

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
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 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Technology Center. The following Board Members were present: Gene Jordan, Jean Bunch, Ricky Browder, Gil Burroughs, Paul Clifton, Maxine Mason, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer. Joan White was absent. Social distancing guidelines were followed. The meeting was broadcast via Facebook Live:
<https://www.facebook.com/EdentonChowan/videos/226480005521469/>.

Others attending were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Board Attorney Will Crowe; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Sasscer.

Mr. Clifton shared a moment of reflection.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Sasscer.

The Honorable Meader Harriss, III, District Court Judge, administered the Oath of Office to Gene Jordan and Paul Clifton, who were re-elected to office.

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 Mrs. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Jenn Attkisson, first grade teacher at White Oak Elementary School, has been selected as the 2020-21 Regional Teacher of the Year. Congratulations Ms. Attkisson!

Congratulations to Chowan Middle School 7th grade student Joy Allen for receiving one of the fifteen Victor E. Bell Jr. Scholarships awarded this year. Her name was drawn from more than 115 nominations of hard working, deserving, 7th grade NC students.

D.F. Walker Elementary School is one of 2 finalists for designation as a 2020 ESEA Title 1 Distinguished School of High Progress. This is the second year in a row our Hornets have been recognized for this prized achievement.

On November 19, 2020, the joint Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education High School Replacement Committee penned a letter of recommendation for new construction for the high school project. In a show of solidarity, the letter unifies the committee's support for a new high school on the basis that new construction:

- Is required as part of the \$15 million state grant;
- Is more cost effective as compared to high costs for renovations and repairs to update and make older buildings safe and compliant to current codes;
- Is a greater long-term investment of taxpayer dollars for an educational facility that will meet the future changes expected with teaching and learning and vocation; and
- Allows greater flexibility in the master site plan to support a more safe and secure campus as well as public spaces for community use.

LS3P architects will meet with the community in January to gather input on how to best design the new high school. These dates will be shared on social media and in the Chowan Herald in the near future.

Our schools invited the Board of Education to participate in a "A Day in the Life of..." tour of each school. It was a rewarding day for leaders, teachers and staff to showcase their tremendous efforts to keep schools open and thriving.

Over the past three weeks, our student-athletes at Chowan Middle and John A. Holmes have begun competing again in sports that bring joy, camaraderie, and purpose. Go Bulldogs and Go Aces!!

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE: There were no requests to address the Board.

REPORT:

Audit Presentation - Mrs. Donna Winborne, representing Donna H. Winborne, CPA, P.C., presented the Board with the June 30, 2020 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 Virtual Conference that Board Members recently attended. Board Members shared information from the various sessions that they attended.

CONSIDER:

Transitioning K-5 to Plan A - Dr. Sasscer gave a presentation to the Board on transitioning K-5 schools to Plan A. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to move K-5 schools to plan A effective January 7, 2021. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education Policy Revisions - (First Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the following Board of Education policy revisions and new policy for a first reading:

Policy Revisions

- *1360 - Prohibition Against Retaliation*
- *2140 - School Closings*
- *2210 - Public Record Requests*
- *2420 - Use of School Buildings for Community Purposes*
- *3100 - School Calendar*
- *3605 - Graduation Requirements*
- *3700 - Testing and Assessment Program*
- *5135 - Staff-Student Relations*
- *5180 - Employee Use of Social Media*
- *6070 - Announcements For Certain Services*
- *6310 - School Safety*

New Policy

- *4600 - Student Fees*

Surveillance Cameras Contract WOS/DFW - Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, presented the Board of Education with a contract from North Carolina Sound of Goldsboro, LLC in the amount of \$146,503.23 to purchase new surveillance cameras for White Oak Elementary School and D. F. Walker Elementary School. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Surveyor / Geotechnical Services Contract - Dr. Sasscer presented two contracts to the Board for consideration:

1 - LDSI, Inc. in the amount of \$57,915.00 for surveying and topographic services for the John A. Holmes High School building project

2 - Terracon in the amount of \$7,850.00 for preliminary geotechnical engineering services for the John A. Holmes High School building project

A motion was made by Mrs. Bunch to approve both contracts as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Clifton at 7:58 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 Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 8:17 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1 - Minutes

- November 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- December 8, 2020 Personnel Report
- December 8, 2020 Personnel Report Addendum

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - December 2020

4 - Line Item Transfer Report

5 - Memorandum of Understanding Between Edenton-Chowan Public Schools and College of the Albemarle

6 - Western Carolina University Educational Alliance Agreement

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Burroughs commented on the following:

- Foreign Exchange Program/Student

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Bunch to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary