

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
November 9, 2020
6:00 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
(Live Streaming for Public View)

Present: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Board Chair and Mr. Bob Wyatt, Vice Chair. Board Members: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley, Ms. Vickie McKinney and Ms. Amanda Bell. Administrative staff: Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent; Dr. Charles Perkins, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Sonja Parks, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Logistics; Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services; Dr. Ken Scott, Interim Director of Human Resources; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman and Ms. Renée Everhart, Board Assistant were present. Board Member Ms. Vickie McKinney joined via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rakestraw called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Six members were present at roll call. Ms. McKinney joined the meeting after the meeting start via zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is no work session scheduled in November.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC via live stream.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Reverend Peter Dodge from Reidsville Alliance Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Mr. Bob Wyatt led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Isley moved that the Board amend the agenda, moving item 7.1 RCS Budget to item 10.2, and then approving the amended agenda as presented. Mr. Huss seconded the motion and the vote was 6/0.

Ms. McKinney joined via zoom at 6:07 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / BOARD COMMENTS

Public Comments:

1. Mr. Ron Price – Mr. Price addressed the board regarding his concerns over the Black Lives Matter movement stating the purpose is to undermine families.
2. Mr. Jim Fink – Mr. Fink addressed the board regarding the board's decision on virtual learning. Mr. Fink stated parents were not included in the survey that was sent to teachers regarding the return to school or virtual learning. Mr. Fink stated he thinks parents and teachers want to be back in school.

Board Comments:

Ms. Bell commended the Rock-A-Top Program and the five high schools that participate, giving our students opportunities.

Mr. Isley thanked the staff for their hard work. He stated he values the teachers and their work during challenging times.

Ms. McMichael stated she has had conversations with parents and teachers plus many emails. She stated she wanted to say “thank you” to those willing to have conversations and help the Board find solutions for student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONSENT ITEMS

Presented consent items for Board consideration:

1. Approval Consent Item - Additions to the Substitutes List for: child nutrition, bus driver, bus monitors, teacher substitutes, Head Start Program substitutes and SACC early childhood substitutes list for 2020-2021.
2. Approval – Gifts, Grants and Donations – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 1-A)
3. Approval Consent Item – Adoption of Board Policies and First Reading of Policies – Dr. Cindy Corcoran (Attachment 2-A)
4. Approval Consent Item – 2021 Board of Education Meeting Schedule – Dr. Shotwell (Attachment 3-A)
5. Approval Consent Item - Board of Education Meeting Minutes for approval:
 - October 12, 2020 – Open Session Board Meeting Minutes
 - October 26, 2020 – Open Session Work Session Meeting Minutes

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board approve the consent items, noting under Gifts, Grants and Donations that item #4 funds are going to the Reidsville High School Backpack Program, not for replacement of a sign as stated in the report. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Bus Driver Substitute List:

None

Bus Monitor Substitute List:

None

Child Nutrition Substitute List:

Donna Nickelston

SACC/Early Childhood Center Substitute List:

None

Substitute Teacher List:

Ashley Hopper
Brian Wittman

Substitute Head Start Teacher List:

None

ACTION ITEMS

Note: Item 7.1 Approval – RCS 2020-2021 Budget was moved to Item 10.2 in amended agenda.

Approval – Web Technologies Pathway Certificate Based at McMichael High School:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Ken Scott and Ms. Celeste Allis for comments regarding the Web Technologies Pathway Certificate. Dr. Scott stated the web technology certificate is a partnership with Rockingham Community College and based on the McMichael High School campus. Ms. Celeste Allis from RCC presented the program sequence and course descriptions for the certificate (Attachment 4-A). Ms. Allis presented for board approval the Web Technologies Pathway Certificate of 12 credit hours on the campus of Dalton McMichael High School effective the fall of 2021.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the Web Technologies Pathway Certificate on the campus of Dalton McMichael High School in collaboration with Rockingham Community College, effective the Fall of 2021. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Individual Class Size Waiver (Grades K-3):

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for comments regarding the Individual Class Size Waiver for Grades K-3. Dr. Perkins presented the waiver. Dr. Perkins stated the class size waivers are due by November 30, 2020 to the Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Perkins presented the K-3 individual class size waiver for board approval (Attachment 5-A).

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the K-3 individual class size waiver as presented. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Testing Update: BoG Grade 3, Workkeys, EOC/CTE Tests:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Mr. Jason Hyler for updates on the following testing assessments as listed.

1. Beginning of Grade 3 Assessment Update
 - a. Beginning of Grade 3 is a required assessment for the 2020-2021 year
 - b. Required to be administered within the first 20 days of in person instruction
 - c. As of November 9th, the test will be administered when the students return to in person learning
2. ACT Workkeys Testing Request
 - a. The testing window is from November 16th through December 15, 2020
 - b. It cannot be administered virtually due to specific desktop computers must meet testing specifications
 - c. N.C. administers the ACT Workkeys assessment to all CTE students that complete a course prior to graduation
 - d. There are 423 students at the four high school in this category
3. End of Course / Career Technical Educating Semester 1 Exams
 - a. Currently the End of Course assessments are required by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
 - b. Count toward 20% of students final grades
 - c. There is not a virtual option to administer these assessments
 - d. Students will be asked to attend their home school to take the assessments in person

Cenergistic Report – Chairman’s Sustainability Award:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for the Cenergistic’s Report. Dr. Parks stated Mr. Troy Williams is presenting to Rockingham County Schools the Cenergistic’s Sustainability Award for Energy Conservation. Mr. Williams stated the school district has been named for the award for being a model of energy conservation, saving over \$4.813 million dollars.

Superintendent’s Report:

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

Dr. Shotwell gave a congratulation to the 2020-2021 RCS Teacher of the Year, Ms. Brittany Beasley from Wentworth Elementary School.

Dr. Shotwell gave a congratulation to the 2020-2021 RCS Beginning Teacher of Excellence, Ms. Candice Corcoran, from Central Elementary School.

Dr. Shotwell gave a congratulation to the 2020-2021 RCS Principal of the Year, Ms. Erica Blackwell from Reidsville Middle School.

Dr. Shotwell gave a congratulation to the 2020-2021 RCS Assistant Principal of the Year, Ms. Tia Scales from Rockingham County Middle School.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted the RCS Dropout Rate as the lowest since 2006, now at 1.48% as of 2019. Dr. Shotwell highlighted the 1150 Hotspots are now available, at 50 per school and includes Moss Street. There will be one per family with unlimited data until May 1, 2020. The hotspots will be returned to Verizon at that time.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted the E-Rate approved for RCS:

- Approved for 2 category funds
- Will be used for internet upgrades
- RCS using to upgrade switch infrastructure across the school district
- Applied for - qualified amount = %515,422.15
- Funds were dropped in E-Rate Wave 10
- 80% paid by government / 20% paid by state
- RCS Technology will do all labor for installation

Dr. Shotwell highlighted the RCS T-Mobile \$10M Grant – The district applied and accepted, grades K-3 are eligible. This will allow families for plan and rates as follows:

- \$0 – 100GB per year
- \$12 – 100GB per month
- \$15 – Unlimited
- Cares Act funds will be used

Dr. Shotwell highlighted the Ryobi One Cordless Electrostatic Sprayers purchased with Cares Act funds for the school district.

Dr. Shotwell wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Board Chair Announcements:

Ms. Rakestraw congratulated Coach Jimmy Teague for being named the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Male Coach of the Year.

Ms. Rakestraw congratulated Douglass Elementary School for their nomination as a National Title I School of Distinction.

Ms. Rakestraw announced Superintendent Dr. Rodney Shotwell has been elected to represent the southeastern United States for an additional year to the Executive Board of the American Association of School Administrators for 2021.

CLOSED SESSION

Action: Mr. Isley moved to go into Closed Session to preserve the attorney client privilege pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (1) (6) to discuss personnel matters and property discussion according to state law to preserve the attorney client privilege. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Huss moved to return to open session, seconded by Ms. Bell. The vote was 6/1. Mr. Isley voted opposed.

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Marlene Bennett

Effective 11/30/20

Emily Roark

Effective 11/9/20-6/7/21

—**Classified**

Patty Bondurant

Effective 11/9/20

Kathryn Stone

Effective 11/16/20

Holly Key

Effective 11/2/20

Brandi Poteat

Effective 11/2/20

Deshia Waterson

Effective 11/2/20

TERMINATIONS:

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

TRANSFERS:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Nicole Robertson

Effective 12/4/20

—**Classified**

Donald Jones

Effective 11/16/20

Elizabeth Walker

Effective 11/29/20

Angela Wood

Effective 10/5/20

Resignations:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Amy Deel

Effective 11/30/20

Kathryn Edmonds

Effective 11/13/20

Nicole Robertson

Effective 12/4/20

—**Classified**

Christian Inman

Effective 11/20/20

Robert Neal

Effective 11/2/20

Cassidy Claybrook

Effective 10/30/20

Keila Fernandez

Effective 10/30/20

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

Genny Ziglar

Effective 2/1/21

Leave Requests:

None

Action: Mr. Isley moved to accept the **personnel report** as presented, seconded by Ms. Bell.

The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board approve to accept the bid offer on the Johnson Street property for \$163,000 as presented with a deadline of November 20, 2020 for a new upset bid. The motion was seconded by Ms. McMichael. The vote was 7/0.

Action: Ms. Bell moved to accept the 2020-2021 RCS Budget as presented, seconded by Ms. McKinney. The vote was 4/3. The motion passed. The members Ms. Bell, Ms. Rakestraw, Ms. McKinney and Ms. McMichael voting for the motion. The members Mr. Isley, Mr. Huss and Mr. Wyatt voted opposed to the motion.

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

Minutes read and approved:

Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Board Chair
Rockingham County Board of Education

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

December 14, 2020