

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL Called Work Session
Held at Central Services Barnhill Conference Room
2311 N Main Street
Tarboro, NC

February 25, 2019
3:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Dr. Evelyn S. Wilson, Board Chair Ann Kent, Vice Chair
 William Ellis Raymond Privott
 Evelyn Johnson Lillie R. Worsley

Board Member Absent: Marva G. Scott

Others Present: Dr. Valerie H. Bridges, Superintendent
 Mrs. Abbey Futrell, Assistant Superintendent
 Dr. Marc Whichard, Assistant Superintendent
 Jerome Williams, Director of Maintenance
 Charlene Pittman, Director of Student Support Services
 Deborah Stagner, Board Attorney
 Rose Cole, Board Liaison

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Dr. Evelyn S. Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance. The meeting was called to order. The Board led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges requested that the agenda be amended to add an item and change the work session items to (3.1) Summer School Programs; (3.2) Princeville ECPS Professional Development Center Update; (3.3) Princeville Elementary School Update; and (3.4) School Resource Officers (SROs). A motion was made by Board Member Raymond Privott to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Member Evelyn Johnson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

WORK SESSION - SUMMER READING PROGRAMS: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges opened the meeting by stating we are here to discuss Summer Reading Programs, updates regarding the Princeville ECPS Professional Development Center and Princeville Elementary School, and School Resource Officers (SROs). Handouts were provided for discussion on the Princeville ECPS Professional Development Building Renovation, Princeville Elementary School Renovation and the ECPS School Resource Officers Program. Dr. Bridges reviewed the agenda with the Board.

CONETOE FAMILY LIFE CENTER SUMMER SCHOOL 2019: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges introduced Rev. Richard Joyner and stated he will be sharing information with the Board regarding the Conetoe Family Life Center Summer School Program. Rev. Joyner provided handouts and shared with the Board that the program is to improve the health of the youth and community by increasing access to healthy foods, increasing physical activities, and providing access to health services. Their goal is to change the poverty cycle in families.

Rev. Richard Joyner reviewed with the Board how the “Conetoe Family Life Center Summer School” program promotes a change in student education and provides opportunities for changing family lives through helping communities to be sustainable by providing jobs and getting locally grown foods into our communities and into schools by working with Director of Child Nutrition Ruth McDowell. Through community supported agriculture (CSA), the children learn how to grow and harvest vegetables and honey. Sales proceeds are invested in the farm, youth health programs and after-school education and has enabled them to build a state of the art technology system. Last year the camp served 65 students (ages 5-19) and this year the camp will accept more students. The camp is a 7 week program, operating Monday – Friday from 6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. during the months of June – July. There is no direct cost to the students – they are paid by their participation in the garden and working in vegetable stands. Transportation, breakfast, and lunch are provided. The goal is to change the culture and build a sense of core values. Programs are supported also by the CSA boxes put together from the community garden and the bee operation. This is done through volunteers, residents, churches, and other area organizations. Rev. Joyner thanked the Board for their trust in these programs and for putting their trust in him.

ECPS READ TO ACHIEVE SUMMER PROGRAM: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges stated the “Read to Achieve” is a State funded 4 week program to be conducted on July 8 – August 1, provides 72 instructional hours by 35 teachers, and will serve 1st – 3rd graders (approximately 300 students). Transportation and meals are provided. Director of Elementary Paula Flythe will share more information at the March 11, 2019 board meeting.

FREEDOM SCHOOLS PROGRAM: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges provided an overview of “Freedom Schools” program which is a program of the Children’s Defense Fund. The program seeks to build strong, literate, and empowered children prepared to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation and the world. By providing summer reading enrichment for children who might otherwise not have access to books, the “Freedom Schools” program plays a much needed role in helping to curb summer learning loss and close the achievement gaps. Students are engaged in a research-based, multicultural integrated reading curriculum that supports them and their families through five essential components: high quality academic enrichment; parent/family development; civic engagement and social action; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition, health and mental health. In Summer 2017 (Year 1) the program served 60 students (grades rising 1st – 6th) and Summer 2018 (Year 2) the program served 120 students (grades rising 1st – 9th). The program is a 7 week program, operating Monday – Friday during the months of June – July. There is a \$35 application fee to students (scholarships available). ECPS investment is \$50,000 and provides transportation (within a 3 mile radius) and meals. ECPS staff will share more information at the March 11, 2019 board meeting.

PRINCEVILLE ECPS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER: Maintenance Director Jerome Williams introduced Mr. Ben Skinner, Architect, Skinner Farlow and Kirwan Architecture; Mr. Bert Long, Project Manager, H G Reynolds Company, Inc.; and Mr. Sam Watts, Project Manager, SME, Inc. Mr. Williams reviewed the scope of work for the Princeville ECPS Professional Development Center building renovation. Mr. Williams provided a bid

tabulation form, FEMA funding sources, and Sedgwick Insurance funding sources of the renovation cost and informed the Board that the ECPS Maintenance Department could do the renovations for \$103,281.29, with a projected savings of \$136,318.71 and complete the work in 45 days with the Board's approval.

PRINCEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Maintenance Director Jerome Williams reviewed the scope of work for the Princeville Elementary School renovation. Mr. Williams provided a bid tabulation form, FEMA funding sources, and Sedgwick Insurance funding sources of the renovation cost and recommended the Board award the bid in the amount of \$6,186,277.00 for Princeville Elementary School's renovation to H. G. Reynolds of Henderson, NC. To meet the 270 days timeline to complete the renovations as required in the project specification notes, H. G. Reynolds will need to start as soon as possible. To expedite the process, the company will need a "notice of award" or "intent to award" letter to be able to get the building permits this week and be mobilized by March 11, 2019. Mr. Williams and H. G. Reynolds will hold bi-weekly progress meetings and report meeting notes at the monthly Board of Education meetings. Mr. Williams will also schedule a building walk-thru with the Board after the major overhead work is complete and H. G. Reynolds agrees it is safe to conduct one. Mr. Williams stated that if the bid is awarded today to H. G. Reynolds, the executed signed contract will be presented for board approval at the March 11, 2019 board meeting.

Maintenance Director Jerome Williams recommended approval of the Board for Skinner Farlow and Kirwan Architecture of Raleigh, NC project administrator architecture fees increased from \$230,000.00 to the amount of \$618,627.70 for Princeville Elementary School, due to the increase cost of construction from the estimated amount of \$2,300,000.00 to the lowest bid amount of \$6,186,277.00. This fee is based on 10% of construction cost.

Maintenance Director Jerome Williams informed the Board that there will be a negative funding difference in the amount of \$-396,277.00. Mr. Williams contacted FEMA and he was instructed to file an Un-meet Needs Claim with the State of NC, and after the claim is reviewed FEMA and the State of NC will decide who will pay the Un-meet Needs. Mr. Williams is confident that the funding will be paid. If needed, prior to receiving the funding, funds could be moved: \$150,000.00 within Capital Outlay and \$246,277.00 from insurance reimbursement for contents. When the Un-meet Needs funding is received, the funds will be put back into Capital Outlay.

Board Attorney Deborah Stagner stated a motion is required for Board approval of the ECPS PD Center renovation, the Princeville Elementary School renovation bid, and the architecture fees increase.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to approve the request to award the bid for the Princeville Elementary School renovation project to H. B. Reynolds Company, Inc. for the amount of \$6,186,277.00 with the executed contract to be presented for board approval at the March 11, 2019 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Raymond Privott and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to approve the ECPS Professional Development Center renovations to be done in house by the ECPS Maintenance Department for the amount of \$103,281.29. The motion was seconded by Member William Ellis and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Evelyn Johnson to approve the Skinner Farlow and Kirwan Architecture of Raleigh, NC project administrator architecture fees increase in the amount \$618,627.70 for Princeville Elementary School, due to the increased cost of construction from \$2,300,000.00 to \$6,186,277.00, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Raymond Privott and, with unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICIERS (SROs): Student Support Services Director Charlene Pittman provided the Board with a copy of the School Safety Grant Application, an ECPS School Resource Officers Program handout, and draft copies of the MOUs with the Tarboro Police Department and the Edgecombe County Sheriff's Department. Ms. Pittman reviewed the SRO program with the Board explaining the past history of services provided and the scheduling of service hours in the high schools. With NCDPI matching grants, ECPS obtained support in the middle schools along with increasing service hours. The continuation of grant funding during the 2018-19 school year, NCDPI provides an opportunity to apply for supports for elementary and middle schools with the employment and/or training of SROs. Ms. Pittman provided a sample 2018-19 school year schedule of the SROs service support hours for middle and high schools and stated that DARE and Sergeants will conduct walk-throughs in the elementary schools. Ms. Pittman said the MOUs are a formal agreement between ECPS and our local law enforcement agencies to capture our current practices, articulate the roles, and ensure the same protocols are followed throughout the district. Ms. Pittman stated the SRO annual orientation could be conducted at the ECPS Leadership Academy. Ms. Pittman reviewed the expectations of SROs while on school campuses, duties of the Board and ECPS, financing of the SRO program, principals/assistant principals' feedback, and next steps regarding the program.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Evelyn Johnson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Valerie H. Bridges, Superintendent

Approved by the Edgecombe County Board of Education

BY: _____
Dr. Evelyn S. Wilson, Chairperson

Date: _____