

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

Edenton-Chowan Schools  
Professional Development Center  
109 Blades Street  
Edenton, NC 27932

## MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Professional Development Center. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Vice-Chair Ricky Browder, Sherronne Battle, George Lewis, Lisa Perry, Joan White, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer. Paul Clifton was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

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

Chairman Jordan gave the invocation and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the agenda as amended, to move closed session before the consent agenda. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. 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:

Ms. Rinehart and the John A. Holmes High School staff hosted a magnificent celebration of our seniors for graduating high school. 141 students earned or will earn their diploma by the end of summer school.

- 52 are attending community college/trade school
- 44 are entering the workforce
- 40 are attending a 4 year college
- 5 are going into the military (with one already finished boot camp)

Over the past few weeks, Edenton-Chowan Schools has been awarded \$950,000 in grant money to continue to offer students transforming experiences over the next three years. North Carolina Stronger Connections Grant (NC SCG), for \$675,000, supports safe and healthy communities and student outcomes where the resources currently available are insufficient to meet the needs of the community. ECPS intends to utilize these funds to hire specialized support personnel to continue enhancing our well-being program throughout the district as new staff and students enter the schools. Additionally, we will be able to support school “readiness” by hiring a community coordinator to organize and mobilize our many community assets who can provide outreach in neighborhoods and homes in need. The IMPACT Grant, for \$275,000, will provide enhanced STEM learning experiences for the school community. Included will be the establishment of a Robotics program with a competing team, summer STEM/Robotics camps, the creation of two STEM labs for K-5 students, and professional learning opportunities for staff. With these grants, we will meet our students’ needs and compete in a competitive marketplace.

The second Community Meeting on “school readiness” will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at Edenton United Methodist Church from 5-7pm. Our plan is to summarize the data collected from our last conversation, have a Q&A with the community partners that are seen as valuable assets to one of the five areas of "readiness" (i.e., physical, mental, emotional, social and behavioral), break out into small groups to discuss actions each community partner can take to support "readiness," then conduct a gallery walk to see what each group came up with.

Dr. Sasscer also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Chris Brabble and Mr. Kerry Mebane for their dedication to designing the beautiful Professional Development Center that we now have available to our students and staff.

#### Public Board Dialogue:

Chowan County Commissioner Chairman Bob Kirby spoke during public board dialogue.

## REPORT:

End-of-Year Testing Data - Dr. Michael Sasscer, Superintendent, presented the preliminary testing data results from the 2023-24 school year and answered questions from board members.

## CONSIDER

Superintendent Search - The following firms presented information regarding the services they have available to assist the Board with a superintendent search process:

North Carolina School Boards Association (in-person presentation - Mr. Sam Thorp)  
Alma (virtual presentation - Ms. Eliana Pereyra and Ms. Slyvia Flowers)  
McPherson & Jacobson (virtual presentation - Dr. Ralph Ferrie)

After some discussion, the following motions were made:

A motion was made by Mr. Browder to do a superintendent search. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to engage the North Carolina School Boards Association to provide services to assist with the superintendent search process. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Insurance Update - Mr. Kurt Fickling was present to provide the Board with an insurance update. Mr. Browder requested to be recused from the item as he serves on the North Carolina School Boards Trust Board. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve Mr. Browder's recusal. A second to the motion as made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fickling briefed the Board on the district's existing insurance and also provided information from Utica National. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Perry to obtain insurance from Utica National. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Lewis. The motion carried unanimously.

Interim Budget - Ms. Sandy Pittman, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2024-25 Interim Budget for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the 2024-25 Interim Budget as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Chowan Middle School Surveillance - Mr. Kerry Mebane, Chief Technology Officer, presented a contract for the Board's consideration from Express-tek to update the surveillance system at Chowan Middle School. A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

Grades 6-12 Math Textbook Adoption - Dr. Mindy Vickers, Chief Academic Officer, gave a presentation and requested the Board consider the adoption of math textbooks for grades 6-12. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to adopt the textbooks as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. White at 9:35 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter and a personnel matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 (a) (1) and 143-318.11 (a) (6). A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 9:50 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

- May 7, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- May 20, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- May 29, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes

### 2 - Personnel Report

- June 11, 2024 Personnel Report

### 3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - May 2024

### 4 - Overnight Field Trip Request - John A. Holmes High School - FFA

### 5 - Attorney Contract

### 6 - Contract Services - Occupational Therapy Plus

7 - Contract Services - Carolina Rehab Works

8 - Contract Services - Allied Instructional Services

Board Member Remarks/Comments

Mr. Lewis commented on the budget and also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Sasscer for his service.

Mr. Browder commented on the insurance presentation.

Ms. White commented on the upcoming Juneteenth celebration.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Battle to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Rick Stout, Secretary