

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rockingham County High School

180 High School Road

Reidsville, NC 27320

December 14, 2020

6:00 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING and
SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Present: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair and Ms. Vicky Alston, Vice Chair. Board Members: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley, Ms. Vickie McKinney and Mr. Bob Wyatt. Administrative staff: Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent; Dr. Sonja Parks, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Logistics; Dr. Charles Perkins, Assistant Superintendent of K- 12 Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Ken Scott, Interim Director of Human Resources; Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman and Ms. Renee Everhart, Board Assistant were present. Outgoing Board Member, Ms. Amanda Bell was present to be recognized for her sixteen years of service on the Board of Education. Note: Ms. Rakestraw was standing Board Chair until the reorganization portion of the agenda. Board Member Ms. Vickie McKinney attended via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rakestraw called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Six board members were present at roll call. Board Member Ms. Vickie McKinney joined the meeting via zoom at 6:23 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is no Work Session scheduled for December.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular board meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021 at Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, N.C.

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is a Work Session scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

Board Chair Ms. Rakestraw recognized County Commissioners Mr. Charlie Hall and Mr. Kevin Berger as attending the meeting. Also recognized as attending were Councilman Mr. James Festerman, Judge Tony Grogan and Judge Stan Allen.

MOMENT OF PRAYER / MEMORY OF MS. HAZEL BARKER

Pastor William Hairston of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Reidsville gave the invocation.

Board Chair Paula Rakestraw remembered in memory recently deceased Ms. Hazel Barker, Administrative Assistant in Curriculum and Instruction at the Administrative Offices for Rockingham County Schools.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Mr. Doug Isley led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA / SWEARING-IN CEREMONY of BOARD MEMBERS / BOARD REORGANIZATION

Board Chair Ms. Rakestraw stated due to the information packets regarding the finance documents, RFP for Banking Services, were not received by Board Members for review as needed, to amend the agenda to move item 7.2 Approval – RFP for Banking Services, to item 8.6 Report / Discussion – RFP for Banking Services

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board amend the agenda to move 7.2 Action to Reports 8.6. There was not second. The motion failed.

Action: Ms. Bell moved that the Board approve the agenda as is, Ms. McMichael seconded it. The vote was 6/0 with no one opposed. (Ms. McKinney was not on zoom yet.)

Recognition of Outgoing Board Member Ms. Amanda Bell:

At this time, Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell recognized outgoing Board Member Ms. Amanda Bell on behalf of the Board and Rockingham County Schools for sixteen years of service on the Board of Education. Ms. Bell made brief comments thanking the community and RCS Administration for their support.

Swearing-In Ceremony:

At this time, the Board Members were sworn into Office as listed:

Mr. Brent Huss was sworn into office by the Honorable Judge James A. “Tony” Grogan. Mr. Huss’s family was present.

Ms. Vicky Alston was sworn into office by the Honorable Judge James A. “Tony” Grogan. Mr. James Festerman was present with Ms. Alston.

Mr. Bob Wyatt was sworn into office by the Honorable Judge Stanley L. Allen. Mr. Wyatt’s family was present.

Ms. Vickie McKinney was sworn into office earlier in the day in a separate ceremony by the Register of Deeds Mr. Benjamin J. Curtis. Ms. McKinney’s family was present with her at her swearing in.

The newly sworn in Board Members took their seats with the other Board Members.

Board Chair Ms. Paula Rakestraw welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Board Members and asked if they would like to comment.

Ms. Vicky Alston thanked her family and Mr. James Festerman for their support of her while running for office. She thanked the voters of District I.

Mr. Brent Huss thanked his family for their support and his constituents that have supported him.

Mr. Bob Wyatt thanked the voters that supported him. He stated he would serve to the best of his abilities.

Ms. Vickie McKinney had no comment.

Ms. Paula Rakestraw stated she appreciated the opportunity to serve as Board Chair and the support she received from the Board and RCS Administration.

NOTE: The Board took a 15-minute break, to return at 6:45 pm.

Board Reorganization – Board Chair:

Dr. Shotwell stated the floor is open for nominations for Board Chair.

Mr. Bob Wyatt nominated Ms. Kimberly McMichael for Board Chair.

There were no more nominations.

Dr. Shotwell closed the nominations and stated the board does vote by ballot and to sign their ballot.

The ballot is a public record.

The Board voted by ballot. The votes for Board Chair are in favor of Ms. Kimberly McMichael with a 6/1 vote as listed below. Judge Stan Allen and Dr. Shotwell tallied and read the votes.

Votes for Ms. Kimberly McMichael (6 votes)

Paula Rakestraw

Bob Wyatt

Vicky Alston

Brent Huss

Kimberly McMichael

Vickie McKinney

Votes for Bob Wyatt (1 vote)

Doug Isley

Board Reorganization – Board Vice Chair:

Ms. McMichael, Board Chair stated the floor is open for nominations for the Board Vice Chair.

Ms. Paula Rakestraw nominated Ms. Vicky Alston for Vice Chair.

There were no other nominations.

Votes for Ms. Vicky Alston (6 votes)

Paula Rakestraw
Bob Wyatt
Vicky Alston
Brent Huss
Kimberly McMichael
Vickie McKinney

Votes for Brent Huss (1 vote)

Doug Isley

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board amend the agenda to add item 9.4 – Personnel Issue to Closed Session.
Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS – PUBLIC COMMENTS / BOARD COMMENTS

Public Comments:

1. Eden Combs – Ms. Combs addressed the Board regarding her view to have children return to school. She stated she is in favor of face-to-face learning. She asked the board to consider sending students back to school for face-to-face learning.
2. Misty Tuttle – Ms. Tuttle addressed the Board regarding her view to have children return to school. She stated she is in favor of face-to-face learning for her child. She stated she is thankful for the school site-based child care because she works fulltime.
3. Rochelle Tucker – Ms. Tucker addressed the Board, congratulating the elected Board Members and challenged the Board to pray about their decisions and to do what is best for the children.

Board Comments:

Ms. Rakestraw congratulated the elected Board Members. She thanked Ms. McMichael and Ms. Alston for taking the Chair and Vice Chair responsibilities for 2021. Ms. Rakestraw wished everyone happy holidays and a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Isley stated in regards to the reopening of school and students returning to face-to-face learning, he has heard from parents and will support the return to school for students.

Ms. McMichael thanked Ms. Amanda Bell for her sixteen years of service to the Board of Education. She thanked Ms. Paula Rakestraw and Mr. Bob Wyatt for their service as Chair and Vice Chair for 2020. Ms. McMichael offered her condolences to the family of recently deceased Ms. Hazel Barker.

CONSENT AGENDA

Presented consent items for Board consideration:

1. Consent Approval - Gifts, grants and donations to the school district (Attachment 1-A).
2. Consent Approval – Adoption of Board Policies, Revised Policies, First Reading and Second Reading (Attachment 2-A)
3. Board of Education meeting minutes for approval:
 - November 9, 2020 – Open Session Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - November 20, 2020 – Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the consent items, pulling Policy 2127 – Board Member

Technology Use until the January board meeting. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Re-Entry Plan for January 21, 2021:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell, Dr. Stephanie Ellis, Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Dr. Charles Perkins and Dr. Sonja Parks for an update regarding Re-entry Plan for January 2021. Dr. Stephanie Ellis reported as of today there are 3722 COVID-19 cases and the state is at 11.6%. The following areas of information were presented as listed.

- New Quarantine NCDHHS and CDC Guidance (Received 12/4/2020)
 - The new guidance affecting quarantines is associated with direct exposure – not positive cases or individuals with symptoms. The quarantine time for positive cases and symptomatic individuals remains the same.
 - Recommendations for duration of quarantine in the general community, quarantine can be ended if any of the following criteria are met:
 - 14 days of quarantine have been completed
 - 10 days of quarantine have been completed and no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring
 - 7 days of quarantine have been completed and no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring and a diagnostic specimen tests negative within 48 hours of the planned quarantine discontinuation (no earlier than 5 days after last contact).
 - If shortened criteria used – will require proof of testing result to school
- Current COVID-19 Data and Reports – updated per the Rockingham County Health Department 12-14-2020
- Current NC COVID-19 Data and Reports – updated from NC DHHS as of 12-11-2020
- Rockingham County Positive Tests at 7.8% as of 10/26/2020 and NC at 7.2% as of 10/23/2020
- Rockingham County Positive Tests at 10.6% and NC at 11.6% as of 12/11/2020
- NC DHHS Information and Updates
 - NC counties by tier: Data from November 21 through December 4,2020
- Current COVID-19 Data and Reports
 - COVID-19 infected per age as of 10/26/2020
 - COVID-19 infected per age as of 12/14/2020
- CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Risk of Introduction and Transmission of COVID-19 in Schools
 - Core Indicators are:
 - Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days
 - Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days
 - Ability of the school to implement 5 key mitigation strategies:
 - Consistent use of masks
 - Social Distancing
 - Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and disinfection
 - Contact Tracing
- COVID-19 Metrics for Considerations as of 12-7-2020
 - RCS Whole County Metric – 14-day average cases per 100,000
 - RCS Whole County Metric - % positive
 - RCS COVID-19 Total Cases – Total number of cases
 - RCS Employees and Students (positive or quarantine currently) – Current open cases
 - RCS School District – Needs based priority
- RCS Thresholds for Our Safe Return to Learn:
 - Plan C (Remote Learning) – RCS recommends schools to remain on Plan C full remote if percent of positive tests as identified by NC DHHS is at 9% or above for positive percent for Rockingham County
 - Plan B (AA/BB Day) – RCS recommends schools to remain on Plan B (AA/BB) if percent positive test as identified by NC DHHS is at 7-8% for positive percent for Rockingham County

- Plan A (Five Days Attending) – RCS recommends schools to remain on Plan A Five Days a Week if percent positive test as identified by NC DHHS is at 6% or below for Rockingham County
- RCS Considerations for “Our Safe Return to Learn” Update:
 - Note: Recommendation from the administration is to make decision when metrics can be updated in January to evaluate holiday break impact at the RCS BOE Meeting in January 2021
 - OPTION #1: If metrics display an increasing trend, then continue on remote/online learning for all Pre K–12
 - OPTION #2: If metrics display a downward trend, then use the phase in approach with:
 - PreK-3 Adaptive Elementary Special Education, Day Treatment/SCORE attend in person learning on Plan B (AA/BB) beginning January 25th
 - All other students 4-12th remain on Plan C remote learning
 - Virtual Option still available for students/families not requesting in-person learning
 - NOTE: Cut Off Date for parents to sign students up for in-person learning is January 8, 2021
 - OPTION #3: If metrics display a downward trend, then use the phase in approach with:
 - Phase I: Pre K-3 grade attend school on Plan B (AA/Bb) beginning January 25th
 - Phase 2: Bring 4th through 12th grade on Plan B (AA/BB) 2 weeks later on February 8th
 - OPTION #4: If metrics display a downward trend, then use the phase in approach with:
 - Phase I: Pre K-3 grade attend school on Plan A beginning January 25th with students attending 5 days a week
 - Phase 2: Bring 4th through 12th grade on Plan B (AA/BB) 2 weeks later on February 8th
- BETA Team Update – info update since 9-21-2020
- Social Distancing and Safety in Schools – Guidance from NCDPI
 - Both Plan B and Plan A require public school units that provide in-person instruction to comply with specified social distancing practices
 - Schools are required to create the following 3 plans:
 - Plan A – Minimal Social Distancing
 - Plan B – Moderate Social Distancing
 - Plan C – Remote Learning Only
- Curriculum and Instruction: Virtual Learning
 - Total Virtual Learners as of 11-6-2020 (before all online) 4,604 (40% of school enrollment)
 - Student returning from virtual learning is 230
- Child Care Considerations:
 - OPTION 1: (metrics displaying an increasing trend) – Continue Remote/Online Learning for all Pre K- 12 students. Child Care staff would continue to provide full day of child care service to K-5 students five days per week
 - OPTION 2: (metrics displaying a downward trend, use phase in approach) –Pre K- 3 Adaptive Elementary Special Education Day Treatment/SCORE attend in person learning on Plan B (AA/BB) beginning January 25th; K-3 students on AA or BB would participate in before and School are with the normal hours of operation; all other students 4-12 remain on Plan C remote learning
 - OPTION 3: (metrics displaying a downward trend, use phase in approach) –Pre K- 3 attend school on Plan B (AA/BB) beginning January 25th; K-3 students on AA or BB would participate in before and School are with the normal hours of operation; bring students 4-12 on Plan B (AA/BB) 2 weeks later on February 8th
 - OPTION 4: (metrics displaying a downward trend, use phase in approach) –Pre K- 3 begin on Plan A attending 5 days a week, beginning January 25th; K-3 students would participate in before and after school care, with the normal hours of operation; students 4-12 begin on Plan B on February 8th, with 4th and 5th grade students able to participate in child care
- Transportation Considerations:
 - Ridership Analysis
 - Early College Exam Routes

