

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Technology Center
800 N. Oakum Street
Edenton, NC 27932

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Technology Center. 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.

Others attending the meeting were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Directors representing Central Services; Board Attorney Hack High; Student Board Member Damaris Ambrosio-Reyes; Community Members; Deputy Jerry Bond; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Jordan gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from White Oak Elementary School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the agenda as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ambrosio-Reyes presented her monthly Student Board Member Report.

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

In March, Congressman Don Davis visited with students at John A. Holmes High School. The two most powerful moments of his conversations with staff and students

were, first, when he asked Mrs. O'Kelley what keeps her going and she looked and pointed to her students and, second, his conversation with a senior. He asked a senior what she wanted him to help her achieve and she talked about bringing closure to the chaos in our community. She advocated for our younger children who are influenced by violence and who may not know an alternative. She shared how she values the measures taken by schools to keep students safe; yet, she would prefer to enjoy learning and public spaces without worry.

Our schools continue to lead the way with how we address the social and emotional needs of our students and staff. Last Thursday, we hosted the first statewide SEL Showcase at White Oak School, as well as a SEL Lunch & Learn with kindergarten families. Participants from NCDPI, RTI International, UNC-Greensboro SERVE Center, Calm Minds Kind Hearts, Participate Learning, Smart Start, the Board of Education, the Chamber of Commerce, and school systems across the state heard our story and discovered firsthand the tremendous impact our well-being program is having on our schools. I was so proud of our student ambassadors for leading our guests to breakout rooms across the school and for sharing a little about their story. Student and staff testimonials highlighted how mindful strategies are making a profound difference in their lives. As we continue to focus on the whole child, we are increasing each student's access to learning and eliminating opportunity gaps.

Congratulations to the Problem 1 Team of D.F. Walker Elementary School for earning 2nd place at the State Odyssey of the Mind competition. This achievement has earned them a spot in the World Finals at Michigan State University on May 24-27. We had four teams representing D.F. Walker, Chowan Middle and John A. Holmes High School. I am so proud of each team's creativity and how they represented our school system at the state competition. This has truly been a transforming experience for our students!

Finally, we took another step forward in transitioning John A. Holmes High School to its temporary home at the former D.F. Walker School. Families chose between three separate open house opportunities to hear an overview from Ms. Rinehart of what is to come and tour the facility. Families were complimentary of the new space and appreciative of the investment the Board and Commissioners have made to maintain a school atmosphere. Ms. Rinehart gave families the opportunity to collaborate with us on the daily operations by writing questions, comments or concerns on a notecard. This week we will meet to review those cards and continue our planning for how to safely and smoothly operate next school year.

The Board recognized students from White Oak Elementary School who recently spoke at the SEL Showcase.

Chairman Jordan recognized former board member Maxine Mason for her years of dedicated service to the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education.

There was no public board dialogue.

REPORT:

Insurance Update - Mr. Kurt Fickling, Firm Consulting, gave an overview of the district's insurance services and answered questions from Board Members.

John A. Holmes High School Project Update - Mr. Bill Cram and Ms. Maggie Dittmar, M. B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc, gave the Board an update on the high school construction project and anticipated timeline, and answered questions from Board Members.

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

Cybersecurity - Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, gave the Board a cybersecurity update and discussed the progress and next steps for the district.

CONSIDER:

2023-2024 Frozen/Optional Teacher Workdays - Dr. Sasscer presented the 2023-2024 Frozen/Optional Teacher Workdays for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the 2023-2024 Frozen/Optional Teacher Workdays as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

Occupational Therapy Contract - Ms. Lori Heginbotham, Director of Exceptional Children, presented an Occupation Therapy Contract between Edenton-Chowan Schools and Cathy Hoggard for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Odyssey of the Mind Fundraiser - Mr. Josh Davenport, Director of Career and Technical Education, gave the Board an update on recent Odyssey of the Mind activities. Mr. Davenport requested the Board to consider allowing D. F. Walker Elementary School to

conduct fundraisers to offset the expenses of the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition that will be held in Michigan in May. A motion was made by Ms. Battle to approve allowing D. F. Walker Elementary School to conduct fundraisers to offset the expenses of the Odyssey of the Mind World Competition. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

House Bill 219 Charter School Omnibus Resolution - Dr. Sasscer presented a resolution entitled "House Bill 219 Charter School Omnibus" for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. Battle to approve the resolution as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the following items on the consent agenda. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- March 7, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- April 4, 2023 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - March 2023

4 - UNC-W Athletic Trainer MOA

5 - Administrative Contracts

There were no additional board member remarks/comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis at 9:07 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter and a confidential matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (6) and 143-318.11 (a) (1). A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 9:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Clifton to approve the April 4, 2023 Student Transfer Report as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the April 4, 2023 Personnel Addendum as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Browder to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary