

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
September 28, 2020
6:00 p.m.

BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING
Virtual Meeting Via Live Stream due to COVID-19

The public viewed the meeting via Live Stream on the links below:

<https://www.twitch.tv/rockinghamupdatemobile>

or

<https://www.rceno.com/RCENO/rockingham-county-board-of-education-meeting-live-stream/>

Present: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Chairperson 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. Sonja Parks, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Logistics; Dr. Charles Perkins, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Ken Scott, Human Resources; Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman and Ms. Renée Everhart, Board Assistant were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rakestraw called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Seven members were present at roll call.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular board meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Monday, October 12, 2020 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC. via live stream.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next work session of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Monday, October 26, 2020 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC. via live stream.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Bell moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

CLOSED SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

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

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Re-Entry Update:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell, Dr. Ellis and Dr. Perkins for a report on Re-Entry Update. Dr. Perkins provided an update on the curriculum covering the information listed.

- Beginning of Grade 3 Assessment must be provided within the first 20 days of in-person learning
- 77.3% of all K-8th grade completed the BOY Iready Math Diagnostic
- 68.8% of all K-8th grade completed the BOY Iready Reading Diagnostic
- DPI changed the previous End of Course drop requirement from 10 days to 30 days for semester long courses and from 20 days to 60 days for year long courses

- Upcoming Check-In Testing Dates:
 - 3rd - 8th Grade Reading and Math - 10/19 - 10/23
 - 5th & 8th Grade Science - 10/19 - 10/23
 - EOC Math 2 (Semester) - 9/28 - 10/2
 - EOC Math 1 (Yearlong) - 11/9 - 11/16
- 4,182 student have chosen to stay with Remote/Virtual Instruction

Dr. Stephanie Ellis presented an update regarding “Safety In Schools” as listed.

- Transportation Updates: Total of 3,975 riders
- AA Day: 1,939 regular ed riders and 60 special needs riders
- BB Day: 1,916 regular ed riders and 60 special needs riders
- Challenges:
 - managing 3 sets of routes for regular Ed and EC students
 - Over 950 changes to assigned riders with stops since 9-1-2020
- Positives: very few parent complaints
- Health / Safety / Cleaning / PPE Materials:
 - Health Screening process
 - All PPE materials were delivered to schools last week - Schools are utilizing these resources
 - Additional resources can be requested through custodial request process
- Positives: Everyone is implementing safety protocols well
- Challenges: Continue to process orders in the midst of high demand equipment

Dr. Stephanie Ellis presented an update regarding “RCS Social Emotional Supports” as listed.

- 1,147 social emotional contacts this school year since August
- 48 counseling referrals this year to specialized instructional support staff
- 913 sessions with students for social/emotional individual mental health counseling
- Behavioral Health District Integrated Response Teams (all schools meeting to support need of students)
- Social Emotional Screening September 28 - October 9th to help understand student social emotional needs and connect them with supports
- RCS BETA team in place to support students in crisis

The team had prepared a video for the RCS first week of school at a glance -- The video was viewed by the board

Dr. Stephanie Ellis and Dr. Shotwell reviewed the Covid-19 Reopening Plans for Plan A, Plan B and Plan C as listed:

- Plan A
 - Minimal Social Distancing - Open school facilities for all students at the same time, Note: this is the Governor's recommendation for elementary age students
 - Health Precautions - Enhanced health protocols according to NCDHHS requirements and recommendations
 - Teaching and Learning - Traditional with preparation for blended learning
- Plan B
 - Moderate Social Distancing - Open school facilities with limited density in facilities to no greater than 50% maximum occupancy
 - Health Precautions - Enhanced health protocols according to NCDHHS requirements and recommendations - Increased requirements in addition to Plan A
 - Teaching and Learning - Blended Learning for all
- Plan C
 - Remote Learning
 - School facilities are closed with no students in school facilities
 - Health Precautions - N/A -- All students at home
 - Teaching and Learning - Remote Learning for all students

Dr. Shotwell reviewed what the Governor's announcement means for RCS as the Board of Education considers Plan A as listed.

