

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
6:30 p.m.

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

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Edenton 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.

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 Damaris Ambrosio-Reyes and Olivia Armstead; Board Attorney Hack High; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Sasscer.

Mr. Lewis gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from John A. Holmes High School.

Election of Officers - Dr. Sasscer asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Education. Ricky Browder nominated Gene Jordan as Chairman. There were no further nominations. The vote was unanimous and Mr. Jordan assumed the role of Chairman.

Mr. Jordan asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Board of Education. Mr. Jordan nominated Ricky Browder as Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. The vote was unanimous and Mr. Browder assumed the role of Vice Chair.

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. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Last week, the Public School Forum of North Carolina released a Roadmap presenting county-level data and rankings (out of 100 counties) on 20 indicators of wellness across five domains: economic development, physical health, mental health and safety, education inputs, and education outcomes. The Roadmap serves as a key resource for policymakers, school leaders, funders, nonprofits, families, and the public to identify and communicate about areas in need of targeted investment. Several of our rankings are of particular interest. Our county ranked in the 1st quartile for physical health and education inputs. Overall, Chowan County ranked in the 2nd quartile. It is concerning that our county ranked in the 4th quartile in economic development, food insecurity, and juvenile detention admission rate. This evidence highlights the growing importance of working together as a community to ensure children are ready for school each day.

Dr. Sasscer has begun to have courageous conversations with our faculty. Recently, he met with John A. Holmes High School staff and will be meeting with the staff at Chowan Middle School, D.F. Walker Elementary and White Oak Elementary in the near future. Dr. Sasscer has also met with our student board members to outline a plan to collect student voice on a list of responsibilities. Olivia and Damaris will include the recently elected student government officers and in-person meetings will be held to discuss important topics impacting school readiness for our students. Finally, all of these data will be shared with our research partners from ECU and UNC-Chapel Hill as part of the NC Practitioner Network. Through ECU's "Community Learning Exchanges" program and in partnership with the Dudley Flood Center, we will design a plan for engaging the community in courageous conversations surrounding the issue of school readiness. Our goal is to have action items available for consideration by late spring that will position our community to positively and successfully address our youth's readiness to fully benefit from the high quality education they are provided.

Principal Sonya Rinehart and members of the John A. Holmes High School FFA team shared some highlights from their recent FFA events.

There was no public board dialogue.

REPORT:

District Christmas Card - Dr. Sasscer recognized the following winners of the District Christmas Card Contest:

White Oak Elementary - Isabelle Smith
D.F. Walker Elementary - DraLaya Winslow
Chowan Middle School - Nyla Record
John A. Holmes High School - Bryan Vasquez

NCSBA Conference Takeaways - Chairman Jordan 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.

BOE Meeting Locations for the Remainder of 2023-24 - Dr. Sasscer presented the meeting locations for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year:

January 9, 2024 - Chowan Middle School
February 6, 2024 - Town Council Chambers
March 5, 2024 - Chowan Middle School
April 16, 2024 - Town Council Chambers
May 7, 2024 - Town Council Chambers
June 11, 2024 - Newly renovated Technology Center

Data and School Improvement Team Progress - Dr. Mindy Vickers, Chief Academic Officer, shared the estimated EVAAS projections after first semester benchmarks, as well as remediation/tutoring and intervention strategies.

CONSIDER

Resolution Regarding Affordable Housing - Dr. Sasscer presented a resolution regarding affordable housing for the Board's consideration. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Lewis to adopt the resolution as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

2024-2025 School Calendar (First Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the 2024-25 school calendar to the Board for a first reading.

John A. Holmes High School Lease Agreement - Dr. Sasscer presented the John A. Holmes High School Lease Agreement to the Board for consideration. After some discussion and upon Dr. Sasscer's recommendation, the following motions were made:

Ms. Perry made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the form of a lease agreement. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clifton made a motion to approve the lease agreement between Chowan County and the Board of Education for the project site. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- Policy Code: 2320 ACTIVITY OF NON-SCHOOL GROUPS, VENDORS, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SCHOOLS
- Policy Code: 4040 IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION
- Policy Code: 4240 SEARCH AND SEIZURE
- Policy Code: 4275 COUNSELING PROGRAM
- Policy Code: 4360 CHILD ABUSE AND RELATED THREATS TO CHILD SAFETY
- Policy Code: 5135 STAFF - STUDENT RELATIONS
- Policy Code: 5305 LICENSURE
- Policy Code: 6000 PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES
- Policy Code: 6500 CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1 - Minutes

- November 7, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- December 5, 2023 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - November 2023

There were no additional board member remarks/comments.

A motion was made by Ms. Perry at 8:28 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (1). A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 9:49 p.m.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. White to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary