

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
6:45 p.m.

John A. Holmes High School
Media Center
600 Woodard St.
Edenton, NC 27932

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6:45 p.m. in the John A. Holmes High School Media Center. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Vice-Chair Ricky Browder, Sherronne Battle, Paul Clifton, Lisa Perry, Joan White, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer. George Lewis joined the meeting via Google Meet.

Others attending the meeting were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; Directors representing Central Services; Board Attorney Will Crowe; Student Board Member Damaris Ambrosio-Reyes; Community Members; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jordan.

Ms. Battle gave the invocation.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the agenda as amended to move the closed session before the consent agenda. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ambrosio-Reyes presented her monthly Student Board Member Report.

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

January is School Board Appreciation month. The steadfast leadership of the Board continues to empower our educators to make decisions that truly transform the lives of every single child. Thank you, Board of Education, for your time, effort and support.

Dr. Sasscer recently met with student council leaders at D.F. Walker Elementary, Chowan Middle School and John A. Holmes High School. Student voice and ownership is paramount to the success of our educational program and how we continue to design transforming experiences.

John A Holmes High School is excited to partner with the College Advising Corps through the Division of Academic and Student Affairs at NC State University in the coming year. This is a National program through AmeriCorps that has extended its funding to support two more rural high schools in North Carolina. This program serves 21 high schools in 11 counties in North Carolina. College and career advisors are assigned for a 2 year service appointment at no cost to the school system. Advisors work to assist students and families with post secondary pathways - four year, two year, and military options. These advisors collaborate with the guidance department to provide one-on-one assistance with applications, scholarships, college visits, and FAFSA information. They celebrate the year with a "Decision Day" for students. This is a wonderful opportunity for the high school to continue to provide individual guidance to foster post secondary success for all students upon graduation. The plan is to have an advisor in place to begin the 2023-24 school year.

Ms. Carisa Copeland is our new Early Literacy Specialist. This position was hired and funded by NCDPI to support the work that districts already have in place aligned to the Science of Reading and LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling). Specifically, Ms. Copeland will support the organization of LETRS implementation and processes, the implementation of Literacy Intervention Plans, and provide aligned literacy professional development or coaching at the school-level. Additionally, Ms. Copeland will take on responsibilities of an Instructional Coach at D.F. Walker Elementary.

Chowan Middle and John A. Holmes are shouldering the brunt of teacher vacancies. The middle school has openings in both 7th and 8th grade Math, EC, and Exploratory. The high school has openings in Math, Social Studies, and Science. School and district leadership have collaborated on solutions that extend across classroom walls and district lines. We have partnered with Clinton City Schools to synchronously teach sections of Math IV. Internally, we have teachers who are synchronously teaching sections of Math II and Math 8 with the support of online facilitators. We have asynchronous models in place that use online programs such as Edgenuity to teach

Science and Social Studies. CTE and Secondary Schools Director, Mr. Josh Davenport, has been in conversation with Elizabeth City State University about creating a teacher pipeline. John A. Holmes High School Principal, Ms. Sonya Rinehart, has been invited by Chowan University to be a member of their Teacher Education Committee, again to steer inspired minds to teaching and Edenton-Chowan Schools. Our leadership team believes for every problem there is potential and we are working tirelessly to realize that potential for our children and classrooms.

The high school staff will tour the newly renovated 2nd floor of the former D.F. Walker School on January 24, 2023. We are planning to use February and March to offer open houses to families so they may explore where their student will learn during construction. District and school leadership are also in the last stage of finalizing the logistics to operate school during construction.

The Board recognized Aces Cafe students from John A. Holmes High School for the commendable work that they do in their school each day.

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE

The following individuals spoke during public board dialogue:

Michael McArthur
John Morehead
David Lafon

Mary Jo Sellers
Tom Joyal
John Willard

CONSIDER:

Auditor Contract - Ms. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented an audit contract from Anderson Smith & Wike PC, for the 2022-2023 school year for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. Battle to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Juneteenth Observation - Dr. Sasscer gave a presentation on Juneteenth, which is a federal holiday, and made a recommendation that the Board make Juneteenth a day of observance by using our summer hours schedule. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

2023-2024 Draft School Calendar (First Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the 2023-2024 Draft School Calendar to the Board for a first reading.

Scout Hut Recommendation - Dr. Sasscer gave a presentation to the Board on the proposed plan for the Scout Hut as it relates to the high school building project. Dr. Sasscer made a recommendation to the Board to relocate the Scout Hut to Park Avenue as designed and supported by the joint committee. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried 6-1. Mr. Lewis was opposed.

John A. Holmes High School Bid Package - Dr. Sasscer gave the Board an update on the John A. Holmes High School construction project and presented the bid process for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the bid process as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Lewis. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions (Second Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the following Board Policy Revisions for a second reading:

- 6515 - SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY
- 6500 - CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
- 6480 - OPERATION OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (DRONES)
- 5305 - LICENSURE
- 4315 - CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY
- 4100 - STUDENT RECORDS
- 4050 - SCHOOL ADMISSIONS
- 4040 - IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION
- 4000 - ATTENDANCE
- 3820 - EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
- 3605 - GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
- 3600 - STUDENT PROMOTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- 3100 - SCHOOL CALENDAR
- 2210 - PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS
- 1600 - BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES
- 1120 - BOARD MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the board policy revisions as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. White at 8:40 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 Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 9:12 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1 - Minutes

- December 6, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- January 10, 2023 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - December 2022

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis commented on following:

- Format of Board Minutes

Ms. White expressed her appreciation to the Board for the support that was shown to her family during the loss of her loved one.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Perry to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary