



**October 15, 2025
Massey Conference Room**

1. Roll Call

The Board of Trustees at Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf met in regular session. The following members were present:

Ken Jones

Gary Farmer

Rob Boyette

Dr. Dave Dolman

Sharon Lott

Kevin Earp

Also present were:

Rachel Hitch - Attorney

Cheryl Iannucci – Superintendent

Mandy Armstrong – Notetaker

2. Call to Order –

Chair: Ken Jones

- Meeting called to order with opening remarks.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call completed.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mr. Farmer moves to accept the agenda as presented.

Second: Dr. Dolman

Vote: All in favor. **Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2025

Motion: Mr. Farmer moves to accept minutes as presented with corrections to Mr. Boyette's name.

Second: Dr. Dolman

Vote: All in favor. **Motion Carried.**

5. Celebrations

Superintendent Iannucci shared the following celebrations:

- The soccer team returned safely after experiencing a tire blowout in Virginia.
- A House Bill was passed allocating \$400k in funds for ENCSD.
- Superintendent Iannucci attended a reception at the Governor's Mansion celebrating people with disabilities, including individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

7. Superintendent's report

Superintendent Iannucci provided updates in the following areas:

- **Enrollment**
 - Enrollment is currently at 40 students.
 - We will be observing a student tomorrow. This student will be in our elementary school if accepted.
 - The Superintendent will attend the EC conference November 17-21 with the EC coordinator.
- **School Improvement Team**
 - We have selected a new community representative, Carolyn Hornick and a new parent representative, Briana Bates.
 - They will assist our SIT in establishing goals for the upcoming year.
- **Principal's Corner**
 - The Principal, Elbert Kent, is conducting observations and providing feedback on instructional rigor and academic performance.
- **Upcoming events**

- ASL community class will run in November, Tuesdays 6 PM – 7 PM, with an online option under consideration.
- Trunk-or-Treat will be on October 31st. Families will be invited as well.
- December 19th, Signing Santa will be on campus with Mrs. Claus and their dog, as part of our Holiday Festival.
- **HR – Simone Leigh**
 - Interviewing a second candidate for Data Manager/Assistant to the Principal position.
 - Posting for an interpreter position due to high service demand.
 - Hiring a food service worker following a retirement.
 - Initiating search for an Internal Auditor and CPC.
 - Accounts payable position reclassified to Business Coordinator.
 - One nurse position has been reallocated to create a School Resource Officer position.
 - All other positions are on hold until the state budget is passed.
- **Business and Finance Report – Susan Pittman**
 - We have just completed our first quarter of this fiscal year.
 - Approximately 80% of budget spent. This is an appropriate level due to summer staffing and fiscal caution with budget pending.
 - The \$400k is allocated as follows:
 - \$300K to contractual services (CPC).
 - \$100K to salary line for Internal Auditor.
- **Maintenance Update**
 - Construction has begun on our Maintenance garage. Asbestos abatement was needed.
 - The roof replacement/repair will begin this week due to significant leakage; Middle School students may be temporarily relocated for safety.
- **NC Collaboratory**
 - \$70K grant available for research partnership.
 - There are two proposals under review: UNC Charlotte (organizational/financial review) and UNC Chapel Hill (AI support for staff/student services).
 - Unknown whether one or both schools (ENCSD/NCSD) will participate.
 - Study duration: one year.
 - Attorney Hitch will contact DPI and legal counsel regarding DIT approval issues for Unique Learning System.
- **Federal Funding**
 - ENCSD applied for IDEA grant of \$76K; budget plan required for use.

- The grant has been made available for public viewing as required by federal law.
- Title II funding of \$2500 received for professional development.
- Discussion held regarding possible revival of a school foundation; Attorney Hitch will research options.

8. Public Input

Speaker: none

9. New Business

• Policy Review Team

- A Policy Review Committee will be established, composed of Board members Gary Farmer and Dr. Dave Dolman, the Superintendent, Mandy Armstrong, the Principal, the HR director and Business manager (as required), and a teacher.
- Committee appointments to be made by the Chair, Mr. Ken Jones.
- Tentative meeting dates provided; November and early December dates will be scheduled.

• Capital Project Priorities

- Multiple construction projects planned:
 - Vestal roof replacement to begin this week.
 - Williamson gym structural corrections and A/C replacement scheduled for November.
 - Drainage improvements will limit traffic behind ILC to Alford Gate.
 - Steam system issues remain on priority list.
 - Dormitory repair prioritized as student population grows.
- Muter assisted with reallocation of remaining funds from other projects.

• MOU with DPI

- Attorney Hitch reviewed the latest revisions from DPI; additional questions to be addressed in meeting later today.
- Attorney Shaw indicates current draft is in good standing pending DPI review.
- Final approval deferred until November meeting.
- Mr. Boyette requested further review of officer/board coverage; Attorney Hitch and Ms. Pittman will review policies for potential gaps.

• MOU with DOA

- No updated draft received.

- ENCSD has increased internal capacity, reducing dependence on DOA services.
- Service fee estimated at \$60K; varies by school usage.
- Staff are tracking level of support provided by DOA.
- Attorney Hitch will continue to work and prepare guidance for Board regarding mandatory vs. discretionary services.
- **Discussion: Closed Session Timing**
 - Discussion held regarding moving closed sessions to the start of meetings (8:30 AM – 9:0 AM).
 - Board identified benefits for interpreter scheduling but expressed concern about time limits for extended issues.
 - Recommendation: Maintain closed sessions at the end of meetings at this time.

10. Closed Session

Purpose: To consider personnel matters as provided in North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a_) (6) and 115C-321 and to consult with the Board of Education Attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) and to formulate plans relating to emergency response to incidents of school violence or to formulate and adopt the school safety components of the school improvement plan by the Board or a school improvement team as provided in North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11 (a)(8).

Motion: Mr. Farmer moved to enter Closed Session

Second: Mr. Boyette

Vote: All in favor. **Motion Carried.**

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Mandy Armstrong

Date: October 15, 2025