

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

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

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at the Town Council Chambers. Closed session was held at 6:00 p.m. The regular meeting started at 7:00 p.m. 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.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

A motion was made by Ms. Perry at 6:00 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter and a real estate matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (1) and 143-318.11 (a) (5). A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

Others attending the meeting were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Directors representing Central Services; Community Members; Board Attorney Hack High; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

Ms. White gave the invocation.

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

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

Student Board Member Report - Ms. Ambrosio-Reyes and Ms. Armstead presented their student board member report.

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

White Oak Elementary School has been named as a 2024 Honorable Mention School of Character.

A state statute requires superintendents to report to the Board of Education by February 15, 2024 on the number of school counselors, psychologists, nurses and social workers.

School Counselors - 5*

Psychologists - 1

Nurses - 4

Social Workers - 1

*Reduced by 1 counselor at WOS/DFW

We have seen a reduction in our number of school counselors. In 21-22, we used ESSER funds to hire an additional counselor to support the elementary schools. Due to a recent resignation and the expiration of ESSER funding in September 2024, this position will be reevaluated for sustainability with other funding, such as Title I. We have had no change in the number of psychologists, nurses and social workers.

The Edenton-Chowan Educational Foundation's 4th Annual Bonfire is scheduled for February 24, 2024. Board members and the community are invited to attend this event which celebrates our local schools and raises funds to support enhanced teaching and learning experiences.

We have entered budget season for the 2024-25 school year. School leaders are currently working with their school improvement teams to identify gaps in our instructional program and/or staffing. Requests will be reviewed by Dr. Sasscer's senior leadership team and the Board of Education, by committee, in March. Recommendations will be discussed at our April meeting and the budget packet will be approved and submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in May. More information about our committees will be shared at our March meeting.

Student Highlights - Mr. Josh Davenport, Director of Secondary and Career and Technical Education, shared highlights from the Career and Technical Student Organizations at John A. Holmes High School and Chowan Middle School.

There was no public board dialogue.

REPORT:

Alternative to Suspension - Ms. Virginia Jones, Director of Special Populations, shared information with the Board regarding a Pitt County Schools alternative to suspension program "Project Bridges."

2023-24 Academic Data - Dr. Mindy Vickers, Chief Academic Officer, shared the 2023-24 academic data with Board Members and answered questions.

CONSIDER

Speech Language Service Contract - Ms. Lori Heginbotham, Director of Exceptional Children, shared a speech language contract from Salle Elliott for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

Classified Employee Incentive Supplement - Dr. Jana Rawls, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services, presented information on a proposed incentive for classified employees. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the incentive for classified employees as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Committee Nomination - Chairman Jordan shared information with the Board regarding the Legislative Committee. This item will be discussed further at the March 5th meeting.

EPI Contract - Dr. Sasscer presented a contract from Educational Partners International, LLC for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

Yellow School Bus Replacement - Dr. Sasscer presented a recommendation to the Board to purchase a 54 Passenger (with a lift) Thomas yellow school bus as authorized by NCDPI. A motion was made by Ms. White to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education Policy Revisions - Dr. Sasscer presented Board Policy Revision 4050 - School Admissions for a second reading. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the policy revision as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion passed 4-3. Mr. Browder, Mr. Clifton, and Mr. Lewis were opposed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1 - Minutes

- January 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- February 6, 2024 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - January 2024

4 - John A. Holmes High School Field Trip Requests

- FCCLA State Leadership Conference
- FFA Mega Leadership Conference
- FCCLA State Competition

Board Member Remarks/Comments:

Mr. Lewis commented on the following:

- Social Media

Mr. Browder commented on the following:

- The need to share information about our schools on platforms other than social media
- Team WOW update
- Building improvements at Chowan Middle School

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Clifton to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary