

Edenton-Chowan Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
6:30 p.m.

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

## MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m at the Edenton-Chowan Schools Technology Center. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Vice-Chair Jean Bunch, Ricky Browder, Gil Burroughs, Paul Clifton, Maxine Mason, Joan White and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer.

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; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Mr. Browder gave an invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Chowan Middle School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Ms. Bunch to approve the agenda as amended to include an overnight field trip request from John A. Holmes High School. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

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

At our last football game, we recognized our students for their outstanding behavior and citizenship. Edenton-Chowan Schools is proud to teach, model, and celebrate excellent choices through our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program.

Recently, students from John A. Holmes High School and Chowan Middle School, staff from Central Services, along with countless community members gathered at White Oak Elementary and D. F. Walker Elementary to provide students with a grand celebration of their favorite book character.

Mr. Kevin Howard and I continue to receive updates about surging prices across the economy. Consumer prices have seen an almost 15% increase since the first quarter of 2020. We have heard from M.B. Kahn and LS3P that these increases will affect the cost of the high school project; yet, the exact impact is not known until the project goes out to bid. We are currently considering delaying putting the project out to bid until Spring 2022. This will give us more time to assess the landscape before making cost saving decisions about the project design and educational program. A time sensitive decision is when to start renovating the Boys and Girls Club. The plan that allows the most time to do that project within budget and correctly, would require a transition between first and second semester during the 2022-23 school year. At this time, the County is also exploring cost saving measures within that project. Our goal is to have a clear path forward by the end of 2021. In summary, we are taking additional time to assess this challenging market, so we can make the best decisions for the project.

Our health data continues to improve. However, the cumulative effect of COVID is proving to be more challenging than cases. A shortage in substitutes has created strains from transportation to the classroom. Edenton United and the Chamber of Commerce were kind to spread the word through their circles which has translated into people coming to our schools to volunteer and substitute. Over the past several days, we have had several community members complete their background checks and come to either White Oak Elementary or D. F. Walker Elementary for a streamlined Effective Teacher Training. Our staff continue to persevere and rise above these challenging circumstances to serve our children.

The Board of Education recognized members of the Chowan Middle School volleyball team for their successful season.

There were no requests to address the Board.

## REPORT

ESSER Funds Update - Ms. Sheila Evans, Chief Academic Officer, gave the Board an update on the 2021-22 Edenton-Chowan Schools ESSER Budget.

NCSBA Annual Conference Update - Dr. Michael Sasscer updated the Board on the upcoming NCSBA Annual Conference that will be held in Greensboro on November 11-12, 2021.

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 masks in school buildings at this time. A motion was made by Ms. Bunch to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation to continue with masks in school buildings at this time. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried 6-1. Mr. Browder was opposed.

Donation to COA Anne-Marie Knighton Scholarship Fund - Dr. Sasscer made a recommendation to the Board to approve a one-time contribution to the College of the Albemarle Scholarship Fund in honor of Anne-Marie Knighton. A motion was made by Ms. White to accept Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously.

AIG Fundraiser and Field Trip Approval - Ms. Jennifer Cranford and Ms. Cristy Stevens, AIG teachers, gave a presentation to the Board requesting that their AIG students be allowed to raise funds for a field trip to attend New York City and Washington, D.C. 5th grade AIG students will be attending New York City and 8th grade AIG students will be attending Washington, DC. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the fundraiser and field trip request as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried unanimously.

BOE New Policy / Policy Revisions - Dr. Sasscer presented the following new board policy / policy revisions for a first reading:

New Policy

- 2340 Advertising in Schools

Policy Revisions

- 1470 Remote Participation During Board Meetings
- 2130 Parental Involvement
- 3600 Student Promotion and Accountability
- 4050 School Admissions

- 4060 Immediate Transfer when Criminal Charges are Pending
- 4100 Student Records
- 5022 Registered Sex Offenders
- 5200 Communicable Diseases or Conditions
- 5240 Leave / Benefits and Employment
- 5245 Military Leave
- 5305 Licensure

Schneider Electric Bid - Dr. Sasscer presented a bid from Schneider Electric to complete the HVAC repairs at White Oak Elementary and D. F. Walker Elementary. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to accept the bid as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

Google Meet - Dr. Sasscer shared information with the Board as to the number of participants that have tuned in to our board meetings using Google Meet over the past six months. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Browder to continue using Google Meet for board meetings. Mr. Browder amended his motion to continue using Google Meet for board meetings and to review the mode of communication used for board meetings annually at the July quarterly meeting. A second to the amended motion was made by Mrs. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ms. Bunch to approve the following items on the consent agenda, along with an overnight field trip request for the John A. Holmes High School Health Science class. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 1 - Minutes

- October 5, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- October 26, 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

#### 2 - Personnel Report

- November 2, 2021 Personnel Report

#### 3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - October 2021

#### 4 - Contract Services - Kinetic Physical Therapy and Wellness, Inc. Contract

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Bunch to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Burroughs. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary