MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
March 23, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, March 23, 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 5:00 p.m. by Chair Cobb.

2. Closed Session
A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Vice Chair Pam Pureza, 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, Angelique Boylan, Tommy Old, Sharon Warden, and Dr. Shelia Williams.

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Rachael Haines, and Johny Hallow, 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 6:04 p.m.

The following Board Members were present and constituted a quorum:

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

Student board members in attendance were Chaiyanne Barrett and Kathryn Hutto. Natalie Gallop was absent

Others present were Johny Hallow, School Board Attorney, Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Rachael Haines, Meredith Collins, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, Amanada Hill,Sandy Kinzel, Morgan Murray, Tammy Rinehart, 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
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 the Agenda
A motion was made by Vice Chair Pam Pureza to approve the agenda for March 23, 2026 as presented, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by a show of hands by those present.

8. Recognitions
Dr. Parker led the recognition portion of the meeting highlighting the arts, introducing Northeastern High School students and staff who performed selections from their musical production, Alice by Heart. Performance dates were announced for April 23-26, 2026.

Go Global Team

Dr. Katina Waples introduced the educators selected for the GoGlobal fellowship trip to Botswana and Zambia June 16-27, 2026. Participants included Jasmine Brooks, Elaina Lawson, Emily Tabolt, Chris Reichle, and Principal Sharron Bell. Funding sources were highlighted, including Sentara Albemarle and the Anonymous Trust.

Safety Recognition

Dr. Parker recognized Mr. Joe Lewis and Mr. Don Mercer for their professional response to a security incident involving a prohibited item at a Northeastern High School basketball game in January, highlighting the effectiveness of the district's weapon detection systems.

Elementary Basketball

Dr. Waples recognized the PW Moore Elementary School girls and boys basketball eams for their successful seasons and championship wins.

River Road Middle School

Dr. Melissia Bond recognized staff members Alicia Palmer, Ganelle Sutton, and Tajima Johnson-Lassiter for their leadership.

Northeastern High School

Eboni Stallings recognized various staff members for their leadership and service to students.

9. Instructional Highlights
Mr. Schiffbauer presented a video showcasing student-led interviews highlighting school culture.

Ms. Lee presented a video showcasing technology integration and the school's journey to becoming a distinguished Apple school.

Recess

A brief 2 minute recess was taken.

10. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)
Chair Cobb reviewed the public participation policy. There was one person signed up for public comment.

Elizabeth Shakin addressed the board regarding character education initiatives, praising Dr. Parker's professional communication style and encouraging the district to become a state and national district of character.

11. Superintendent's Report
Dr. Parker noted the following during the superintendent's report to the Board.

Dr. Parker announced the upcoming Spring Break April 3-10, and the recent push for the district's 60 day plan of purpose with 37 school days remaining as of March 24, until exams.

Dr. Parker mentioned the upcoming Coast Guard Marathon April 9-12, noting that several staff and students will participate in the 1K, 5K, and marathon. The elementary choir and Abel Sutton will perform during the Coast Guard Dinner to be held Saturday evening.

Dr. Parker shared graduation dates for the district include Early College May 21 at 7 pm at COA, Northeastern June 6 at 10 am at ECSU, and Pasquotank County High June 5 at 7 pm at ECSU.

Dr. Parker also mentioned the IB program and that Northeastern has been accepted for candidacy, Pasquotank County began a year ago, and the district is looking at recruiting rising 8th graders. ECPPS is one of only a few districts across the state to offer IB and is the only rural district with the program in both middle and high schools and has been recognized by DPI.

Dr. Parker concluded his report.

12. Student Board Members Report
Vice Chair Pureza introduced the Student Board Members.

Pasquotank County High School – Chaiyanne Barrett

Chaiyanne Barrett reported on senior cap and gown pictures, students declaring their "E", the school's focus on "staying ready so you don't have to be ready", spring sports, ACT, and course registration opening for next year.

Northeastern High School – Kathryn Hutto

Kathryn Hutto reported on registration, March Madness, ACT/Work keys tests, sports, a fashion show, and the upcoming Community Talent Show.

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 February 23, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes; Budget Amendments; the March Fundraiser Report; Purchasing Report; the Rental 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 Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by a show of hands by those present.

14. New Business

A. CES Mobile Unit

Candy Tilley presented a lease quote for a four-classroom mobile unit at Central Elementary School. A motion was made by Tommy Old to accept the CES Mobile Unit quote as presented, seconded by Angelique Boylan, and passed unanimously by those present.

B. Catwalk Update for Transportation Fuel Tanks

Candy Tilley presented a quote to replace a wooden catwalk with a steel one at the transportation department. Vice Chair Pureza made a motion to accept the the Catwalk Update for Transportation Fuel Tanks as presented, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

C. Activity Bus Lease Purchase

Amanda Hill requested approval to purchase three additional activity buses. Vice Chair Pureza made a motion to accept the Activity Bus Lease Purchase as presented, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

D. ECPEC Calendar 2026-2027

Sandy Kinzel presented two options for the 2026-2027 Early College calendar and recommended option 1. Tommy Old made a motion to accept option 1 of the ECPEC Calendar for 2026-207 as presented, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and was passed unanimously by those present.

E. Amend Contract for Hunley-Stukes Educational Consulting LLC

Rachael Haines requested to amend the contract for Hunley Stukes Educational Consulting LLC to increase the travel reimbursement cap. Valerie Bogues made a motion to approve the amendment to the contract for Hunley-Stukes Educational Consulting as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and was passed unanimously by those present.

F. Policy 3620 (Revision)

Rachael Haines presented revisions to Policy 3620 for a first read, clarifying athletic eligibility for sixth graders and homeschool students.

16. Adjournment

Vice Chair Pureza motioned to adjourn the March 23, 2026 meeting of the board, was seconded by Angelique Boylan, and passed unanimously by those present (Angelique Boylan, Tommy Old, and Dr. Shelia Williams were not present). Chair Cobb declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Chair Vice Chair Secretary