

Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Town Council Chambers
504 S. Broad St.
Edenton, NC 27932

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Town Council Chambers. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Vice-Chair Ricky Browder, Sherronne Battle, Paul Clifton, George Lewis, Lisa Perry, Joan White, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

A motion was made by Ms. Perry at 6:00 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter and a personnel matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (1) and 143-318.11 (a) (6). A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 6:30 p.m.

Others attending the meeting were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Directors representing Central Services; Community Members; Board Attorney Hack High and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

Mr. Browder gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from D. F. Walker Elementary School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the agenda as amended to include an overnight field trip request for the John A. Holmes High School History Team and a Personnel Addendum. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Student Board Member Report - Ms. Ambrosio-Reyes and Ms. Armstead presented their student board member report.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Sasscer presented his monthly report including the following items:

Edenton-Chowan Schools was recently awarded a \$62,000 grant to offer a robotics program to our students. Thanks to Mr. Kerry Mebane and our cohort of Digital Innovators for writing this grant. The grant will allow us to expand options for students to explore interests and passions in STEM related fields.

The Board of Education and faculty at each school have been discussing how our children's behavioral, emotional, social, mental, and physical readiness impacts our schools and community. More students continue to be challenged to be ready for a day of learning when they arrive at school. Join us May 6th from 5-7pm at Edenton United Methodist Church to help spark change in our community.

Dr. Sasscer was recently invited by Participate Learning to present the framework we have developed through our partnership, along with Calm Minds Kind Hearts, to their senior executives. When students are able to pause and survey their internal thinking and feelings, they learn to pay attention to how they react to their environment. Equipped with this knowledge, students move from reacting with impulsivity to responding with intentionality. This self-improvement allows for healthier connectivity with the people around them. Stronger bonds build respect and lead the way to enhanced productivity in a diverse community. Community synergy empowers action on local, regional, national and global issues. And when those issues press down upon a community or individual, those stressors are met with resilience. We are proud to afford our students access to this framework and the skills (i.e., adaptability, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, empathy, learner's mindset, and personal responsibility) that align with the NC Portrait of a Graduate that they will develop from the experiences embedded in the framework.

Student Highlights - Ms. Angie Walston, Principal of D.F. Walker Elementary School, and students from D. F. Walker Elementary School shared some highlights from their recent Odyssey of the Mind competition.

There was no public board dialogue.

REPORT:

Budget Committee Reports - Board members gave an update on the recent Budget Committee meetings that were held in March.

School Safety Measures - Chairman Jordan led the Board in a discussion regarding school safety measures. Mr. Jordan appointed a committee of Mr. Browder, Mr. Clifton, and Mr. Lewis to discuss school safety measures with the sheriff's department.

CONSIDER

Technology Renovation Change Order - Dr. Sasscer presented a change order for the Technology Center that was needed for the water and sewer line. A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the change order as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

E-Rate Network Upgrade Project for Chowan Middle School - Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, presented an E-Rate Network upgrade proposal to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the proposal as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioning Services - Dr. Sasscer presented a proposal from Five 9s Company for commissioning services for the John A. Holmes High School construction project. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the proposal as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions - Dr. Sasscer presented the following Board Policy revisions for a first reading:

Policy Code: 4300 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

Policy Code: 4315 CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY

Policy Code: 5305 LICENSURE

Policy Code: 5135 STAFF - STUDENT RELATIONS

Policy Code: 4360 CHILD ABUSE AND RELATED THREATS TO CHILD SAFETY

Policy Code: 3605 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Policy Code: 1130 BOARD MEMBER TECHNOLOGY USE

Policy Code: 5323 USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT SCHOOL BUSINESS

New Board of Education Policy - Dr. Sasscer presented the following new Board Policy for a first reading:

CONSENT AGENDA

After some discussion, the Chowan Middle School Washington, DC trip was removed from the consent agenda. A motion was made by Ms. Battle to approve the following items on the consent agenda, to include a personnel addendum. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- March 5, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- April 16, 2024 Personnel Report
- April 16, 2024 Personnel Addendum

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - March 2024

4 - Administrative Contracts

4 - Overnight Field Trip Requests

- DFW Odyssey of the Mind
- JAH - Aces Volleyball
- JAH State National History Competition

Board Member Remarks/Comments:

- Mr. Lewis shared a book suggestion "Family Unfriendly" with the Board
- Mr. Browder shared that a Board Member in a neighboring district recently passed away

A motion was made by Ms. White at 8:05 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter and a personnel matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (1) and 143-318.11 (a) (6). A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 9:19 p.m.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Clifton to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary