

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 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, February 2, 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, Joan White and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer. Maxine Mason was absent. Social distancing guidelines were followed. The meeting was broadcast via Facebook Live:
<https://www.facebook.com/EdentonChowan/videos/456070102093705/>

Others attending were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Board Attorney Hack High; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare. Presenters were: Ms. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer; Mrs. Sheila Evans, Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer; Mr. Chris Brabble, Director of Maintenance; Mrs. Jamie Bowers, Director of Exceptional Children; Mrs. Virginia Jones; Director of Testing and Special Populations; and Josh Davenport, Director of CTE and Secondary Education.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Chairman Jordan asked the Board to join him in a moment of silence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Jordan.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Mrs. White 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:

Last Thursday and Friday, our school family enjoyed a pause due to the arrival of winter weather. To address the lost instructional hours, we will change March 18th and April 29th from early release days to regular school days.

Edenton-Chowan Schools will host a vaccine clinic on February 8, 2021 at 3:30 pm at White Oak Elementary School.

Mr. Freebird McKinney, Director of Government and Community Affairs for DPI, recently visited our school system and shared the following remarks. "It has been a week since our visit to Edenton-Chowan Public Schools and I still sit in awe contemplating ALL that we witnessed. We watched "crisis leadership" and a group of committed and dedicated "home grown" community members leading a school system that is collectively transcending the impact of this pandemic on our schools and our students.

We watched educators who are teaching students simultaneously face-to-face and remotely moving them from simple proficiency to a depth of knowledge that is developing a true framework for understanding with a multitude of workforce development skills.

We learned from an exemplary model of how student data management can be transformational in driving small group instruction, communication with parents, co-developing strategies through MTSS framework, universal screening driving intervention, and trauma informed intervention that is moving a data transition to student centered and student owned.

We engaged in how a Choice Instruction Model can facilitate a true personalized education plan for students that combines collaborative planning, purposeful grouping, MTSS, and district partnerships like the "Digital Innovative Grant Cross Collaboration" between Edenton-Chowan and Perquimans that works to do what is BEST for students.

We marveled at the commitment and care with operationalizing infectious control through safety and health protocols along with contact tracing, that reflects how schools are our lifeline through this pandemic.

We listened and learned... a great deal."

A state statute requires reporting on school counselors, psychologists, nurses and social workers. Superintendents are required to report to the Board of Education by February 15, 2021 the following:

- The total number of each category of school mental health support personnel employed in the unit
- The difference from the previous school year in the total number of each category of school mental health personnel employed in the unit

We have not had any change in the number of school counselors, psychologists, nurses and social workers.

The General Assembly has filed Senate Bill 37 - In-Person Learning Choice for Families. The bill, if passed, will require school systems to open under Plan A or B and follow all DHHS health protocols outlined in the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit. Today, Governor Cooper and Superintendent Truitt held a press conference this afternoon to address in-person learning. The Governor stated that, "it's time to get our children back in the classroom. Students who are ready to return to the classrooms should have the chance." As a follow-up, the Governor, Superintendent Truitt and State Board of Education Chair Eric Davis penned a letter that strongly recommends in-person instruction while following health protocols. At this time, there is not a recommendation that changes how Edenton-Chowan Schools is currently operating. I am thankful to our Board, school leaders and amazing teachers who have positioned us to best respond to our childrens' needs with face-to-face learning since the beginning of this year. We will continue to explore how we can enhance our in-person and remote learning opportunities.

Tonight, our Lady Aces are playing against Perquimans at home. Our recent partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations Network allows us to live stream our athletic contests.

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE: There were no comments emailed to the Board.

REPORT:

Insurance Inspection Report - Mr. Chris Brabble, Director of Maintenance, presented the Insurance Inspection Report and answered questions from the Board.

P3 Strategic Vision - Mrs. Sheila Evans, Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer; Mrs. Jamie Bowers, Director of Exceptional Children; Mrs. Virginia Jones; Director of Testing and Special Populations; and Josh Davenport,

Director of CTE and Secondary Education, presented the P3 Strategic Vision and answered questions from the Board.

February Quarterly Meeting - Dr. Sasscer discussed the quarterly Board of Education meeting agenda with the Board. The meeting will be held on February 16, 2021 at Technology Services beginning at 9:00 am.

CONSIDER:

FFCRA Expiration/Extension - Dr. Jana Rawls, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services, presented an update to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). A motion was made by Mrs. Bunch to approve to extend the FFCRA leave to March 31, 2021. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Timeline - Mrs. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented the Budget Timeline to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the Budget Timeline as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

Auditor's Contract - Mrs. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented a contract from Donna H. Winborne, CPA to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Clifton to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

Copier Vendor Service Proposal - Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, presented a copier vendor service proposal from Systel for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunch to approve the proposal as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs at 8:26 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. White. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 8:55 p.m.

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 Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- January 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- February 2, 2021 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - January 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the personnel report addendum as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Bunch commented on the following:

- PBS Channel Resource

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Browder to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary