HALIFAX COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
10/05/2026 - 05:00 PM
Central Office
9525 Hwy 301
Halifax, NC 27839

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members
Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, Board Chair
Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr, Board Member
Ms. Elizabeth Silver, Board Member
Mrs. Terri Silver, Board Member
Ms. Barbara Wilkins, Vice Chair
Mr. Curtis Young, Board Member

Non-Voting Members
Dr. Eric Cunningham, Superintendent

III. Opening Ceremonies - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Open session at 6:30 pm.

a. Welcome

b. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

c. Mission Statement & Goals

d. Public Comment

None

e. Conflict of Interest Statement

None

IV. Consent Agenda - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the consent agenda and was seconded by Ms. E. Silver, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Ms. Elizabeth Silver

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

a. Approval of Minutes - Open Minutes

V. Personnel

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the personnel package as discussed in closed session and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins,Sr., all-in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VI. Action Items

a. Resolution to Dispose of "Old Inborden" Property (432 Hannon Street) - Poyner Spruill

Ms. E. Silver motioned to accept the Resolution to Dispose Old inborden Property (432 Hannon Street) and was seconded by Ms. Wilkins, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Elizabeth Silver

Motion seconded by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

b. Resolution to Dispose of McIver Elementary School (1064 Bacon Road) - Poyner Spruill

Ms. E. Silver motioned to accept the Resolution to Dispose McIver Elementary School (1064 Bacon Road) and was seconded by Ms. Wilkins, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Elizabeth Silver

Motion seconded by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

c. Issue RFQ for External Comprehensive Compliance Audit- Poyner Spruill

Mrs. T. Silver motioned to approve the Issuing of a RFQ for External Comprehensive Compliance Audit and was seconded by Ms. Wilkins, 5 to 1. Mr. Hawkins, Sr. opposed.

Mr. Hawkins, Sr. - I still feel the same, that our 10 years of certified audits are just fine. I don't believe we need an individual audit.

Motion made by: Mrs. Terri Silver
Motion seconded by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

> ***Voting results:***
> Yes: Mr. Charles Hedgepeth
> No: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr
> Yes: Ms. Elizabeth Silver
> Yes: Mrs. Terri Silver
> Yes: Ms. Barbara Wilkins
> Yes: Mr. Curtis Young

d. Halifax Summer Policy Updates - Ms. Carolyn Hawkins

Mrs. T. Silver motioned to table the summer policies until the November meeting and was seconded by Mr. Young, all in favor.

Motion made by: Mrs. Terri Silver
Motion seconded by: Mr. Curtis Young

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

e. Low Performing District and School Plans - Dr. Tyrana Battle

Mrs. T. Silver - 7 schools that are low-performing. How long have we been low-performing?
Dr. Battle - 10 schools met growth but are still deemed low-performing by the state. We focus on the growth piece. Our schools are moving.
Mrs. T. Silver - Were we low-performing back then?
Dr. Cunningham - We were off the low-performing list until COVID. We climbed from 15% up to 40% as of today. COVID-19 hurt us.
Mr. Hawkins, Sr. - The state regulations apply across the entire state. You ask the children to do it, but you still give them a failing grade.
Dr. Battle - Performance and growth, yes.
Mr. Hawkins, Sr. - Please explain the difference between the schools in Halifax.
Dr. Battle - Roanoke Rapids has 4 schools and must have 2 schools, while we have 11. We would need to have 6.
Ms. Wilkins - Who is on the committee to develop the plans?
Dr. Battle - The requirement is comprehensive. We have monthly meetings with the principals and use the NCSTAR comprehensive school plan.
Mr. Hedgepeth - Do you still have to send a plan in for Hollister and Pittman?
Dr. Battle - No, Eastman took the code for Hollister.
Mr. Hedgepeth - Do we have 10 or 11 schools?

Dr. Battle - 10 schools.
Mr. Hedgepeth - When you do the low-performance plan, I thought you had to go out to the stakeholders.
Dr. Battle - No, you don't.

Mr. Hawkins, Sr. motioned to accept the Low-Performing District and School Plans and was seconded by Mr. Young, all in favor.

Motion made by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr
Motion seconded by: Mr. Curtis Young

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

f. Technology Contract - Dr. Sonya Parker

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the Technology contracts and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, Sr., all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins
Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

g. Student Services MOU - Mrs. Princess White

Mrs. T. Silver motioned to accept the Rural Health MOU and was seconded by Mr. Young, all in favor.

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the Insight contract and was seconded by Mr. M. Hawkins, Sr., all in favor.

All contracts are pending legal review.

Motion made by: Mrs. Terri Silver
Motion seconded by: Mr. Curtis Young

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

h. Whole Child MOU and MOA's - Mrs. Annette Kent

Ms. Wilkins - What do day treatment services include?
Mrs. Kent - Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavior support.
Ms. Wilkins - When students receive day treatment services, how does that impact their school day?
Mrs. Kent - Core subject instruction time is not interrupted.

Mr. Hawkins, Sr. - Does student eligibility come from the principal?
Mrs. Kent - It is an intake process that the company uses.
Mr. Young - Is it provided beyond the school day?
Mrs. Kent - No, only during the school day.
Ms. Wilkins - Are they on the school campus?
Mrs. Kent - Yes, at the school.
Mr. Young - Are other districts using them?
Mrs. Kent - Yes.
Ms. Wilkins - Is it for high schools?
Mrs. Kent - We are looking at elementary schools right now. We are also looking at others who qualify.

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the Whole Child MOU and MOA contracts and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, Sr., all in favor.

