

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
6:30 p.m.

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

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 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 Hack High; Deputy Alan Stulick; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer

Ms. Bunch shared a moment of reflection.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from White Oak Elementary 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 Jean Bunch as Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. The vote was unanimous and Mrs. Bunch assumed the role of Vice Chair.

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

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

John A. Holmes High School teachers Ms. Gwen Hughson, Ms. Victoria Brinson and Mr. Michael Vinickas presented at the Northeast Education Service Alliance Fall Conference in Kitty Hawk, NC. White Oak Elementary School teacher Ms. Jenn Attkisson also presented at the conference.

The Board of Education had the opportunity to hear keynote speakers Beth Chapman, Former Secretary of State of Alabama, and Roy Williams, former coach of the North Carolina Tarheels basketball team, at the North Carolina School Boards Association annual conference that was held in Greensboro in November.

The recently adopted state budget authorizes salary increases and bonuses for all employees paid from state funds. Edenton-Chowan Schools also pays employees from local and federal funds. The school system will honor the salary increases and bonuses for these employees as well, which will have an impact on our local and federal budgets. Ms. Berry will present that impact at a future board meeting. Salary adjustments and bonuses must be paid no later than January 31, 2022. Salary increases are retroactive to July 1, 2021 and effective January 1, 2022. Employees hired after July 1st but before January 1, 2022, are entitled to a pro-rata share of the retroactive salary bonus payment. Anyone hired as of January 1, 2022 would be placed on the appropriate salary step without any retroactive bonus payment. Dr. Rawls and Ms. Berry are working feverishly to understand the new guidance and what it means for each of our employees. We will have a more detailed summary in the near future.

Dr. Sasscer expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Basnight and his team for responding to the school system's recent needs with such precision and care.

RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Education recognized the following winners of the Superintendent's Christmas Card Contest:

Bryan Vazquez (JAH)

Taraji Pailin (CMS)

Lily Gravning (DFW)

Deveon Riddick (WOS)

The Board recognized Ms. Jenn Attkisson for serving on the NC Teacher Leadership Council.

Ms. Michelle Newsome and students from White Oak Elementary School led the Board in a mindfulness activity.

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE

The following individuals spoke during public board dialogue:

Charles Kaplan

Tom Joyal

Nichole Hughes

Bobi Bobbit

REPORT

Audit Presentation - Mrs. Donna Winborne, representing Donna H. Winborne, CPA, P.C., presented the Board with the June 30, 2021 audit report and answered questions from Board Members.

North Carolina School Boards Association Annual Conference Report - 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 that they attended.

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 the mask requirement in all indoor spaces at this time. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation to continue the mask requirement in all indoor spaces at this time. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried 5-2. Mr. Browder and Mr. Clifton were opposed.

2021-2022 Budget Resolution - Ms. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2021-2022 Budget Resolution for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Clifton to approve the 2021-2022 Budget Resolution as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Mason. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Berry also presented the 2021-2022 Budget Reserves for the Board's consideration. A motion was

made by Ms. Bunch to approve the 2021-2022 Budget Reserves as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

John A. Holmes High School Building Project - Dr. Sasscer gave the Board an update on the John A. Holmes High School Building Project. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to research the pros and cons of consolidating the construction manager role and present a recommendation at the January 2022 board meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously.

Schneider Electric Agreement - Dr. Sasscer presented an agreement from Schneider Electric for HVAC design and construction services at White Oak Elementary and D. F. Walker Elementary. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the agreement as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-2023 Draft School Calendar (First Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the 2022-2023 Draft School Calendar to the Board for a first reading.

BOE New Policy / Policy Revisions - Dr. Sasscer presented the following new board policy / policy revisions for a second reading:

New Policy

- 2340 Advertising in Schools

Policy Revisions

- 1470 Remote Participation During Board Meetings
- 2130 Parental Involvement
- 3600 Student Promotion and Accountability
- 4050 School Admissions
- 4060 Immediate Transfer when Criminal Charges are Pending
- 4100 Student Records
- 5022 Registered Sex Offenders
- 5200 Communicable Diseases or Conditions
- 5240 Leave / Benefits and Employment
- 5245 Military Leave
- 5305 Licensure

A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the new policy and policy revisions as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. 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 Ms. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- November 2, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- December 7, 2021 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - November 2021

4 - Line Item Transfers

A motion was made by Ms. Bunch at 9:13 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 9:32 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Burroughs commented on the following:

- Tennis Courts

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 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary