# MINUTES
# BOARD OF EDUCATION
# ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
# June 25, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, June 25, 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 Chair**
The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Angela Cobb.

**2. Closed Session**
A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, 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 5:01 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.

The following staff members were present: Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Zachary Robeson, School Board Attorney, and Rachael Haines. 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 6:11 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) | |

Others present were Zavhary Robeson, School Board Attorney, Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Rachael Haines, Meredith Collins, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, Amanada Hill, Wilma Jordan, Morgan Murray, Renee Tamarelli, Candy Tilley, Dr. Katina Waples, Simona White, Kim Whitehurst, and Terrie Wilson.

**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**
Chair Cobb presented a recommendation to amend the agenda by

- Adding Item M. IXL
- Switching the order of agenda items G and H.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Pureza to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Williams, and then passed unanimously by those present.

**10. Public Comment** (Citizen Comments to the Board)
No individuals signed up for public comment.

**11. Superintendent's Report**
Dr. Parker presented the Superintendent's Report and expressed appreciation to staff for their work in closing the 2025-2026 fiscal year and preparing for the implementation of the 2026-2027 budget.

Highlights included:

- Recognition of the Finance Department and Assistant Superintendent Candy Tilley for their extensive work during the year-end financial closeout.
- Appreciation for staff involved in summer instructional programs, including summer retesting, Summer Reading Camp, 21st Century program, CTE camps, and Spark Lab activities.
- Report that several hundred students participated in summer retesting opportunities, with additional voluntary testing offered through the final state testing window.
- Recognition of the collaborative efforts of transportation, nutrition, facilities, school administrators, and instructional staff in supporting summer programming.
- Dr. Parker shared optimism regarding student achievement growth during the 2025-2026 school year and noted that testing results would be shared publicly once state restrictions allow.
- Appreciation was expressed to all district employees for their continued commitment during the busy summer preparation period.

**Board Comments**
Board members shared positive feedback received from a recent community meeting at Grace and Truth Community Church, where local residents identified the school system as one of the

community's greatest strengths. Members expressed pride in the district's progress and recognized the leadership of district administration and staff.

**13. Approval of Consent Agenda**

The items listed on the consent agenda for approval include the May 26, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes; the Fundraiser Report; the Purchasing Report; the Rental Report; and the Superintendent's Recommendations for Personnel.

Chair Cobb requested approval to amend the Consent Agenda to reflect personnel report revisions approved during Closed Session. A motion to amend the consent agenda to include personnel report revisions approved in Closed Session was made by Vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Valerie Bogues and passed by a vote of 4 and 1 recusal by Vice Chair Pureza.

**15. Unfinished Business**

**Policy 8350 Fixed Assets Inventory Revision**

Racheal Haines presented a second read of Policy 8350 revisions increasing the inventory capitalization threshold from **$5,000 to $10,000** as previously presented during the May Board meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chair Pureza to approve the revisions to Policy 8350 as presented, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

**16. New Business**

**A. 2026-2027 Payroll Calendar**

Candy Tilley presented the proposed payroll calendar for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Dr. Shelia Williams made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Payroll Calendar as presented, Tommy Old seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by those present.

**B. End of Year Budget Resolution**

Candy Tilley presented the annual resolution authorizing the Superintendent to approve necessary budget amendments through June 30, 2026, with a report to the Board at the July meeting.

A motion to approve the End-of-Year Budget AMendment Resolution was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

**C. 2026-2027 Micro-Purchase Threshold Resolution**

Candy Tilley presented a resolution increasing the federal micro-purchase threshold from **$10,000 to $30,000**, aligning federal purchasing procedures with current North Carolina procurement guidelines.

A motion to approve the 2026-2027 Micro-Purchase Threshold Resolution as presented was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

**D. Budget Amendments**
Candy Tilley presented year-end budget amendments for all district funds, including:

- State Funds
- Local Funds
- Federal Funds
- Capital Funds
- Child Nutrition
- Local Special Revenue

The amendments reflected year-end adjustments, additional allotments received, and budget balancing through June 30, 2026.

Ms. Tilley also informed the Board that an additional federal allotment had been received immediately prior to the meeting and would instead be incorporated into the July budget process.

Tommy Old made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented, Dr. Shelia Williams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by those present.

**E. Insurance Renewals**
Candy Tilley presented the annual insurance renewals for:

- Workers' Compensation
- Cyber Liability
- Crime (Employee Dishonesty) Coverage

She reported an approximate **$134,000 reduction in premium costs**, attributable to lower workers' compensation claims and reduced payroll expenditures. The district's insurance carrier noted the reduction as one of the largest among its North Carolina school district clients.

A motion to approve the insurance renewals as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Valerie Bogues and passed unanimously by those present.

**F. 2026-27 Interim Budget Resolution**
Candy Tilley presented the Interim Budget Resolution, allowing district operations to continue beginning July 1, 2026, until the Board adopts the final operating budget for the new fiscal year.

A motion to approve the 2026-2027 Interim Budget Resolution was made by Vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by those present.

**Acknowledgements**

The Board expressed appreciation to Assistant Superintendent Candy Tilley, Meredith Collins, and the Finance Department for their dedication and extensive work during the fiscal year-end budget process.

**G. Former PES Facility Naming**

Dr. Parker presented the recommendation for the Facility Naming Committee regarding the renaming of the former Pasquotank Elementary School facility.

He explained that, in accordance with Board policy, the Board was being asked to name the facility rather than the individual programs housed within the building. The building will serve as the multi-use campus housing multiple district programs, including Micro School, Pre-K Program, Community Schools Resource Center, office space, and professional development areas.

Dr. Parker summarized the committee's work, noting that:

- Stakeholder input was collected from staff and individuals utilizing programs within the facility.
- The Facility Naming Committee narrowed the recommendations to two options.
- A survey of staff and families was conducted to determine community preference.
- The majority of respondents selected **Pasquotank Learning Campus (PLC)** over the alternative, **Pasquotank Campus for Learning and Leadership.**

Dr. Williams, Chair of the Facility Naming Committee, acknowledged committee members and stated that the committee intentionally incorporated community input into the recommendation.

A motion to rename the former Pasquotank Elementary School facility to **Pasquotank Learning Campus** was made by Vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

**Facility Update**

Following Board action, Dr. Parker provided an update on renovations at the newly named **Pasquotank Learning Campus.** He reported that renovations to the Pre-K wing remain on schedule for completion by **July 15, 2026**, with an open house planned for Board members, staff, and the community prior to the start of the school year.

Additional updates included:

- Installation of new exterior signage reflecting the facility's new name.
- Wayfinding signage to direct visitors to the various programs located on campus.
- Planned landscaping and site improvements.
- Anticipated opening of the renovated Pre-K facility for the 2026-2027 school year.

**H. 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Calendar**

Chair Cobb presented the proposed Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2026-2027 school year.

The schedule establishes regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., with the following exceptions:

- December 7, 2026 - Organizational Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- June 24, 2027 - Meeting scheduled on Thursday to accommodate fiscal year-end financial closeout.

The meeting schedule was amended to reflect the newly adopted facility name, **Pasquotank Learning Campus.**

A motion to approve the 2026-2027 Board of Education Meeting Schedule as amended was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

**I. Curriculum Quotes**

Renee Tamarelli, Director of Exceptional Children, presented two curriculum quotes for Board consideration:

- Comprehensive instructional resources for students following the Extended Content Standards curriculum (Kindergarten through Grade 12), including English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Social-Emotional Learning, and Individualized Education Program (IEP) goal resources.
- Supplemental instructional resources for students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study to support participation in general education classrooms.

A motion to approve the curriculum quotes as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by those present.

**J. EC Contract Services for 26-27 SY**

Renee Tamarelli presented contracts for Exceptional Children related services, including:

- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Physical Therapy (PT)
- Speech-Language Services
- Vision Services
- Orientation and Mobility Services

Administration reported that projected contract costs for the 2026-2027 school year have been reduced by approximately $1 million, primarily due to increased delivery of in-person speech services.

During discussion, Board members requested projected student participation. Administration reported approximately:

- 350 students receiving speech-language services;
- 75-100 students receiving occupational therapy; and

- Approximately 15 students receiving physical therapy.

