

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Professional Development Center
109 Blade Street
Edenton, NC 27932

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Professional Development Center. The following Board Members were present: Vice-Chair Ricky Browder, Sherronne Battle, Board-elect Paul Clifton, Board-elect Sheila Evans, George Lewis, Lisa Perry, Board-elect Joan White, and Superintendent Tammi Ward.

Others attending the meeting were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Directors representing Central Services; Community Members; Student Board Members Olivia Armstead and Sela McNair; Deputy Kevin Nash; Board Attorney Will Crowe; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Browder.

Ms. Perry gave the invocation.

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

Clerk of Court Dwayne Goodwin administered the Oath of Office to Sheila Evans, Joan White and Paul Clifton.

Election of Officers - Ms. Ward asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Education. Lisa Perry nominated George Lewis as chairman. Sherronne Battle nominated Ricky Browder as chairman. Ms. Perry, Mr. Clifton, Ms. Evans and Mr. Lewis voted in favor of Mr. Lewis for chairman. The majority of votes, 4-3, were in favor of Mr. Lewis and he assumed the role as Chairman.

Chairman Lewis asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Board of Education. Mr. Lewis nominated Sheila Evans as Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. The

vote was 6-1 and Ms. Evans assumed the role of Vice Chair. Mr. Browder was opposed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the agenda as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Evans. The motion carried unanimously.

Student Board Member Report - Ms. Armstead and Ms. McNair presented their monthly Student Board Member Report.

Superintendent Ward shared the Superintendent's Report.

Principal Micah Lynch shared an update from White Oak Elementary School.

Public Comments - Darnell White from the NAACP presented 5 tickets to Student Board Members Oliva Armstead and Sela McNair for the Chowan NAACP Annual Banquet.

REPORT:

District Christmas Card - Ms. Ward and the Board recognized the following winners of the District Christmas Card Contest:

White Oak Elementary - Thea Hobson
D.F. Walker Elementary - Selah Biggs-Wells
Chowan Middle School - Lily Farmer
John A. Holmes High School - Tyrin Bond

Report from the North Carolina School Boards Association - Chairman Lewis led the Board in a discussion regarding the NCSBA annual conference that Board Members recently attended. Board Members shared information from the various sessions they attended.

The Board also recognized Madison Williams for her poster that was entered at the North Carolina School Boards Association's Annual Poster Contest and received Honorable Mention.

Construction Update -Mr. Brabble shared an update and aerial video of the high school construction progress and answered questions from Board Members.

CONSIDER

S&ME, Inc. Change Order #1 - Ms. Ward presented Change Order #1 from S&ME to increase the budget by \$56,000 because of additional testing expenses. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the change order as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

John A. Holmes High School Project Change Order #11 - Mr. Lucas Schmidt from MB Kahn Construction Company presented Change Order #11 for the Board's consideration requesting use of \$103,000 of contingency funds from the budget for the new John A. Holmes High School technology package. This request resulted due to higher costs of materials and equipment since the initial \$1,000,000 technology budget was approved in 2022-23. The initial budget included both the data and audio visual needs for the new school. Due to the higher costs of materials and equipment since the initial budget and the need to begin installation of the technology data portion for construction. The technology budget was divided into two parts at the recommendation of MB Kahn, Construction at risk: data package and the audio visual equipment for the auditorium and gymnasium. A motion was made by Ms. Battle to approve the change order as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Evans. The motion carried unanimously.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) - Ms. Stephanie Patsel, Child Nutrition Director, gave the Board an update on the Community Eligibility Provision for the 2024-25 school year and answered questions from Board Members. This presentation was for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

2025-26 School Calendar (First Reading) - Ms. Ward presented the 2025-26 school calendar for a first reading.

Pre-K School Entry - Ms. Michelle Newsome, Director of Elementary Education, provided information on Pre-K school entry and answered questions from Board Members. This presentation was for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

Health Science Academy Contract - Ms. Tracy White, Director of Career and Technical Education, presented the Health Science Academy Contract for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

John Sexton and Associates (Contract Services) - Ms. Lori Heginbotham, Director of Exceptional Children, presented a contract from John Sexton and Associates for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. Evans to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

January BOE Work Session - Ms. Ward made a recommendation that the Board hold a work session on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 9am at the Professional Development Center. A motion was made by Ms. Battle to approve Ms. Ward's recommendation. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Evans. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1 - Minutes

- November 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the November 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

2 - Personnel Report

- December 10, 2024 Personnel Report

The Personnel Report was removed from the consent agenda to discuss in closed session. Action was taken when the Board returned to open session.

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - November 2024

After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Evans to approve the November 2024 school board financial reports as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

4 - Parallel Learning Behavioral Health PC

A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the Parallel Learning Behavioral health PC contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Remarks/Comments:

Ms. Battle highlighted Kiona Griffin and her work at Hope Academy.

A motion was made by Ms. White at 9:18 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 10:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans to approve the December 10, 2024 Personnel Report as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Perry to allow Ms. Ward and Mr. Brabble to contact Schneider Electric to acknowledge their offer and inquire if additional restitution would be made for clean-up cost of White Oak Elementary and D.F. Walker Elementary. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Perry to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Lewis, Chairman

Tammi Ward, Secretary