- High School Exam Routes
- Child Nutrition Considerations
 - Plan A – Student returning to school will continue to receive meals at no cost until June 2021 or until funding is depleted
 - Virtual learners may pick up meals for 7 days with Wednesday from 11:30 – 1:00
 - Plan B – Continue current in school meal service
 - Student will continue to receive breakfast and lunch for 3 days they are not in school
 - Virtual learners may still pick up meals for 7 days on Wednesday from 11:30 – 1:00
 - All meals will remain individually packed to maintain safety

Note: Mr. Wright explained how the Health Department calculates percentage of positive tests.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve Pre-K thru 5th grade return to school on Plan A, five days per week with middle and high school students (6-12 grades) return to school on Plan B (including self-contained students) as of January 21, 2021 as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – RFP for Banking Services:

The Board did not hear under action items. It was moved to reports per the motion listed below.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board move this item to Report Item 8.6 on the agenda. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Budget Amendments:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the Budget Amendments. Ms. Ellis presented the Budget Amendments as listed for board approval (Attachment 3-A).

- Budget Amendment #1 - State Public School Fund
- Budget Amendment #2 – Local Current Expense Fund
- Budget Amendment #3 – Federal Grant Fund
- Budget Amendment #4 – Capital Outlay Fund
- Budget Amendment #8 – Other Restricted Fund

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved the Board approve Budget Amendments as presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 4/3. Mr. Isley, Mr. Huss and Mr. Wyatt voted opposed.

Approval – New Vision Generator Bid Tabulation:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the New Vision generator bid. Dr. Parks presented the bid tabulation for the New Vision generator. After board discussion regarding the increased costs, the Board voted to table this item.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved the Board table the New Vision generator bid. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Energy Performance Contract Update:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for an update regarding the Energy Performance Contract. Dr. Parks presented a powerpoint presentation update on the Energy Performance Contract project as listed.

- Scope of work
- Project Milestones
- Project Schedule
- Project Pictures
- ECM Lighting Retrofit
- ECM 13 Water Conservation completed
- Dillard Academy HVAC Upgrades
- McMichael High Water Meters
- RCHS Insulation Upgrades

- Lighting at Reidsville High
- Lighting at Monroeton Elementary
- Lighting at Rockingham Middle
- Water Conservation at Stoneville Elementary
- Water Conservation at McMichael High
- Water Conservation at Leaksville-Spray Elementary

Operations and Logistics Updates:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for a report on Operations and Logistics. Dr. Parks presented an update on the Operations and Logistics Departments information as listed below.

- Sale of Johnson Street property was finalized for @200,000
- Construction update of Morehead High School Gym Roof
- Construction update of Rockingham County High School press box and restroom renovation
- Roof replacement recommendations for:
 - McMichael High School 500 - 900 Buildings - \$145,000
 - Holmes Middle School Main Building - \$165,000
 - Central Elementary School Gymnasium Roof \$90,000
 - Western Rockingham Middle School Sixth Grade Building \$290,000
- Morehead High School Band Room Update
- Maintenance Department Shed update
- Monroeton Gym floor update
- Western Tennis Court updates on bid package timeline
- 2020-2021 NCDPI Facilities Needs Survey
- Land Use Study Update – will be presented at the January work session
- Update on RCS Feeding sites with grab and go breakfast and lunch 11:30 – 1:00 pm and Wednesday as bulk pickup day with 5 meals provided
- Announcing Bus Driving Classes for 2021 – January, March and June

Active Parent Organizations and Booster Club Update:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for the annual report on parent organizations and booster clubs. Dr. Shotwell presented the annual report of the all current parent organization and booster clubs (Attachment 5-A).

Superintendent’s Report:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for the Superintendent’s Report.

Dr. Shotwell presented the Superintendent’s Report.