All contracts are pending legal review.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins
Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

i. Communities in Schools MOA - Dr. LaVonne McClain

Ms. Wilkins - I see it is for NW. What about SE?
Dr. McClain - NW is the only one for this program.

Mr. Young motioned to accept the Communities in Schools MOA and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, Sr. all in favor.

Motion made by: Mr. Curtis Young
Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

j. Out of State Trip - Dr. LaVonne McClain and Dr. Tevis Harris

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the Out-of-State Trip and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, Sr., all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins
Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

k. New Dietitian Contract - Ms. Sydra Todd

Mrs. T. Silver- What will she do that you can't do?
Ms. Todd - Looking at our menus and meeting the required standards for Haliwa Saponi and Meals on Wheels. I am not a dietitan.
Ms. E. Silver - Are they covering any of the cost?
Ms. Todd - No.
Mr. Hawkins, Sr. - Is this based on the upside triangle?
Ms. Todd - It is based on the current model that we have.

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the New Dietitian contract and was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, Sr., all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins
Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

> ***Voting results:*** Unanimously Approved

VII. Information

a. Instructional and Operational Highlights - Ms. Mahalia Carey

b. Board Committee Assignments - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Board Committe Assignments:

Building and Grounds - Mr. Hawkins, Sr. and Mr. Hedgepeth
Policy - Ms. Hawkins and Ms. E. Silver
Finance - Mrs. Teri Silver and Mr. Hedgepeth
Curriculum - Ms. Wilkins and Mr. Young

c. Budget Report , Update on Taxes, and Supplements - Mr. Dwight Thompson

d. Update on Biweekly Payroll Study - Mr. Dwight Thompson

Mr. Hawkins, Sr - What percentage of participation are we looking for to make this decision?
Mr. Thompson - We are trying to get as much participation as possible.
Mr. Hawkins - What if we don't get 50%?
Mr. Thompson - The goal is to get as much participation as possible and provide the feedback to the board.
Grace - State-allocated employees may not be able to do this. It may be different for

classified employees.
Mrs. T. Silver - What is the reason for so many questions? The goal is to see whether they want to get paid once a month or twice a month. Number 10 is none of our business. I don't understand the reason for 12 questions.
Mr. Thompson - We need to break it down by criteria. Everyone is different: hourly, salaried, etc. I believe people were concerned with how much they received in their paycheck.
Mrs. T. Silver - I don't see why all of these questions are necessary. Everyone is busy. It seems redundant. Questions 1-3 cover the issue.
Ms. Wilkins - He is asking questions to get a sense of how everyone feels. The more information you get, the better you can see what people want and make the best decision. I don't see any mind games.
Mrs. T. Silver - What are we looking for?
Mr. Thompson - To ask who wants what, you are assuming that everyone understands what will happen. We collect the information and give it to you. Our job is to gather the information and analyze the data.
Ms. E. Silver - Would it be possible to have a reflection section before the questions? We are not going to do anything with that information.
Mr. Thompson - It is not biased. The goal is to get as much information as possible. If the data comes back and is not useful, then you set it aside.
Grace - Certified versus classified employees; the law says that certified employees must be paid once a month.
Mr. Hedgepeth - Send it to classified employees only.
Mr. Thompson - And non-certified employees.
Mr. Hawkins, Sr - If we get the information back, how will that affect the finance office having to process two payrolls?
Mr. Thompson - It will have an impact. Your paycheck will be smaller, and there may be more errors. We would need one person dedicated to handling this job.
Mr. Hedgepeth - Send it to non-certified staff.

e. Bullying in Schools - Mrs. Terri Silver (added item)

Mrs. T. Silver - I received a lot of calls about bullying. I think we need to come up with a plan. A child spit on another student, and the teacher didn't do anything. There have been fights on the playground. The parent called the principal 29 times and did not receive a call back until she made a Facebook post. We need to do something to prevent bullying. Is there any plan to combat this?
Dr. Cunningham - We haven't been able to focus on the schools until now.
Mr. Hedgepeth - I was at Eastman on the first day. I didn't see the problems then, but now I am getting calls about bullying, and not just at that school.

Dr. Cunningham - We are going to lock it down. Parents, if you are allowing your children to bully others, you are on our radar. You will see some serious sanctions put in place.
Dr. Battle - We conducted a SWOT analysis of Eastman today.
Dr. Cunningham - Our kids are cursing too much. We are going into homes now. Schools are a reflection of what is happening in homes and communities. People are going to call the board when we start suspending students because safety comes first. I am asking the board for unanimous support. Safety has to be our number one priority. October is our focus right now. I will be at Eastman. They are picking the children up an hour earlier. We will be firm, fair, and consistent.
Mrs. T. Silver - We may need to have a community meeting with the parents.
Dr. Cunningham - I want unity. I will go out and meet with the community. We will make plans in October and November. Our biggest issue right now is Eastman.
Mr. Hawkins, Sr - I witnessed and heard about a child at a neighboring school who said she was being bullied. The parent lashed out and said they were going to shoot up the school. Have we had those types of threats?
Dr. Cunningham - No, we haven't, and we take that very seriously.
Mr. Hedgepeth - Why can't you set up the meeting next week?
Dr. Cunningham - Let me get my data together. It will be held during the month of October. I am asking the board to support this.
Ms. Wilkins - Is conflict resolution part of professional development?
Dr. Cunningham - We are asking school counselors to provide this support.

f. Articles for Board Members & Superintendent's Comments

g. Board Comments - Board Members

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjourn

Ms. Wilkins motioned to adjourn at 8:55pm and seconded by Ms.E. Silver all in favor.