

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
6:30 p.m.

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

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Technology Center. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Vice-Chair Jean Bunch, Ricky Browder, Gil Burroughs, Paul Clifton, Maxine Mason, Joan White and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer.

Others attending were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Directors representing Central Services; Board Attorney Will Crowe; Deputy Holly Pierce; Community Members; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Ms. Mason gave the invocation.

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

Students from Ms. Amy Sasscer's class demonstrated an instructional activity for Board Members.

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

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

This week we celebrate National Assistant Principals' Week! Ms. Sonya Rinehart, Mr. Grantley Mizelle, Ms. Brenda Pate, and Ms. Trisha Walton are truly unsung heroes!

This week, we place the spotlight on them to offer our gratitude and appreciation for their spectacular service to our schools!

In March, we had two student groups travel overnight to compete in state competitions. On March 9-12th, students from John A. Holmes High School traveled to Greensboro to participate in the Future Health Professionals (HOSA) competition. Dr. Sasscer did approve an extra night on their stay so the team could participate in the awards ceremony. Out of seven events, JAHHS placed in the top 10 in three of them, with 8 out of 12 students being honored with the chance to hear their name called and walk across the stage. In Nursing Assisting, both Olivia Hare (3rd place) and Jamya Parks (2nd place) qualified for the HOSA International Leadership conference in June in Nashville, TN. On April 2nd, teams from D.F. Walker and Chowan Middle School participated in the Odyssey of the Mind State competition in Cullowhee, NC. Dr. Sasscer approved this overnight trip request in between board meetings. Though none of our teams qualified for "Worlds" in Iowa, our students performed exceptionally well. We are so proud of their creativity, confidence, and excitement to put on display their talent in front of a new audience. Their hard work and commitment to excellence is to be commended and I know the future is bright for these Omers!

Our school system recently hosted the regional Battle of the Books middle school competition led by Mr. Kerry Mebane. It was exhilarating to watch our students share their knowledge of the books they read and their passion for the stories that capture their minds. Our Bulldogs finished in third place out of six teams. Though they will not compete at the state level, we are extremely proud of their performance. Finally, Mr. Dockey and Chowan Middle School hosted a Virtual Concert. This performance demonstrates how the pandemic continues to push us to innovate. It was a spectacular approach to teaching, learning, and performing!

This month, we have planned to host several important communication events about the high school project. First, Mr. Kevin Howard and Dr. Sasscer will present to the Boys & Girls Club's Board of Directors on April 12th. Second, M.B. Kahn and LS3P will join Dr. Sasscer on April 13th and April 27th to share the relocation plan to the Boys & Girls Club during construction with the high school faculty. We continue to anticipate an announcement about our Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant application in mid-April. We will also open the bids for the Boys & Girls Club renovation. At the end of April, we will invite parents to join us at John A. Holmes for an information session about construction and our plan to maintain excellence in our educational program. In June, we will meet with the high school staff to share the first draft of our logistical plan to relocate.

Lastly, White Oak Elementary hosted Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration on March 23rd through 25th. We enthusiastically welcomed our newest cubbies and future graduates to the amazing world that awaits them. To date, 56 students have enrolled in PreK and 120 students have enrolled in Kindergarten. As an early comparison, our current Kindergarten class is 143 students. Additional screening and enrollment opportunities will be available in June and prior to beginning school in August.

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE

The following individuals spoke during public board dialogue:

Tom Joyal
Tom Abbott

REPORT:

Budget Committee Reports: Mr. Jordan, Mr. Browder and Ms. Mason gave the Board an update on the recent Budget Committee meetings that were held.

Summer Programming - Ms. Sheila Evans, Chief Academic Officer, gave the Board an overview of the 2022 Summer Programs and answered questions from Board Members.

Auditor Contract - Ms. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented the Board with a letter from Donna Winborne, CPA, informing the Board that she will no longer be able to perform an audit for the district due to staffing difficulties.

Public and Homeschool Dual Enrollment - Ms. Virginia Jones, Director of Special Populations, shared information with the Board regarding public and homeschool dual enrollment and answered questions from Board Members.

CONSIDER:

Masking - Dr. Sasscer gave the Board an update on the district's health data and shared the results of a recent masking survey that was sent to school system staff. Dr. Sasscer made a recommendation to continue with optional masks, as supported by the staff survey results. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Construction Manager At-Risk - Dr. Sasscer shared a presentation with the Board regarding the Construction Manager At-Risk bids that were received for the John A. Holmes High School Project. Dr. Sasscer made a recommendation that the Board of Education consider M.B. Kahn Construction Company to serve as Construction Manager at Risk for the John A. Holmes High School Project. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Public School Building Repair and Renovation Fund - Dr. Sasscer and Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, shared information with the Board regarding the Public School Building Repair and Renovation Fund. Dr. Sasscer made a recommendation that the Board of Education consider using 2021-22 PSBRRF funds to replace our current phone system with VOIP phones. A motion was made by Ms. Bunch to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

6-12 Alternative Learning Program: Policy 4065-R (First Reading) - Ms. Sheila Evans, Chief Academic Officer, and the Alternative Learning Program Team, presented Policy 4065-R for a first reading. The team also shared information regarding Hope Academy, the new 6-12 Alternative Learning Program for Edenton-Chowan Schools.

K-12 Athletic Grant - Dr. Sasscer presented information to the Board regarding the K-12 Athletic Grant and recommended for the Board of Education to consider using the K-12 Athletics Grant toward replacing the softball lights at JAHHS. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

New Board of Education Policy (Second Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented new Board of Education Policy 1220 (Student Board Members) for a second reading. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the new policy as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs at 9:03 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statute 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 9:18 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the following items on the consent agenda, to include a personnel addendum. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- March 1, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- April 5, 2022 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - March 2022

4 - Administrator Contracts

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Burroughs commented on the following:

- AP Program at John A. Holmes High School

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary