

Edenton-Chowan Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023  
6:30 p.m.

Edenton Town Council Chambers  
504 S. Broad St.  
Edenton, NC 27932

## MINUTES

The Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education met on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Edenton Town Council Chambers. The following Board Members were present: Chairman Gene Jordan, Vice-Chair Ricky Browder, Paul Clifton, George Lewis, Lisa Perry, Joan White, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Sasscer. Ms. Battle joined the meeting remotely.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Chairman Jordan gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from D.F. Walker Elementary School.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Clifton to approve the agenda as amended to include a remote participation item. 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 monthly Student Board Member Report.**

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

Our school system was selected as one of sixteen NC public school districts to participate in an action-research opportunity through a partnership between the North

Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Education, as well as NC Collaboratory, Harvard University and Georgetown University. The expectation is to identify a problem of practice that has arisen post-pandemic. The work for our district will be centered around school readiness and our disproportionate achievement and discipline data.

Over the next few months, we will participate in four more workshops, as well as engage in regular coaching meetings with our assigned faculty partner. By the summer of 2024, we will develop a recovery-focused intervention and evaluation plan that outlines how to collect and analyze data to answer guiding questions, generate key findings, and develop and communicate recommendations to sustain the work. With our faculty partner we will finalize an action study to examine local recovery-related solutions and submit for funding to implement the study in the 2024-26 academic years. We are excited for this work to define the many facets of school readiness and how the lack of school readiness affects our classrooms. Successful completion of this intervention work will lead ECPS through perhaps its most important transforming experience we can provide for our school system and community.

The interior demolition of the Technology Facility is about 85% complete. All of the ceilings have been removed along with most of the ductwork. The high concrete slab (or raised floor with steps) has been removed. After inspection of the original slab under the raised slab, it has been determined that it is in very good condition and will be left in place. This will generate a change order to credit back the slab demo and new slab, which was estimated to cost \$26,308.

Principal Angie Walston shared some student highlights from D. F. Walker Elementary School.

There was no public board dialogue.

#### REPORT:

NCSBA Annual Conference - Ms. Sarah Hare, Board Clerk, shared information with the Board regarding the upcoming NCSBA Conference that will be held November 13-15, 2023 in Greensboro, NC.

School Climate and Culture Action Steps - Dr. Sasscer shared the school climate and culture action steps, as discussed at the November 1, 2023 Board of Education Work Session.

## CONSIDER

Resolution Regarding Affordable Housing - Dr. Sasscer presented a resolution regarding affordable housing for the Board's consideration. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Lewis to make some revisions to the resolution and to bring it back to the Board for consideration at the December 5, 2023 meeting. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Battle. The motion carried unanimously.

Volkswagon Activity Bust Grant - Dr. Sasscer presented information to the Board regarding the Volkswagon Activity Bus Grant. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to purchase two activity buses through the Volkswagen Settlement Phase 2 School Bus Program for \$256,200 of which \$211,500 will be reimbursed. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

2023-2024 Budget Resolution - Ms. Sandy Pittman, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2023-2024 Budget Resolution for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Resolution as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

District Low Performing Plan - Dr. Mindy Vickers, Chief Academic Officer, presented the District Low Performance Plan to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the plan as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

Asbestos Air Monitoring Contract - Dr. Sasscer presented an asbestos air monitoring contract for the high school building project to the Board for their consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Clifton to approve the contract for JWW Consulting, LLC to provide industrial hygiene (asbestos) services for the high school building project. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education Policy Revisions - Parents' Bill of Rights (Second Reading) - Dr. Sasscer presented the Parent's Bill of Rights policy revisions for a second reading. This

item was previously tabled at the October 3, 2023 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Perry to remove the item off the table. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously. The motion made by Mr. Lewis at the October 3, 2023 meeting to approve the policies as presented was reinstated, as well as Ms. White's second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Meeting Remote Participation - Dr. Sasscer recommended that due to special circumstances, the Board allow Board Member Sherronne Battle to participate in board meetings remotely for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve Dr. Sasscer's recommendation as presented. A second to the motion was made by Ms. White. The motion carried unanimously.

### 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

- October 3, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 1, 2023 Board Work Session Minutes

#### 2 - Personnel Report

- November 7, 2023 Personnel Report

#### 3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - October 2023

There were no additional board member remarks/comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Clifton at 8:38 p.m. to enter into a closed session to discuss a confidential matter as permitted by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (1). A second to the motion was made by Ms. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 9:19 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Perry to approve the November 7, 2023 Student Transfer Report as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Browder. The motion carried 6-1. Mr. Lewis was opposed.

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. White. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary