

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

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, July 27, 2026 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Pasquotank Learning Campus 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 5:04 p.m. by Chair Angela Cobb.

2. Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed 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: 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, Superintendent and Zachary Robeson, 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 6:06 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	

Others present were Zachary Robeson, School Board Attorney, Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Rachael Haines, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, Amanada Hill, Wilma Jordan, Tammy Rinehart, Renee Tamarelli, Candy Tilley, Simona White, 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

Vice Chair Pureza made a motion to amend and approve the agenda to:

- Add the Strategic Plan as Item A under New Business
- Add the Central Elementary School Modular Purchase as Item F
- Revise the order of the items under New Business accordingly.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Williams and passed unanimously by those present.

8. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)

No individuals signed up for public comment.

9. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker provided the following updates:

- The district was selected, along with other rural schools in districts in North Carolina and districts nationally, to participate in a three-year Aspen Institute grant focused on expanding access to advanced coursework and International Baccalaureate programming and supporting social and economic mobility.
- Eight international teachers are expected to join the district's Spanish Dual Language Immersion program. The district and community have assisted with housing, furnishings, and other onboarding needs.
- Teachers will return for an optional workday on August 11, 2026, with the first required workday and district convocation scheduled for August 12, 2026.
- Students will return for the first day of school beginning August 24, 2026, with the Early College beginning August 10, 2026.
- School open houses are scheduled for the week of August 17, 2026.
- The district's school supply lists and open-house information are available through district communication channels.
- New school and district administrators were welcomed. The district reported that administrative positions were fully staffed, and that teaching vacancies had been reduced to single digits, with recruitment continuing for remaining positions.
- Dr. Parker recognized district staff and community members for their work during the summer in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year.

10. Approval of Consent Agenda

The items listed on the consent agenda for approval include the June 25, 2026 Special Session Board Meeting Minutes; the June 25, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; the June Budget Amendment Clarification; the Fundraiser Report; the Rental Report; the 26-27 Fee Schedule; and the Superintendent's Recommendations for Personnel, including contracts for the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance.

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

11. Items for Information**School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Triennial Assessment**

Rachael Haines presented the annual update for the School Health Advisory Council and reviewed the district's triennial assessment of its student wellness policy.

The Board was informed that SHAC supports the planning, implementation, promotion, and monitoring of ECPPS Policy 6140, Student Wellness, and addresses health and nutrition needs throughout the district.

The Council met four times during the revitalization year and worked on the development and revision of 2025-2027 goals and strategies. Areas addressed include comprehensive school health, physical education, school health services, staff wellness, and family and community involvement.

Highlights included expanded elementary athletics, health screenings, telehealth services, farm-to-school initiatives, weekend food assistance, school food pantries, summer feeding programs, community partnerships, and expanded health and wellness opportunities.

Mrs. Haines also presented the required triennial wellness policy assessment, completed using the Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT). The assessment indicated strong alignment of district policies and practices with wellness objectives, while identifying a need to strengthen school-level coordination and leadership of wellness initiatives.

No Board action was requested.

12. New Business**A. Strategic Plan**

Dr. Parker introduced Dr. Andrea Thomas-Reynolds, a former superintendent and strategic-planning partner who assisted the district in updating and refining its strategic plan.

The Board reviewed the development of the district's strategic plan, including stakeholder engagement involving students, employees, administrators, parents, and community partners.

The plan retains the four strategic priorities adopted in 2023:

1. Reimagine Education
2. Talent Recruitment, Retention, and Development
3. Expanding Partnerships
4. Operational Excellence

The revised plan adds measurable benchmarks, targets, and indicators of success through 2031.

Key targets discussed include:

- A 10-percentage-point increase in reading proficiency
- A 10-percentage-point increase in mathematics proficiency
- A four-year graduation rate of at least 95%
- Average daily attendance of 95%
- Teacher retention and overall employee retention of at least 90%
- Filling 95% of school-based positions by the first day of school
- Retaining at least 85% of beginning teachers for three years
- Expanding the full-service community school model to all 12 schools
- Increasing family participation and access to community resources
- Completing at least 90% of preventive maintenance on schedule
- At least 95% of students and staff reporting that they feel safe at school
- Maintaining 99% technology-system uptime
- At least 90% of bus routes meeting the established on-time standard

The plan incorporates the North Carolina Portrait of a Graduate competencies, including adaptability, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, empathy, learner's mindset, and personal responsibility.

Dr. Parker reported that district staff are working toward development of a publicly accessible data dashboard to track progress toward the strategic-plan goals.

A motion to approve the Strategic Plan as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Angelique Boylan, and passed unanimously by those present.

B. Beginning Teacher Support Plan

Terrie Wilson presented updates to the district's state-required Beginning Teacher Support Plan. The revisions were made to align the written plan with current North Carolina State Board policy and guidance.

The revisions include:

- Clarification that teachers with fewer than three years of experience participate in the Beginning Teacher Support Program regardless of licensure type or pathway.

- Addition of requirements concerning the annual State of the Teaching Profession report and the associated recent graduate survey administered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.
- Minor grammatical and formatting revisions.

A motion to approve the Beginning Teacher Support Plan as presented was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

C. Bid Renewals SY 26/27

Tammy Rinehart requested approval to renew contracts for the 2026-2027 school year, including:

- Grocery products, supplies, and produce through the Northeastern Cooperative arrangement.
- Milk services through Mayola Milk.

The Board was informed that these were third-year renewals.

Motion to approve the bid renewals as presented was made by Vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

D. EC Contracts

Renee Tamarelli presented four Exceptional Children contracts for the upcoming school year:

- A personal care assistant for a student requiring one-on-one support.
- Nursing services for a student returning from homebound services.
- Speech therapy services to fill the district's final speech-therapy vacancy and provide in-person services.
- Teacher-assistant staffing support for vulnerable self-contained classrooms in the event vacant positions cannot be filled before the start of school.

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

E. Modular Demo

Wilma Jordan requested approval to proceed with the demolition of approximately 24 modular units located throughout the district. Quotes for the project were included in Board materials.

A motion to approve the modular demolition as presented was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

F. CES Modular Purchase

Ms. Jordan requested approval to change vendors and enter into a three-year agreement with Mobile Modular for a classroom unit at Central Elementary School. The Board was advised that the proposed cost was significantly lower than the previous quote.

A motion to approve the CES modular purchase was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Angelique Boylan, and passed unanimously by those present.

G. Hood Suppression System Repair

Ms. Jordan presented a plan to address the cafeteria hood suppression systems and obtain required certifications. Initial priority locations identified were:

- River Road Middle School
- Weeksville Elementary School
- Pasquotank Elementary School/Pasquotank Learning Campus

The work is intended to ensure safe and certified operation of the affected kitchen facilities.

A motion to approve the hood suppression system repairs as presented was made by Vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

H. Change Order - PCHS Track Resurfacing

Ms. Jordan reported that, during track resurfacing work at Pasquotank County High School, the high-jump area was determined to require replacement rather than repair. The proposed change order totaled approximately \$15,000 and would be funded from the existing project balance.

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

I. PCHS Painting

Ms. Jordan presented quotes and requested approval to proceed with painting Pasquotank County High School. The facility was identified as approximately 26 years old and had not previously undergone a comprehensive painting project.

A motion to approve the painting contract as presented was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Tommy Old, and passed unanimously by those present.

J. SHES Chiller

Ms. Jordan reported that the chiller serving Sheep-Harney Elementary School was failing. The existing unit is approximately 24 years old and uses old refrigerant. A new chiller was identified as a more cost-effective option than repairing the existing unit.

The proposed replacement is a new, not refurbished, unit that is available for installation prior to the beginning of the school year.

A motion to approve the chiller purchase as presented was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Valerie Bogues, and passed unanimously by those present.

K. Quotes for Radios

Amanda Hill presented the results of a summer evaluation for radio systems and recommended transitioning from the district's existing bus-repeater system to cellular-based radio technology.

The proposed system would replace radios on school buses and handheld units throughout the district and include additional units and the first year of cellular service. The purchase price presented was \$180,836.90 plus applicable tax, with cellular service recurring annually thereafter.

The new system would also provide radio communication capability for activity buses.

A motion to approve the radio quotes as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

L. Scanning Document Project

Heather Edmisten presented a request to digitize inactive student educational records in accordance with North Carolina Record-retention requirements.

The project would preserve historical records, improve accessibility, reduce the risk of deterioration or loss, and strengthen records-management practices and confidentiality protections.

The district proposed contracting with SC View to scan, index, secure, and maintain the records. The project would begin at Pasquotank Elementary School, now known as Pasquotank Learning Campus, and expand to other district locations, including Central Office.

A motion to approve the document scanning project as presented was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Tommy Old, and passed unanimously by those present.

M. Hunley-Stukes Consulting

Ms. Haines requested approval to continue consulting services with Dr. Stukes from August through June. The work will provide intensive support and leadership coaching for the district's new middle-school principals in aligning policies, practices, and procedures between the district's middle schools.

A motion to approve the Hunley-Stukes Consulting contract as presented was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Tommy Old and passed unanimously by those present.

N. Spring Policy Updates

Ms. Haines presented spring policy updates for first reading. The proposed revisions address various legal, procedural, and cross-reference updates, including policies concerning:

- Parental Involvement
- School safety
- Board meeting agendas
- Technology responsible use
- School improvement plans
- Wireless communication devices
- Student searches
- Electronically stored information retention
- School nutrition services
- Licensure
- Title I
- Equal education opportunities
- Military Leave

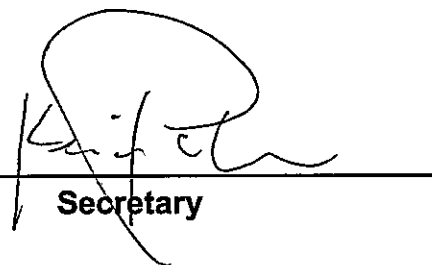
The Board was advised that several revisions update legal references, cross-references, terminology, or statutory requirements.

No action was taken. The policies were presented for first reading only and are scheduled for Board action at the August 2026 meeting.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the July 27, 2026 meeting of the board was made by Angelique Boylan, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Chair
Secretary