

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
5:30 p.m.

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Technology Center
800 N. Oakum St.
Edenton, NC 27932

MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m in the Edenton-Chowan Schools Technology Center. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Ricky Browder, Gil Burroughs, Paul Clifton, Maxine Mason, Joan White and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer. Jean Bunch was absent.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs at 5:30 p.m. to enter into a closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential as permitted by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (1). A second to the motion was made by Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 6:32 p.m.

Mrs. White 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. Clifton to approve the agenda as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Congratulations to the John A. Holmes High School Class of 2022 and best wishes to each graduate in their future endeavors. Job well done!

School is out for the summer! Our students are better today than they were yesterday and that is because of our teachers! Thank you teachers and staff for overcoming challenges, creating innovative solutions and for making a difference in the lives of our students.

These past two years have taught us the importance of mental health and the need to care for students' social and emotional well being. We have been a leader in this work. Our partnership with Ms. Leela Heyder, CEO of Calm Minds Kind Hearts, has taught all of us to cope with stress and return to our resilient zone with a simple breath. Recently, we asked students at both elementary schools and the high school to share how Mindfulness has helped them. 275 elementary school students responded. 68% of students stated that "mindfulness helps them calm down when they are upset." 52% said that "mindfulness helps them focus better in the classroom." At the high school, 63 sophomores responded to the survey. A student shared the following, "I liked that it gave me a minute to reflect and relax. Some days when I was really stressed or upset the mindfulness lessons really helped me calm down." Another student said, "all of the stress that was built up during the day was relieved." In total, 92% of students feel other students should learn these skills in the future. Our goal is to eliminate opportunity gaps by helping students access the classroom, peer groups, and healthy choices. Our data demonstrate we are successfully teaching the whole child!

These past two years have also challenged our typical classroom processes and practices, which has impacted our students' performance with academic standards and end-of-year tests. Our 2021-22 data have been mixed with rebounds, bright spots and growth areas. In math, all grades 3-8 saw an increase in proficiency as compared to 2020-21. 5 out of 6 cohorts saw an increase in proficiency as compared to 2020-21. 3rd grade, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, all rebounded to proficiency levels similar to pre-COVID. 8th grade had the highest percent proficient in the past five years. 5th grade science saw an increase in proficiency as compared to 2020-21 and 8th grade science rebounded to proficiency levels similar to pre-COVID. In reading, grades 3-8 saw 4 out of 6 grade levels improve proficiency from 2020-21. 3 out of 6 cohorts maintained or improved their proficiency. 8th grade reading rebounded to proficiency levels similar to pre-COVID. High school scores are incomplete, but the trend in Biology and Math III show improved proficiency as compared to pre-COVID levels. In two

years, our teachers redesigned their learning spaces and changed how they taught. They worked through unprecedented challenges and always put children first.

Our hearts continue to be with students, staff, and families in Uvalde, Texas. Our families entrust us with their children's lives. We are charged to keep them safe, teach them, and nurture their well being. We will always prioritize safety and will work proactively to be prepared to recognize and respond to any behavior that threatens our schools.

Recognitions:

The Board recognized Aliah Spencer, Valedictorian for the John A. Holmes High School Class of 2022.

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE

The following individuals spoke during public board dialogue:

Tamara Gurganus
Tom Joyal

REPORT:

Chowan Soil and Water Conservation Update - Ms. Celeste Maus gave an update from the Chowan Soil and Water Conservation District.

CONSIDER:

Masking - Dr. Sasscer gave the Board an update on the district's health data and shared the results of a recent masking survey that was sent to school system staff. Dr. Sasscer made a recommendation to continue with optional masks in indoor spaces and buses, as supported by the staff survey results. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

John A. Holmes High School Budget Update - Dr. Sasscer presented a budget update for the John A. Holmes High School building project. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the revised construction budget for a recommended \$75 million. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

M.B. Kahn and LS3P Contracts - Dr. Sasscer presented the draft contracts for M. B. Kahn and LS3P for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to

approve the draft LS3P contract as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation to approve the draft M.B. Kahn contract and to authorize Dr. Sasscer to continue to negotiate the compensation package with M. B. Kahn, along with Kevin Howard, County Manager. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendments - Ms. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented budget amendments 1-14 for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the budget amendments as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Calm Minds Kind Hearts Contracts - Ms. Sheila Evans, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2022-2023 Calm Minds Kind Hearts Contracts for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the contracts as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

AIG Plan - Ms. Virginia Jones, Director of Special Populations, Ms. Christy Stevens, and Ms. Jennifer Cranford, presented the 2022-2025 AIG Plan for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the plan as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

CTE Plan - Mr. Josh Davenport, Director of CTE and Secondary Education, presented the 2022-2023 CTE Plan for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the plan as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- 1115 Board Member Conflict Of Interest
- 2340 Advertising In The Schools
- 4000 Attendance
- 4040 Immunization And Health Requirements For School Admission
- 6100 Disposition Of School Property
- 4262 Student Sex Offenders
- 4360 Child Abuse And Related Threats To Child Safety
- 6480 Operation Of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)
- 6500 Child Nutrition Programs
- 7500 Depositories

- 7640 Payroll Deductions

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 Ms. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- May 3, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- June 7, 2022 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - May 2022

4 - Attorney Contract

5 - John A. Holmes High School Overnight Field Trip Request - HOSA

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

A motion was made by Mr. Browder at 9:22 p.m. to enter into a closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential as permitted by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (1). A second to the motion was made by Ms. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 10:10 p.m.

There were no further board member remarks or comments.

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 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary