

OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting of the Board Held at Edgecombe County Board Rooms  
412 Pearl Street  
Tarboro, NC

March 11, 2019  
6:30 P.M.

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

Board Member Absent:     Evelyn Johnson

Others Present:     Dr. Valerie H. Bridges, Superintendent  
                           Mrs. Abbey Futrell, Assistant Superintendent  
                           Dr. Marc Whichard, Assistant Superintendent  
                           Susan Hoke, Community & Communications Coordinator  
                           Laurie Leary, Director of Finance  
                           Janet Morris, Director of Testing & Accountability  
                           Charlene Pittman, Director of Student Support Services  
                           Melissa Michaud, 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 to move item (4.1) Barbara Batts, Coordinator of Twin County Autism Family Support Group to item (6.6) and in section (6) Consent Items, to add items (6.4) Golden Leaf Adaptive Play Space Grant and (6.5) Freedom Schools. Dr. Bridges requested in section (8)A Items for Information, to change item (8.2.A) the first fundraiser school name from Carver to Princeville; and add SWEHS Athletic Council Fundraiser with West Edgecombe Ruritan Club to Host the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Cougar Extravaganza on April 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. and to Sell Reverse Raffle Tickets for \$100 each on April 1 – 13, 2019. Dr. Bridges requested in section (8)B Items for Action, to add item (8.11.B) Approval of Submitting the NC Arts Council Grassroots Grant Application. Dr. Bridges requested in the motion to go into closed session, to add, including pending litigation to discuss K. B. and L. B. v. Edgecombe County Board of Education, et al., Case No. 4:16-CV-00271-D (EDNC) and in section (9.3) Legal Issues, to add (9.3.1) K. B. and L. B. v. Edgecombe County Board of Education, et al., Case No. 4:16-CV-00271-D (EDNC). A motion was made by Member Raymond Privott to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Community & Communications Coordinator Susan Hoke recognized Ms. Theresa Glast, W.A. Pattillo Middle School Special Education Teacher, as the employee of the month. Ms. Hoke

presented Ms. Glast with a certificate. Mr. Greg Sessoms, State Farm Agent, could not attend the meeting, but will provide Ms. Glast with a gift card.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Marc Whichard recognized Tarboro High School Coach Jeffrey Craddock for being nominated as a runner up for the national Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. Coach Craddock has successfully led the Vikings football team to win its sixth NCHSAA 1-AA State Championship.

**FOCUS SCHOOLS:** South Edgecombe Middle School Principal Billy Strother provided a presentation to the Board on “Exceed Expectations – South Edgecombe: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”. South Edgecombe leaders are providing flexibility, identifying students’ learning styles, promoting a pursuit of passions in students’ learning experiences that improve learning skills, and promote a culture which provides a safe space in building relationships with their students. South Edgecombe focus is on self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision making, personal skills, and organization skills.

W. A. Pattillo Middle School Principal Lauren Lampron and Assistant Principal Demetrius Jenkins, teachers and scholars provided a presentation to the Board on “Resilience – Social Emotional Learning”. The scholars are learning how to build authentic safe relationships, use informed approaches and practices to determining unsafe vs. safe. The school counselor uses structured psychotherapy for adhering to responding to students with chronic stress. The scholars begin every Monday with a weekly temperature check to reflect on: things that happened over the weekend, time to gather thoughts, think on how they are feeling, given an opportunity to share ideas, and provides an environment in which students can feel safe talking about problems and solutions. These restorative conversations help students recognize what they are feeling and how to react in a way that builds collaboration; creates better social-emotional learning experiences and relationships; and promotes an impact that can transfer their lives to be in a better place.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to approve the regular business board meeting open session minutes of February 11, 2019. The motion was seconded by Member Lillie R. Worsley and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Lillie R. Worsley to approve the special called board meeting open session minutes of February 25, 2019. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:** Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges informed the Board of school field trips she approved that were submitted after the February 11, 2019 board meeting, but occurring prior to the March 11, 2019 board meeting.

**Extended Day**

**G. W. Bulluck Elementary** (15617) – West Edgecombe Middle School, Rocky Mount, NC; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; 02/19/2019; Departure: 5:00 p.m. – Return: 6:00 p.m.

**SWEHS** (15746) – Northwest Halifax High School, Littleton, NC, JROTC; 02/22/2019; Departure: 3:30 p.m. – Return: 7:15 p.m.

**NEHS** (15794) – NC A&T University, Greensboro, NC; FCS and Ag Students; 03/08/2019; Departure: 5:00 a.m. – Return: 8:00 p.m.

**NEHS** (15592) – NC A&T University, Greensboro, NC; JROTC; 03/08/2019; Departure: 8:00 a.m. – Return: 6:45 p.m.

**Overnight**

**NEHS** (15683) – Holly Springs High School, Holly Springs, NC; Extended Stay America Raleigh-Cary Regency Hotel, Cary, NC; Robotics Team; 03/08/2019 – 03/10/2019; Departure: 03/08/2019 at 8:00 a.m. – Return: 03/10/2019 at 12:00 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges informed the Board of school fundraisers she approved that were submitted after the February 11, 2019 board meeting, but occurring prior to the March 11, 2019 board meeting.