- Plan A may be considered for preschool and elementary age students
- The Governor reported that Plan A could be implemented after October 5th
- Minimal Social Distancing for elementary students as the Governor and NCDHHS indicated spread was less likely among preschool and elementary age children
- Increase social emotional learning and education consistency for all elementary age students
- Plan B would still be in place for Grades 6 - 12

Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Ellis reviewed what Plan A would look like as listed:

- Cleaning reviewed
- Increase capacity (Combine AA/BB for Pre-K - 5th Grades)
- Wear face coverings
- Follow RCS “Our Safe Return to Learn Guidebook”
- Wednesday still instructional planning/cleaning day for all grades
- Transportation safety practices with social distancing would still occur as if we are on Plan B on the buses
- Transportation arrival and dismissal will impact all school schedules K-12

Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Ellis reviewed consideration for RCS and Plan A as listed:

- Option 1:
 - Transition to Plan A on October 26th (All schools and Dillard Academy) for grades Pre-K - 5
 - Wednesday remains as Instructional Planning/Cleaning Day for all schools Pre K - 12
 - Grades 6-12 remain on Plan B In-Person Learning and Virtual Learning (AA/BB)
- Option 2:
 - Transition to Plan A on November 16th (All schools and Dillard Academy) for grades Pre-K - 5
 - Wednesday remains as Instructional Planning/Cleaning Day for all schools Pre K - 12
 - Grades 6-12 remain on Plan B In-Person Learning and Virtual Learning (AA/BB)
- Option 3:
 - Continue on Plan B until Governor recommends for all grades PreK - 12 return on Plan A
 - All PreK - 12 students would remain on Plan B In-person Learning and Virtual Learning (AA/BB; Wednesdays Remote Learning)

Dr. Stephanie Ellis reviewed the Safe Return to Learn Resources available are the RCS Guidebook on our website and posters which are placed in all schools and facilities.

Plan A:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding Plan A. Dr. Shotwell and the Board had a time of discussion and questions regarding Plan A. As directed, Dr. Shotwell stated he will bring Plan A for Board consideration and action at the October meeting.

Head Start: Ready for Challenges and Celebrating Success:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran and Ms. Rhonda Jumper for a report on Head Start. Dr. Corcoran stated that Head Start is in the second year of a five year grant. Ms. Jumper presented a report regarding the successes for year one. She stated that a monitoring visit was conducted by the Office of Head Start, finding no deficiencies and approved the Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Program for the second year.

Fee for Service – RCS Preschool Program:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Amy Rose for a report regarding fee for services related to the RCS Preschool Program. Ms. Rose updated the board with the following revised cost schedule for the early learners in the Preschool Program as listed below. She stated it would not require board action.

- The cost per family will be prorated per month with the installments being October through May
- The prorated amount is based on a daily rate of \$20.03, making the annual cost \$1,121.68 or \$140.21 for 8 months (October 2020 - May2021). Ms. Rose stated the amount will be rounded to \$140 monthly cost for annual tuition of \$1.128.

Approval – Calendar Revision for Traditional/Dillard Academy/Early College:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for comments regarding the revision to the traditional, Dillard Academy and Early College calendars. Dr. Perkins presented the revisions for each of the calendars (Attachment 1-A). Dr. Perkins stated the revisions are for board consideration with action at the October Board Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

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

Personnel Report:

Administrative Transfer:

Dr. Ken Scott
Effective 9/11/20

Employments —Administration —Licensed

Joshua Cummings
Effective 10/12/20

Amy Wyatt
Effective 10/15/20

—Classified

Jameca Adams
Effective 9/21/20
Tambitha Cannon
Effective 9/21/20
Chelsea Daniels-McGirt
Effective 9/21/20
Nicole Edwards
Effective 9/21/20
Elizabeth Jarvis
Effective 10/5/20
Donald Jones
Effective 9/21/20
Denise Watlington
Effective 8/17/20
Hayley Harville
Effective 9/28/20
Linda Moyer
Effective 9/28/20

Transfers

—Administrative

—Licensed

—Classified

Rachel Sands
Effective 9/21/20

Denise Watlington
Effective 8/24/20

Janet Baughn
Effective 9/7/20

Robin Hayes
Effective 9/21/20

Kelsie Meador
Effective 9/21/20

Roger Roach
Effective 9/22/20

Retirements:

—Administrative

—Licensed

Toni McDaniel
Effective 1/1/21

—**Classified**

Mitzi Bradshaw
Effective 10/1/20

Resignations:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Leigh McMichael

Effective 10/16/20

Amanda Blanton

Effective 10/21/20

—**Classified**

Laura Muse

Effective 9/25/20

Catherine Troxler

Effective 9/22/20

Terminations:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

Patricia Nix

Effective 8/10/20

Leave Requests:

None

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

Action: Mr. Huss moved to accept the property offer for the Johnson Street property for \$130,000 as presented, seconded by Mr. Isley. The vote was 7/0.

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

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent

October 12, 2020