

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
September 28, 2026 Regular Meeting**

The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education met in closed session on Monday, September 28, 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 4:59 p.m. by Chair Angela Cobb.

2. Closed Session

A motion was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Tommy Old, 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 5:00 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, Superintendent and John Leidy, 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 6:04 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)	

Student Board Members in attendance were Jayden Mendoza, Anylah Spencer, and Victoria Stafford.

Others present were John Leidy, School Board Attorney, Dr. Keith Parker, Superintendent, Rachael Haines, Kelly Cowell, Heather Edmisten, Nina Griffin, 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

A motion to amend and approve the agenda to add Item D. HVAC for P.W. Moore Gym and Item E. Needs Based Capital Grant was made by vice Chair Pureza, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by those present.

8. Recognitions

Terrie Wilson coordinated the recognitions.

Tobacco Trust Fund Commission

Morgan Murray recognized the Pasquotank County High School agriculture department, led by Madison Forehand, for a \$15,000 Tobacco Trust Fund Commission grant to restore and renovate its greenhouse. The program was one of 23 schools selected statewide.

EC Educator of Excellence

Renee Tamarelli recognized Stephan Bill as the Exceptional Children Educator of Excellence for his instruction, advocacy, collaboration, and support of students. State-level recognition was planned for the November Exceptional Children conference.

School Nutrition Awards & Scholarships

Tammy Rinehart recognized school nutrition staff: Crystal Turner, a \$2,500 School Nutrition Association Foundation scholarship; NaTasha Bryant, a \$500 scholarship toward her associate degree; Amber Weatherly, a \$500 Award of Excellence from AccuTemp to attend the national school nutrition conference; and Lacey Stauffer, a \$500 Award of Distinction to attend the school nutrition conference in Greensboro.

NERESA Science Specialist Cohort at ECU

Terrie Wilson recognized two fifth-grade teachers selected for East Carolina University's two-year science specialist certificate cohort: Leah Maclin from Northside Elementary and Samantha Foster of Weeksville Elementary.

School Grades

School leaders received banners recognizing academic progress at Central Elementary, Elizabeth City Middle, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Early College, H.L. Trigg Community School, Ignite Academy, J.C. Sawyer Elementary, Northeastern High, Pasquotank County High, P.W. Moore Elementary, River Road Middle, Sheep-Harney Elementary, and Weeksville Elementary. The Pasquotank Early Childhood Center was recognized for the successful start in its new facility. Jennifer Lee was recognized as Principal of the Year. Dr. Parker commended principals, staff, and district leaders for their contributions to school improvement.

9. Public Comment (Citizen Comments to the Board)

No individuals signed up for public comment.

10. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Parker reported that the district was selected as one of 25 districts nationwide for the Aspen Institute and College Board Social Mobility Network. The three-year, grant-funded initiative will support expanded access to and successful participation in advanced coursework, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and dual enrollment.

Dr. Parker reported submission for the district's 60-second entry in the North Carolina School Boards Association video contest, themed "What Makes Public Schools Super." Northeastern High School students assisted with the production, and the video was shown to the Board.

11. Student Board Members' Report

Vice Chair Pureza facilitated the student reports.

Anylah Spencer reported positive student survey feedback on school spirit, the welcoming environment, teacher support, and athletics at Northeastern.

Victoria Stafford reported on Early College student-led conferences, orchestra participation, SAVE club activities, recognition of the school's A performance grade and Principal of the Year, student representation in College of The Albemarle student government, an upcoming health sciences building tour, Flex Friday academic support, a Salvation Army food drive, and after-school volunteer service.

Jayden Mendoza reported on student engagement, interest in college and internships, a successful blood drive, improvements in behavior, grades, and attendance associated with the Transcend initiative, and athletics at Pasquotank County High School.

12. Approval of Consent Agenda

The items listed on the consent agenda for approval include the August 17, 2026 Special session and August 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; a BT Plan Technical Correction; Budget Amendments; 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 Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed with a positive vote of 4 and 1 recusal by Dr. Williams.

13. Items for Information

Local Testing Report Survey

Nina Griffin presented the local standardized testing report for information. She described the biennial review of assessment volume, testing time, formats, grade levels, and subjects, purposes, use of results, and reporting timelines. Ms. Griffin reported that district procedures had reduced the number and duration of standardized assessments and the assessment requirements remained below the state average. No action was requested or taken.

14. New Business

A. School Improvement Plans

Simona White presented the annual school improvement plans. District priorities included strong core and Tier 1 instruction, data-informed tiered instruction, alignment of resources, family engagement, academic proficiency, college and career readiness, school climate, personalized learning, professional development, and ongoing progress monitoring. She also described instructional support from MCLs and attention to indicators A4.01 and D1.02.

A motion to approve the school improvement plans for all schools as presented was made by Dr. Shelia Williams, seconded by Valerie Bagues and passed unanimously by those present.

B. Recommendation for Device Refresh

Heather Edmisten presented the device refresh recommendation following approximately 18 months of planning, stakeholder feedback, and financial analysis. The recommended option provides MacBook Air laptops for staff, iPads for instructional staff, and iPads with protective cases and keyboards for students. Elementary and middle school devices will be stored and charged in classroom carts; the high school one-to-one program will continue.

The plan establishes a four-year refresh cycle and uses proceeds from resale of collected devices toward replacement costs. Staff device exchanges are planned before winter break. Student refreshes are planned for high schools beginning in 2027, middle schools the following year, and elementary schools the third year. Staff refreshes would recur in 2030. Current student devices will be maintained during the transition.

In response to Board questions, staff described ongoing training through Apple Professional Learning, media coordinators, instructional technology specialists, and online resources. An information session is planned for the October 12 Ignite professional learning day. Preparatory steps include Apple Teacher training and transferring staff documents to cloud storage before the December exchange.

A motion to approve the device refresh recommendation was presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Sharon Warden, and passed unanimously by those present.

C. CES Lift Station

Wilma Jordan requested approval to renovate the Central Elementary lift station and add a connection to serve the mobile classroom planned for installation later in the year. Cost information was included in the Board packet.

A motion to approve the Central Elementary School lift station repair quote as presented was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by those present.

D. HVAC for P.W. Moore Gym

Wilma Jordan presented the proposed installation of air conditioning in the P.W. Moore Elementary School gym. The bid tabulation and installation cost were included in the Board packet.

A motion to approve the HVAC system for the P.W. Moore gym as presented was made by Valerie Bogues, seconded by Dr. Shelia Williams, and passed unanimously by those present.

E. Needs Based Capital Grant

Dr. Parker requested authorization to submit a Needs Based Public School Capital Fund grant application for up to \$62 million. He reported that prior applications since 2022 sought renovation of Northeastern High School and had been unsuccessful. A land-use study and facility condition assessment supported revising the application to propose new construction on the Northeastern property for a grades 6-12 school incorporation River Road Middle School.

Dr. Parker explained that major mechanical and electrical renovations would consume much of the potential grant and that current enrollment was substantially below Northeastern's former capacity. He reported consultation with the architectural firm, school administrators, staff at both schools, parents, and the public. A grant decision was anticipated for November.

The requested authorization was limited to submitting the application. Approval of a new school or consolidation would require separate future Board action if funding were awarded.

A motion to support submission of the grant application as described by Dr. Parker was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

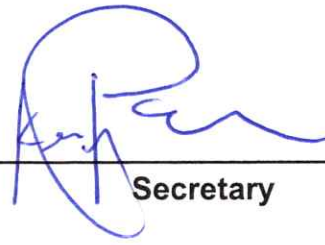
14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the September 28, 2026 meeting of the Board was made by Tommy Old, seconded by Vice Chair Pureza, and passed unanimously by those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



Vice Chair



Secretary