

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
June 1, 2017**

Members of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education attended a budget work session meeting of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, June 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the W. C. Witherspoon Memorial Library on Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

	Ms. Sharon Warden, Chair	
Mrs. Virginia Houston		Mr. Walter Jolly
Dr. Sheila Williams		Mrs. Pam Pureza

The following Central Office and District staff members were present:

Dr. Larry W. Cartner, Superintendent
Mr. Steve Lassiter, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Joanne Sanders, Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Andrew Cox, Finance Officer
Ms. Tammy W. Sawyer, Community Schools Director/Public Information Officer
Ms. Amber Godfrey, Technology Director

The following members of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners were present:

	Mr. Cecil Perry, Chairman	
Mr. Jeff Dixon		Mrs. Bettie Parker
Dr. William Sterritt		Mr. Joe Winslow
Mr. Frankie Meads		Mr. Lloyd Griffin (by phone)

The following Pasquotank County staff members were present:

Mr. Rodney Bunch, County Manager
Ms. Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Mr. Mike Cox, County Attorney
Ms. Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Perry called the Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He provided brief comments on the history of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public School System which was created from the merger of a City School System and a County School System in the 1960s, and the importance of schools to the success of a community. He applauded the Board of Education for attending the meeting to seek additional funding for the school system and asked Board of Education Chairman Warden to speak.

Ms. Warden addressed the Commissioners and explained that the Board of Education is not asking that taxes be raised to provide additional funding for the school district, but is asking for a review of the County's current budget and for Commissioners to make adjustments to make education a priority. She indicated that the Board realized the original request for \$15.7 million was "asking for the moon" and explained the Board of Education needs the help and support of the Commissioners to reach the \$12.3 million needed to maintain and sustain the district as was shared by Dr. Cartner in the meeting with Commissioners on April 24, 2017. Ms. Warden asked that the two boards work together to show that education is a priority.

Following opening statements by both Chairs, members of each board and respective staff spoke regarding budgetary matters.

Topics discussed and covered by members of the Board of Commissioners and County Staff included: discussion of mandated costs faced by the County, sales tax revenue, Fund Balance issues for the County, avenues to raise additional funds to allocate to the school system (raising ad valorem taxes and financing of capital items), issues surrounding increased taxes; legislative issues; ¼ Cent Sales Tax Resolution, value of public schools to the community, and support of schools.

Topics discussed and covered by members of the Board of Education and school system staff included: appreciation for support of the school district, value of public education on to the community, understanding of concerns regarding raising taxes, understanding of budget constraints faced by Commissioners, budget constraints faced by the school system, need to maintain facilities and requests for consideration of additional funds for the district.

City Councilman Johnnie Walton, spoke to Commissioners and encouraged Commissioners to consider a tax increase in order to provide additional fund for the school system.

A motion was made by Jeff Dixon and seconded by William Sterritt to take \$320,000 of the school system's Current Expense allocation and add it to capital to free up \$320,000 in the general fund and to increase ad valorem taxes by one cent. Voting for the motion were Joe Winslow, William Sterritt, Cecil Perry, Jeff Dixon, Bettie Parker. Voting against the motion was Frankie Meads. The motion carried.

Chair Warden thanked Commissioners for their support and indicated the school system will do everything it can to move forward and work hard to make ECPPS the shining star of the Northeast.

Board of Education members left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Chair

Secretary