**G. W. Carver** PTO Fundraiser to Sell Raffle Tickets for \$1 each on March 2 – 15, 2019, Host their Annual Carnival on March 15, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Sell Game Wristbands for \$15 each and Individual Game Tickets for \$1 each

**THS** Student Government Association “March Madness” Fundraiser to Collect Coins in Jars (labeled with teachers’ name) on March 4 – 15, 2019

**MMA** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser with Krispy Kreme Donuts to Sell Donut Certificates for \$8 each on March 4 – 18, 2019

**NEHS** JROTC Fundraiser with The Candy Man to Sell Various Items for \$6 - \$20 on March 6 – 19, 2019

Director of Student Support Services Charlene Pittman informed the Board the ECPS middle school students have been provided a special opportunity through Area L AHEC (Area Health Education Center) and Mountain AHEC to attend a prevention awareness program addressing the opioid epidemic titled “It’s Just a Pill” on March 14, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Edgecombe Community College. Through humor, imaginative music, and creative storytelling, actors bring to life a young girl’s classroom experience learning about the risks of prescription narcotics. This production aligns with the instructional standards for students from the NC Healthful Living Curriculum: 6.ATOD.2, 7.ATOD.1, and 8.ATOD.2 - Understand the health risks associated with alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Assistant Superintendent Abbey Futrell informed the Board ECPS is applying for a Longleaf Grant to support the development of an Adaptive Play Space at G. W. Carver Elementary School. If awarded, the grant would provide 50% of the funds necessary for the play space. ECPS would commit to raising the remaining 50% to support the construction of the play space. The goal of the adaptive play space is to provide a play space that serves a population of students with a range of special challenges, including physical challenges. Also, the play space will increase the time students can spend outside developing fine and gross motor skills, as well as, social and emotional skills. The total cost of the project would be \$57,400.00 and ECPS would need to provide \$28,700.00 through fundraising efforts.

Mr. Jesse Lewis, Executive Director with Peacemakers of Rocky Mount shared a PowerPoint presentation “There’s No School Like Freedom School” with the Board. Mr. Lewis stated the Freedom School Program is a seven-week academic enrichment program specifically designed for children from under-resourced areas to address summer reading loss. The program includes: culturally-responsive reading curriculum, remedial reading support, activity classes, daily meals and snacks, special interactive learning experiences, and field trips. The Freedom School Program’s five components are: high-quality academic enrichment, parent and family involvement, social action and civic engagement, intergenerational servant leadership development, and nutrition, health, and mental health. Mr. Lewis said the program was successful last year with the school system. Mr. Lewis asked for ECPS to continue the partnership again this year.

Ms. Barbara Batts, founder of Twin County Autism Family Support provided handouts and informed the Board she started the support group to educate people about autism so they are more aware of the symptoms. The group meets the last Friday in the month at Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount to help educate parents, family members and the public about children on the autism spectrum, which ranges widely in its symptoms. Children with this disorder usually react abnormally in social situations, are easily over-stimulated, are prone to obsessive behavior and are sometimes non-verbal. The meetings provide support, services, and opportunities for families with children who have autism to share, listen, and ask questions to help each other solve problems or offer solutions based on past experiences. Ms. Batts would like to expand their support services to teachers so that they can learn new information in caring for children with autism and special needs. For more information go to:  
<https://www.inglewood-umc.com/autism-support-group.html>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

CONSENT ITEMS: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges requested that the Board approve the following consent items:

**Field Trips:**

**Extended Day**

**SWEHS** (15751) – UNC at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC; JROTC Cadets; 03/16/2019;

Departure: 7:30 a.m. – Return: 5:30 p.m.

**MMA** (15740) – NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; Departure: 8:00 a.m. – Return: 5:00 p.m.

**Coker-Wimberly Elementary** (15598) – NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, Kure Beach, NC; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; Departure: 8:00 a.m. – Return: 5:00 p.m.

**G. W. Carver Elementary** (14813) – NC Zoo, Asheboro, NC; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; 03/22/2019; Departure: 7:00 a.m. – Return: 6:00 p.m.

**Phillips Middle** (15768) – National Museum of African American History & Culture, Washington, DC/Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, Colonial Heights, VA; 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade; 04/04/2019; Departure: 6:00 a.m. – Return: 7:00 p.m.

**G. W. Carver Elementary** (15020) – NC Aquarium, Pine Knoll Shores, NC; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; 04/18/2019; Departure: 8:00 a.m. – Return: 5:00 p.m.

**Extended Day & Out-of-State**

**WEMS** (15706) – Kings Dominion, Doswell, VA; Beta Club; 04/26/2019; Departure: 6:30 a.m. – Return: 10:00 p.m.

**Extended Day & Overnight**

**THS** (15691) – Carowinds, Charlotte, NC/Golden Corral Buffet & Grill, Matthews, NC/Country Inn & Suites, Matthews, NC/McDonald’s Restaurant, Waxhaw, NC/Union County - Cane Creek Park, Waxhaw, NC/The Pit Authentic Barbecue, Raleigh, NC; AFJROTC; 04/05/2019 – 04/06/2019; Departure: 04/05/2019 at 7:45 a.m. – Return: 04/06/2019 at 8:30 p.m.

