Contract

Wilma Jordan presented contracts for grass mowing services and proposed outsourcing athletic field treatment and maintenance to improve field conditions and safety. A motion to approve item B. Grass Mowing Contract as presented was made by Valerie Bogues, seconded by Sharon Warden and carried unanimously by those present.

Dr. Parker commended Ms. Jordan and the maintenance team for proactive monitoring of heating systems during winter weather.

C. 2026-27 Budget Calendar

Candy Tilley presented the proposed 2026-2027 budget calendar. A motion to approve item C. 2026-27 Budget Calendar was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

D. Hunley-Stukes Contract Amendment

Rachael Haines requested approval of a \$40,000 contract amendment for leadership development coaching. A motion to approve the contract amendment for Dr. Stukes was made by Pam Pureza, seconded by Tommy Old, and passed unanimously by those present.

E. Activity Bus Purchase (Agenda Amendment)

Amanda Hill requested approval to purchase a new Thomas Built activity bus using existing trip funds and capital outlay fund balance to meet transportation needs for high school athletics. A motion to approve item E Activity Bus Purchase was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

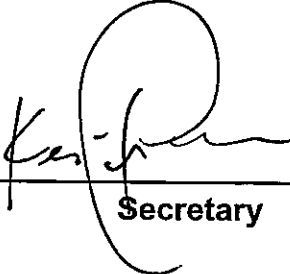
Candy Tilley clarified that the Board was approving the appropriation of capital outlay fund balance for the purchase.

16. Adjournment

Vice Chair Pureza motioned to adjourn the January 26, 2026 meeting of the board, was seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present (Angelique Boylan and Dr. Shelia Williams were not present). Chair Cobb declared the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Chair



Secretary