

Rockingham County Board of Education
Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
Emergency Board Meeting
Saturday, May 2, 2020

11:00 a.m.
VIA ZOOM
Emergency Board Meeting – Virtual Meeting Via Zoom for the Board
The public is viewing via Live Stream

Notice to the Public: The Administrative Offices are closed. The public may view the Board Meeting by a live stream at either of the 2 links listed 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 and Ms. Amanda Bell. Administrative staff: Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman and Ms. Renée Everhart, Board Clerk were present 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular board meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, 2020 via zoom.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next Work Session is scheduled Monday, May 28, 2020 via zoom at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Graduation 2020:

Ms. Rakestraw read a statement compiled on behalf of the Board of Education to the RCS families and 2020 graduates. The statement is listed below.

“As you know last Sunday, RCS announced to families & 2020 Graduates a plan for graduation. That plan was not communicated thoroughly, the Board of Education was not included in the plans, and neither were the 2020 Graduates. With this being such an unusual and unprecedented time; that was a mistake. As a result, students and families felt undue stress and disappointment. This Board heard your voices! We put a halt to the plans that were shared and invited 2020 Graduates to participate in the process of deciding how to proceed. A survey, that student leadership from each high school helped to develop, was issued asking the community and Seniors how they would like the 2020 Graduation to be handled in light of the

COVID 19 conditions. A committee consisting of each senior class President, each high school principal, Central Office staff, & 3 board members met again yesterday to review the compiled surveys. Board members you were emailed that survey information.

There was approximately a 44% participation rate from the 2020 Senior Class. An overwhelming majority of those students & community want a means of recognizing our seniors on, or as close to, the date of their scheduled graduation **AND** a traditional graduation when restrictions are lifted.

During the meeting yesterday, we received word that the Eden Drive-In had applied for, and received, a waiver to open during Phase I of the Governor's Plan to reopen the State. Therefore, it was the consensus of that committee to recommend to the Board of Education that each high school's senior class would be able to decide "the graduation" that best meets their student's needs based on 2 options. **These options are:**

1. Parade and Virtual Graduation on original graduation date and a Traditional Graduation later (whenever crowd restrictions are lifted) - knowing that some students may not be able to attend and the event may be months later.

2. School Based Celebration (awards, parade, etc.) and Graduation at the Eden Drive-In (with 1 car per family) on the original graduation date or as close to the original graduation date as possible.

Students will be asked to respond to this new survey and principals will announce the majority vote to their respective high schools.

*I would like to publicly thank the Senior Class Presidents: Mary Beam, **Morehead High School**; Claudia Spencer, **Reidsville High School**; Rihanna Wilmouth, **Rockingham Early College High School**; Gabe Caple, **McMichael HS**; and Jackie Sanchez, **Rockingham County High School**. Each of these students represented their senior class with respect, courage, and integrity! I would also like to thank all of those 2020 Graduates who stood up for themselves and their classmates about what they felt was right!"*

Board Chair Ms. Rakestraw asked for any questions from the board at this time. There were comments in support of the 2020 Graduates and the statement read by the Board Chair from board members, Mr. Doug Isley, Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Mr. Bob Wyatt and Mr. Brent Huss.

Dr. Shotwell stated the district will send out a Connect-Ed message to all seniors to participate in the graduation ceremony survey.

Board Chair Ms. Rakestraw requested a board motion to accept the recommendation from the Graduation Committee.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the recommendation from the Graduation Committee as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

Action: Mr. Isley moved to adjourn. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent

June 8, 2020