- Recognizing Ms. Paula Rakestraw for her service to the Board as Board Chair for 2020
- Digital Teaching and Learning Website update
- Remote Instruction Parent Support Sessions on December 1st and 2nd at 6:00 pm
- Duke University Professor John Brown will be working with Jazz Bands at RCMS and RMS as part of the Cartwheels Cultural Arts Grant
- RCS Safety Update – The anonymous reporting system for grades 6-12 – www.saysomething.net
- RCS Hopeful Highlights video – Christmas Edition
- Happy Holidays from Rockingham County Schools

Announcements – Ms. McMichael, Board Chair:

Ms. McMichael stated she did not have any announcements.

Approval – RFP for Banking Services:

Ms. Michael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for a report regarding the RFP for banking services. Ms. Ellis reported a RFP for banking services was issued in October 2020. Ms. Ellis stated three proposals were received. Ms. Ellis stated the recommendation is to maintain the relationship with First National Bank and

implement the process of getting out the reserves in the money market account on an ongoing quarterly basis. Mr. Isley requested additional time to review the RFP information. Mr. Huss requested a hard copy of the RFP information for himself this week.

Note: Board Chair Ms. McMichael, requested Dr. Shotwell clarify the deadline for parents regarding in-person learning versus virtual learning. Dr. Shotwell stated the deadline for parent decisions for in-person learning or virtual learning is January 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Action: Mr. Isley moved to go into Closed Session to preserve the attorney client privilege protected by law according to N.C. General Statute 143-318.11 (1) (6) to discuss personnel and confidential matters, seconded by Ms. Rakestraw. The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Huss moved to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Isley. The vote was 7/0.

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—Administration

—Licensed

Hayley Harville

Effective 12/14/2020-6/7/21

Jordan Holbrook

Effective 11/23/2020

Sarah Roland

Effective 1/4/2021

Cortney Luegers

Effective 11/23/2020

Tyesha Pickard

Effective 11/23/2020

Leigh Ann Adams

Effective 1/4/2021

JaunKerra Leigh

Effective 1/11/2021

Yvette Worsham

Effective 3/1/21-6/7/21

—Classified

Shelby Clyburn

Effective 11/30/2020

Gerald Rigney

Effective 9/21/2020

Kelsie Bowser

Effective 1/11/2021

Cassidy Claybrook

Effective 12/14/2020

Jerry Rierson

Effective 1/5/2021

Terminations:

—Administration

—Licensed

—Classified

Brittany Sutton

Effective 10/23/2020

James Turner

Effective 10/26/2020

Transfers:

—Administration

—**Licensed**

Emily McCallister
Effective 12/15/2020
Stephanie Moore
Effective 12/15/2020

—**Classified**

Howard Hoffman
Effective 12/7/2020
Myeshia McBride
Effective 11/19/2020
Rayna Davis
Effective 12/15/2020
Shannon Hazelwood
Effective 1/21/2021
Ambra Preston
Effective 9/21/2020
Walter Smart
Effective 8/17/2020

Resignations:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Hannah Hall
Effective 11/27/2020
Elizabeth Pacifico
Effective 12/11/2020
Monica Wright
Effective 12/7/2020
Erin Hancock
Effective 1/1/2021
Jessica Lamberth
Effective 1/8/2021
Tyesha Pickard
Effective 1/1/2021
Bethany Walrath
Effective 1/1/2021

—**Classified**

David Dubay
Effective 12/11/2020
Charletta Hockett
Effective 10/25/2020
Kathryn Stone
Effective 11/16/2020

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Laurie Pyrtle
Effective 2/28/2021

—**Classified**

Diane Brown
Effective 3/1/2021
Hector Carela
Effective 3/1/2021
Roger Roach
Effective 2/1/2021

Leave Requests:

None

Action Ms. Rakestraw moved to accept the amended personnel report as presented, seconded by Ms. McKinney. The vote was 7/0.

Action Mr. Isley moved the Board hereby gives the Superintendent 90-day notice of the Board's intention to terminate the superintendent's employment under section 11-B, with effective date of 90 days from December 14, 2020, seconded by Mr. Huss. The vote was 4/3. Mr. Isley, Mr. Huss, Mr. Wyatt and Ms. Alston voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Rakestraw, Ms. McMichael and Ms. McKinney voted opposed to the motion.

Dr. Shotwell requested to make comments. Dr. Shotwell made a brief statement to the Board.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McKinney. The vote was 7/0.

Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair
Rockingham County Board of Education

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

Minutes signed as approved

January 13, 2021
(Recessed Meeting from 1/11/2021)