A motion to approve the Exceptional Children contracts for the 2026-2027 school year was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed with a vote of 4 and 1 recusal by Vice Chair Pureza.

**K. CTE Local Application**

Morgan Murray presented the district's Career and Technical Education Local Plan and Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA), a required two-year planning document submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

She reviewed program strengths, including:

- Strong CTE graduation rates.
- Positive post-graduation outcomes for CTE concentrators.
- Student attainment of industry-recognized credentials exceeding state performance goals.

Areas identified for continued improvement include:

- Increasing awareness of CTE programs.
- Expanding work-based learning and internship opportunities.
- Increasing middle school CTE course offerings.
- Expanding Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) participation.
- Strengthening business and community partnerships.

Ms. Murray highlighted several initiatives planned for the 2026-2027 school year, including:

- Launch of new Middle School CTE Exploratory Academy to increase career awareness and exploration..
- Expansion of the Aviation Academy through implementation of a Drone Technology pathway, allowing students to earn FAA Trust and FAA Part 107 credentials.
- Continued collaboration with postsecondary institutions and local business partners to enhance internships, job shadowing, guest speakers, and work-based learning opportunities.

Ms. Murray thanked district staff, advisory members, and community partners for their participation in developing the plan.

A motion to approve the CTE Local Application as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously.

**L. Student Board Member Election**

Vice Chair Pureza reported that student board member interviews were conducted prior to the meeting and that recommendations were reviewed during Closed Session.

A motion to point the following Student Board Members for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Anylah Spencer - Northeastern High School
- Victoria Stafford - Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Early College
- Jayden Mendoza - Pasquotank County High School

was made by Vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden and passed unanimously by those present.

**M. IXL**

Heather Edmisten presented a proposal to expand implementation of the IXL learning platform districtwide for the 2026-2027 school year.

Administration reported that the platform has been successfully utilized in the district's secondary schools and was piloted in elementary schools during the 2025-2026 school year. Based on positive results, administration recommended adoption of the platform for all schools.

Highlights for the presentation included:

- Expansion of instructional support beyond reading and mathematics to include English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish.
- Integrated college and career readiness resources, including preparation for SAT, ACT, PSAT, ASVAB, WIDA ACCESS, and other assessments.
- Adaptive assessments providing real-time data to guide instructional decisions and targeted interventions.
- Personalized learning pathways that allow teachers to differentiate instruction according to individual student needs.
- Predictive assessment tools aligned to North Carolina academic standards.
- Professional development and ongoing instructional support for teachers.

Mrs. Edmisten also summarized the district's implementation process, including:

- Professional learning beginning in August 2025.
- Elementary pilot implementation.
- Ongoing teacher, student, and principal feedback.
- Classroom observations and data analysis throughout the school year.
- Review of year-end assessment data to evaluate effectiveness.

Survey results indicated strong support from teachers, students, and school administrators regarding the platform's instructional resources, ease of use, and alignment with state standards.

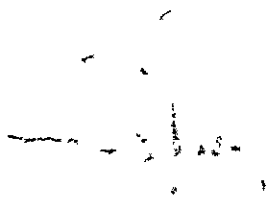
Administration further reported that the proposed three-year agreement would reduce overall costs compared to the district's previous instructional platform while providing expanded instructional resources, comprehensive K-12 alignment, professional development, and improved data reporting.

Board members discussed the anticipated daily use of the platform and its relationship to existing supplemental instructional resources. Administration clarified that the platform is intended to support targeted instruction and intervention rather than replace classroom instruction or eliminate other supplemental resources.

A motion to approve the three–year agreement for the IXL learning platform as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden and passed unanimously by those present.

**Board Recognition**
Prior to adjournment, Chair Cobb recognized Board Clerk, AMy Bundy for her outstanding service to the Board of Education. Chair Cobb expressed appreciation for Mrs. Bundy's professionalism, organization, attention to detail, and consistent support of Board operations, noting her significant contributions to the effectiveness of Board meetings and governance.

**17. Adjournment**
There being no further business to come before the Board, a motionto adjourn the June 25, 2026 meeting of the board was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams , and passed unanimously by those present.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Chair** **Secretary**