**Out-of-State & Overnight**

**EECHS** (15695) – RDU Airport, Morrisville, NC/NY La Guardia Airport, NY/NY La Guardia Airport Marriott, NY; 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Leadership; 04/10/2019 - 04/14/2019; Departure: 04/10/2019 at 9:00 a.m. – Return: 04/14/2019 at 5:00 p.m.

**MMA** (15594) – The White House/Smithsonian Museum of Natural History/American History Museum/World War II Memorial/Korean War Memorial/Vietnam Wall/Lincoln Memorial/Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Washington, DC/Comfort Inn, Oxen, MD/Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA/Air & Space Museum, Hampton, VA/National Museum of the American Indian/United States Capitol, Washington, DC; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; 05/03/2019 – 05/04/2019; Departure: 05/03/2019 at 6:00 a.m. – Return: 05/04/2019 at 10:00 p.m.

**Fundraisers:**

**Princeville Elementary** Fundraiser with Krispy Kreme Donuts to Sell Donut Certificates for \$8 each on March 19 – April 1, 2019

**SWEHS** Athletic Council Fundraiser with West Edgecombe Ruritan Club to Host the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Cougar Extravaganza on April 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. and to Sell Reverse Raffle Tickets for \$100 each on April 1 – 13, 2019

**MMA** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Community Night Fundraiser with Pizza Inn of Tarboro on April 2, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**THS** Athletic Fundraiser with The Links of Cotton Valley to Host a Golf Tournament on May 17, 2019, Charge a \$350 Entry Fee per Participating Team, and Sell Sponsorships for \$100 per Hole on April 1 – 12, 2019

**Coker-Wimberly** Musical Group Fundraiser to Host a Spring Musical “Cinderella” on May 17 and May 18, 2019 and Charge \$5 for Tickets

**MMA STEM Program Camp** learning sessions will be held on: March 21, 2019 – Duke Energy Science Night and March 23, 2019 – BioNetwork

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to approve the consent items, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member William Ellis and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION:** A motion was made by Member Marva G. Scott to approve the Traditional High Schools and EECHS Summer School Remediation and Summer Testing Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Ann Kent, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member William Ellis to approve the Elementary/Middle School Summer School Remediation and Summer Testing Plan, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Lillie R. Worsley to approve the Traditional, iZone Schools and Edgecombe Early College Calendars for 2019-2020, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Raymond Privott to approve the Budget Amendment for 2018-2019, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Lillie R. Worsley, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member William Ellis to approve waiving the facilities use fees for the G. W. Carver Alumni Association using the SWEHS Track Complex on April 13, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for a Walk-A-Thon to raise funds for scholarships, excluding the cost for payment of custodian fees, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to approve the purchase of Lenova Chromebooks for Classrooms of Core Teachers in Grades 3-12, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Lillie R. Worsley, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Lillie R. Worsley to approve the purchase of Dell Laptops for Core Teachers in Grades 3-12, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Marva G. Scott to approve submitting the North Carolina Arts Council cARTwheels Grant Application, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member William Ellis, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Raymond Privott to approve the Contract between ECBOE and H. B. Reynolds for Princeville Elementary School Renovation, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Lillie R. Worsley, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent to approve submitting the Community Progress Fund Grant Application, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member William Ellis, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Lillie R. Worsley to approve submitting Grassroots Grant Application to NC Arts Council, as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Ann Kent, and with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ann Kent under the North Carolina Open Meetings Law, Section 143-318.11 (a) (1), (a) (3), and (a) (6), to go into Closed Session to consider personnel matters, to consult with the attorney to preserve attorney-client privileged information, including pending litigation to discuss K. B. and L. B. v. Edgecombe County Board of Education, et al., Case No. 4:16-CV-00271-D (EDNC), and to prevent the disclosure of student records rendered confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and the disclosure of personnel records rendered confidential under G.S. 115C-319 through 321. The motion was seconded by Member Raymond Privott and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION: A motion was made by Member Raymond Privott to approve the personnel management list, as discussed in closed session. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Ann Kent and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member William Ellis to approve the extracurricular activities – spring sports, as discussed in closed session. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Lillie R. Worsley to approve the regular business meeting closed session minutes of February 11, 2019, as presented in closed session. The motion was seconded by Member Marva G. Scott and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE: None

ITEMS BROUGHT BY BOARD MEMBERS/SUPERINTENDENT FOR CONSIDERATION/  
DISCUSSION: Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges stated that the Board Retreat will be held on March 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Country Inn & Suites, 672 English Road, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Superintendent Dr. Valerie H. Bridges informed the Board they will need to select the scholarship interview committee.

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Valerie H. Bridges, Superintendent

Approved by the Edgecombe  
County Board of Education

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Evelyn S. Wilson, Chairperson

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_