

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, August 3, 2021
6:30 p.m.

John A. Holmes High School
Learning Commons
800 North Oakum St.
Edenton, NC 27932

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m at John A. Holmes High School. 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 Hack High; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Chairman Jordan gave an invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Jordan.

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:

The District successfully met the state mandate for providing 30 days or 150 hours of summer learning and enrichment opportunities. 181 credits were recovered by our high school students and three seniors earned the required credits to graduate from John A. Holmes High School.

On August 20, 2021 staff at John A. Holmes High School will participate in an enhanced lockdown drill with an active shooter.

Dr. Sasscer expressed his appreciation to our finance team for successfully completing our transition to our new 10-month pay schedule.

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE: The following community members addressed the Board:

Tiffany Hurst
Steve Evans
Barby Chappell
Thomas LaRusso
Nicole Hughes
Rhonda Smith
Nick Furlough
Bobi Bobbitt
Mike Denny
Heather Denny
Mia Peterson
Tom Joyal

CONSIDER:

Opening Schools - "A Day in the Life of..." - Dr. Sasscer presented revisions to "A Day in the Life of...". After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation to revise our COVID-19 health and operating protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Bunch. The motion carried 6-1. Mr. Browder was opposed.

A motion was made by Mr. Browder to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation to have an optional masking rule to begin the school year, with a plan to revisit the rule monthly. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion passed 5-2. Those opposed were Mrs. Bunch and Mr. Burroughs.

Step Increases - Ms. Berry, Chief Finance Officer, shared with the Board how to use budget savings to provide non-certified staff with step increases for their actual years of work experience. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Browder to use budget savings for step increases for non-certified employees. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Federal Grants - Ms. Sheila Evans, Chief Academic Officer and Dr. Jana Rawls, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services, presented the Federal Plans to the Board for their consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the Federal Plans as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Design-Build Process - Mr. Chris Brabble, Director of Maintenance, presented information from the ESSER-Funded Design Build Program. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Clifton to approve an ESSER-funded design-build program for the HVAC repair/replace project at White Oak Elementary School and D. F. Walker Elementary School. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

Draft Strategic Plan - Dr. Sasscer presented the Draft Strategic Plan for a first reading.

USDA Memorandum of Understanding for the John A. Holmes High School Building Project - Dr. Sasscer presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chowan County Board of Commissioners and the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education for the John A. Holmes High School Building Project. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. White to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation to approve the revised MOU based on the amendments to Section 3H and Section 5C and to authorize the Superintendent to approve the amendments in consultation with the Board and County Attorney. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

EIC Head Start Program Contract - Ms. Jamie Bowers, Director of Exceptional Children, presented the EIC Head Start Program Contract for the 2021-2022 school year. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions - Dr. Sasscer presented the following board policy revisions for a second reading:

- *4275 Counseling Program*
- *4095 Student Voter Registration and Preregistration*
- *6520 Student Health Services*
- *2420 Use of School Buildings for Community Purposes*
- *5150 Reporting Information to Administrators and External Agencies*
- *6310 School Safety*

- *4360 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety*
- *6400 School Bus Transportation*
- *2220 Records Retention and Disposition*
- *7700 Settlement of Claims*
- *4405/5120 Discrimination and Harrassment Prohibited by Federal Law*

A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the board policy revisions as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

Anne-Marie Knighton Resolution - Dr. Sasscer shared a resolution with the Board honoring Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton for her years of service to the citizens of Edenton and Chowan County. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to adopt the resolution as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Research Triangle Institute Revised Proposal - Ms. Shelia Evans, Chief Academic Officer, presented the revised Research Triangle Institute Proposal to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Mrs. White to approve the proposal as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

International Cultural Exchange Services - Per Board of Education Policy 4090 (Foreign Exchange Student Policy), Dr. Sasscer presented information to the Board from International Cultural Exchange Services regarding their request to operate in Edenton-Chowan Schools. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve their request as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the following items on the consent agenda. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- June 29, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- July 22, 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- August 3, 2021 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - July 2021

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Browder commented on the following:

- Future meeting agendas

Mr. Burroughs commented on the following:

- Coaches for academic competitions

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. White to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary