

Edenton-Chowan Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
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, October 6, 2020 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. Social distancing guidelines were followed.

Others attending were: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services Dr. Jana Rawls; John A. Holmes High School Principal Steve Wood;; White Oak Elementary School Principal Sheila Evans; Directors representing Central Services; Board Attorney Hack High; Deputy Holly Pierce; and Board Clerk Sarah Hare.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jordan.

Mrs. Bunch shared a moment of reflection.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from John A. Holmes High School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Mrs. Bunch to approve the agenda as presented. 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:

October is National Principals Month. Edenton-Chowan Schools is gifted with outstanding educational leaders. Principals Sheila Evans, Linda White, Michelle White and Steve Wood balance knowledge with heart to artfully lead their schools to

excellence. Dr. Sasscer expressed his appreciation to each Principal for the countless hours they devote to help our entire school family better our best.

The school system is in week six of in-person learning. Teachers and staff members are working hard and continue to learn and improve how we teach in new learning spaces. Parents and community members have been incredibly supportive of our efforts. Schools are increasing their communication about student learning, student expectations, how to access Google Classroom/Seesaw/Parent Portal and ways students/parents can connect with teachers if there are questions. Together, we are making a difference. Several area school systems have recently visited our school system to observe our practices and instructional prowess.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Finance Department has earned the State Board of Education Award for Excellence in Financial Management.

Chairman Jordan and County Commissioner Chair Patti Kersey recently executed the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant application after the county commissioners unanimously approved the grant.

The quarterly Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 to provide an update on the 2020-2021 school improvement plans.

Staff and community members have been working hard to inform our community of the proposed ¼ penny sales tax increase. Our citizens group has taken the lead on promoting the tax.

New CTE Director, Josh Davenport, has transitioned very well to our school family. He is working closely with Ms. Casey Bass to review the CTE plan and current budget. He has begun building relationships with schools leaders and teachers from John A. Holmes High School and Chowan Middle School, as well as other business and community partners.

Board Recognitions - The Board of Education recognized the following students/groups from John A. Holmes High School:

FFA - The John A. Holmes FFA was one of 14 agriculture programs to be selected for the 2019-2020 NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant.

Olivia Layton and Sydney Spear - Attended the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program

Aliah Spencer - Attended the North Carolina School of Science and Math Summer Ventures Program

PUBLIC BOARD DIALOGUE: There were no requests to address the Board.

REPORT:

NCSBA Annual Conference Information - Ms. Sarah Hare, Board Clerk, shared information with Board Members on the upcoming virtual NCSBA annual conference.

Employee Assistance Program - Dr. Jana Rawls, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services, gave a presentation to the Board on two employee assistance program options. After some discussion, the Board requested that Dr. Sasscer and Dr. Rawls bring a recommendation to the Board at the October 27, 2020 quarterly meeting.

Employee Safety Training - Dr. Jana Rawls, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Auxiliary Services, shared information with the Board on the school system's employee safety training program.

CONSIDER:

Water Supply at D. F. Walker Elementary School - Mr. David Tawes, Chowan County Water Department Director, gave an overview of the county's water systems and expressed the need to have a monitoring well station at D. F. Walker Elementary School. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to grant access to the D. F. Walker Elementary School property for three monitoring wells. Mr. D. Mark Durway, Hydrogeologist for the NC Dept of Environmental Quality, accompanied Mr. Tawes for the presentation. Mr. Durway stated that there could be three wells, or more or less, depending on the cost of the project. Mr. Burroughs amended his motion to grant access to the D. F. Walker Elementary School property for three monitoring wells, or more or less, depending on the cost. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Mason. The motion carried unanimously. There will be no cost to the school system for this project.

Contract Services - Ms. Jamie Bowers, Director of Exceptional Children, gave a presentation to the Board on occupational and physical therapy contracted services. Ms. Bowers presented a contract from RehabWorks, Inc. and Occupational Therapy Plus, Inc. for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to approve the contracts as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously.

2020-2021 Budget Resolution - Ms. Emma Berry, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2020-2021 Budget Resolution and Fund Balance Reserves for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Browder to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Resolution and Fund Balance Reserves as presented. A second to the motion was made by Mrs. Bunch. The motion carried unanimously.

NCSBA Voting Delegates - Chairman Jordan led the Board in a discussion regarding voting delegates for the annual NCSBA Conference. After some discussion, the following Board Members agreed to serve: Paul Clifton, Ricky Browder, Gene Jordan, and Gil Burroughs (alternate).

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 Mrs. White. The motion carried unanimously.

1 - Minutes

- September 1, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- September 24, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

2 - Personnel Report

- October 6, 2020 Personnel Report

3 - Financial Report

- School Board Report - October 2020

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS/COMMENTS

Mr. Burroughs commented on the following:

- Number of lunches served at John A. Holmes High School

Mrs. Bunch commented on the following:

- Informing parents of well drilling at D.F. Walker Elementary School
- COVID case count

Mr. Browder and Mr. Clifton both expressed their appreciation to the Board for the acts of kindness shown to their families during the loss of their loved one.

With there being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Burroughs to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Clifton. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Jordan, Chairman

Michael Sasscer, Ed.D., Secretary