

Edenton-Chowan Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
Thursday, January 11, 2024  
6:30 p.m.

Chowan Middle School  
2845 Virginia Rd.  
Tyner, NC 27980

## MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Thursday, January 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Chowan Middle School Media Center. 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.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Ms. Perry gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Jordan.

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

**Student Board Member Report -** Dr. Sasscer informed the Board that Ms. Ambrosio-Reyes and Ms. Armstead were preparing for their high school exams and would present a report again in February.

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

John A. Holmes High school foods teacher, Ms. Dani Fenz, has been selected as a finalist for the NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year award. She has earned a week of

professional training February 12-16 in Cullowhee, NC. The celebration and announcement of the NCCAT 2024 Empower NC Beginning Teacher of the Year and Runner Up will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024. We wish her the very best!

Last year, we brought back Groundhog Job Shadow Day for eighth graders at Chowan Middle School thanks to the help of Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ms. Susan Creed. On February 2nd, twenty eighth graders will experience firsthand the details of doing some of the best jobs in Chowan County. From White Oak's Vehicle Day to DFW's Career Day to CMS' Job Shadow Day to John A. Holmes' Internships, our students are experiencing the rich careers that are available to them right here at home.

Dr. Sasscer recently met with Ms. Natasha Montague, Senior Community Relations Manager for Apex Clean Energy, to discuss the educational opportunities available to our students through the windmill project. One turbine will be solely devoted to education. First, Natasha would like to have a "Turbine Naming Contest" for this turbine. Students in grades 3-8 will compete to receive this honor. A plaque will be affixed to the turbine with the winning name and the student will participate in the blade signing ceremony. We will host an assembly to promote the contest where representatives from Apex Clean Energy will teach our students about the project and renewable energy. Second, Natasha wants to support our STEM initiative at DFW by sponsoring kits so students may participate in "Kid Wind" competitions. Lastly, Apex Clean Energy hosts two 1-week sessions on renewable energy in Charlottesville, VA for high school students. Natasha would like to offer our students a travel stipend so they may attend this academy.

Finally, we enter 2024 with several key partnerships that will continue to help us shape transforming experiences for students enrolled in Edenton-Chowan Schools. Participate Learning and Calm Minds Kind Hearts will continue to help schools teach essential competencies for global awareness and well being. By helping students self-manage their emotions and stressors we are strengthening their ability to make healthy connections with their peers and take actions that will lead our community and region into the future. ECU and the Dudley Flood Center through the NC Practitioners Network will help us engage community stakeholders in conversations about "school readiness," which includes coming to school emotionally, socially, behaviorally and academically prepared to learn.

Principal Sharon Meads and students from Chowan Middle School shared some recent student highlights and accomplishments.

There was no public board dialogue.

## REPORT:

Educational Partners International (EPI) - Mr. David Long, Director of Placement for Educational Partners International, shared some history with the Board about EPI and informed the Board how the company can assist Edenton-Chowan Schools.

## CONSIDER

Auditor Contract - Ms. Sandy Pittman, Chief Academic Officer, presented an audit contract from Anderson Smith & Wike PC, for the 2023-2024 school year 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. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

Wide Area Network (WAN) - Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, presented the district's Wide Area Network contract 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.

2024-2025 School Calendar (Second Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the 2024-25 school calendar to the Board for a second reading. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the 2024-25 calendar as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education Policy Revisions - Dr. Sasscer presented the following board policy revisions for a second reading:

- Policy Code: 2320 ACTIVITY OF NON-SCHOOL GROUPS, VENDORS, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SCHOOLS
- Policy Code: 4040 IMMUNIZATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMISSION
- Policy Code: 4240 SEARCH AND SEIZURE
- Policy Code: 4275 COUNSELING PROGRAM
- Policy Code: 4360 CHILD ABUSE AND RELATED THREATS TO CHILD SAFETY
- Policy Code: 5135 STAFF - STUDENT RELATIONS
- Policy Code: 5305 LICENSURE

- Policy Code: 6000 PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES
- Policy Code: 6500 CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the policy revisions as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revision 4050 - School Admissions (First Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented board policy 4050 revision for a first reading.

### 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 Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 1 - Minutes

- December 5, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

#### 2 - Personnel Report

- January 9, 2024 Personnel Report

#### 3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - December 2023

There were no additional board member remarks/comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Browder at 7:34 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter, a personnel matter, and a real estate matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (1); 143-318.11 (a) 6); and 143-318.11 (a) (5). A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 8:25 p.m.

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 Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary