

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Morehead High School – Wright Student Center
134 North Pierce Street
Eden, NC 27288
December 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
(Live Streaming for Public View)

Present: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair and Ms. Vicki 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. 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, Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Nick Herman, Board Attorney and Ms. Renee Everhart, Board Assistant were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McMichael called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. McMichael announced there is no work session scheduled in December.

Ms. McMichael announced the next regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC via live stream.

Ms. McMichael announced the May Work Session is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC via live stream.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Reverend Lauren Sims-Salata from Leaksville United Methodist Church, Eden, N.C. gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Alston moved that the Board amend the agenda, removing action approval item 7.8 Transfer Funds from Fund Balance to Begin Design Work for New Schools and Renovations. Ms. Rakestraw seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Ms. Alston moved that the Board approve the amended agenda. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 6/1. Mr. Isley voted opposed.

BOARD REORGANIZATION / ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The floor was opened for nominations of Board Chair.

Ms. McKinney moved to nominate Ms. Kimberly McMichael for Board Chair and Ms. Vicki Alston for Board Vice Chair.

Dr. Shotwell asked for any additional nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair. There was none. The nominations were closed. The Board voted by ballot. Mr. Huss texted his vote to Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman. Board Attorney Nick Herman and Dr. Shotwell tallied the ballots.

The motion to elect Ms. McMichael as Board Chair and Ms. Alston as Vice Chair passed with a vote of six in favor, 0 against and 1 abstained.

In Favor
Ms. McKinney
Ms. McMichael
Ms. Alston
Mr. Wyatt
Mr. Huss
Ms. Rakestraw

Abstained
Mr. Isley

RECOGNITION / PUBLIC COMMENTS / BOARD COMMENTS

Recognition / Special Comments by the Honorable Ed Wilson:

The Honorable Judge Ed Wilson spoke with comments regarding Mr. Homer Wright, providing comments that recognized the character and generosity of Mr. Wright. Mr. Homer Wright provided an exceptional monetary donation to Rockingham County Schools for the Morehead High School Student Center.

Public Comments:

1. Elisha Harris
2. Dan Stevens
3. Mihoshoty Yamaguchi
4. Rachel Hayes
5. Mary Ryan

Board Comments:

Ms. McKinney stated the AIG students competed at the Middle School Academics Challenge Competition. She stated WRMS and Holmes Middle Schools tied, with Holmes Middle winning the tiebreaker. Ms. McKinney thanked Ms. Nancy Towler for her work and preparation for the Academic Challenge.

Mr. Wyatt stated success is contagious. McMichael hosts the Student Stem Expo this Thursday. The McMichael JROTC Program is strong. Mr. Wyatt stated he and Mr. Isley saw the ROTC teams replacing carpet last summer.

Ms. Alston thanked the speakers and stated the Board is listening. She stated she is proud of Reidsville High School for making it to the final football playoffs. Ms. Alston thanked Adam Powell for the outstanding job recognizing the highlights from each of our schools.

Ms. Rakestraw thanked Mr. Wyatt for the Pearl Harbor comments this evening. She thanked Mr. Homer Wright for his monetary contribution to make the Morehead High School Student Center a reality. She stated she had attended the Monroeton Elementary programs and swim team high school competitions. She stated the teams gave each other support at the swim team competition. She thanked Ms. McMichael and Ms. Alston for their service and leadership as Board Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Isley thanked those attending the meeting. Mr. Isley stated he had received questions why the meeting had been moved from the Central Administrative Office Boardroom. He stated he believes the masks policy is an individual decision.

Ms. McMichael thanked those attending the meeting this evening. She thanked Mr. Homer Wright for his monetary donation to the school district for the Morehead High Student Center. She thanked Mr. Ed Wilson for his comments and recognition of Mr. Home Wright. She stated minutes are not taken at ribbon cutting ceremonies. She recognized the RCHS Drama Team for receiving the State Theatre Arts Award. Ms. McMichael stated all high school student centers are taking donations of used scarves and coats. She stated the food pantries need donations for the Backpack Program.

CONSENT ITEMS

Presented consent items for Board consideration:

1. Approval Consent Items – Consent Personnel: 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 Consent Item – Gifts, Grants and Donations (Revised) – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 1-A)
3. Approval Consent Item – Activity Bus Purchase Resolution and Transfer of Funds Request – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 2-A)
4. Approval Consent Item – Adoption of Board Policies – Dr. Cindy Corcoran (Attachment 3-A)
5. Approval Consent Item – Approval of Purchase of Equipment, Materials and Supplies Exceeding \$75,000 (Board Policy 6430) Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 4-A)
6. Approval Consent Item - Board of Education Meeting Minutes for approval:
 - November 8, 2021 – Open Session Board Meeting Minutes
 - November 23, 2021– Open Session Special Called Meeting Minutes for Student Athletic Appeal

Action: Ms. Alston moved that the Board approve the consent items as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Bus Driver Substitute List:

Larry Easler

Bus Monitor Substitute List:

None

Child Nutrition Substitute List:

None

SACC/Early Childhood Center Substitute List:

Ashley Hanks-Jones

Substitute Teacher List:

Eric Callands
Janie Davis
Laura Dixon
Angela Harden
Julia Nedlic

Substitute Head Start Teacher List:

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Annual Budget Resolution for 2021-2022:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Resolution. Ms. Annie Ellis presented the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Resolution for board approval. Ms. Ellis stated the proposed budget is posted on the RCS website for viewing at: <https://www.rock.k12.nc.us/finance> - scroll to the RCS Budget and Reports and click “Proposed Budget 2021-2022.”

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Resolution as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 5/2. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted in opposition.

Approval – Amendment to Employee Bonus Pay Resolutions:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the amendment to the employee bonus pay resolution. Ms. Ellis reviewed the original proposal and the newly amended bonus resolution which states the district is to provide a pro-rated \$4000 premium pay bonus to all current employees as of October 1, 2021; all new hires who are hired by the Board between October 2, 2021 and January 10, 2022; and to include a \$500 incentive

pay bonus to all substitutes who worked the equivalent of twenty (20) full-time days between October 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022. Ms. Ellis presented as well the amended resolution to include Child Nutrition for COVID-19 Premium Pay/Hazard Pay. Ms. Ellis presented for board approval the amended proposal for premium pay bonuses for employee retention, recruitment and substitutes (Attachment 5-A) and the amended resolution for Child Nutrition employees to receive COVID-19 Premium Pay/Hazard Pay (Attachment 6-A).

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the newly amended bonus resolution – removing “pro-rated salaries” for the bonus payments, as stated for premium pay bonuses for employee retention, recruitment and substitutes as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Tutor Bonus Pay Resolution:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the tutor bonus pay. Dr. Shotwell presented for board review and board approval the tutor bonus pay resolution with tutors eligible for \$500 incentive bonus payment if working the equivalent of twenty (20) contracted days between October 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022 (Attachment 7-A).

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board approve the bid proposal for Holmes Middle School Library and Connector Roofs for \$153,780 with Bar Roofing Company as presented. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – JUUL Litigation Class Action Suit Case:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the JUUL case litigation. Dr. Shotwell stated there is no upfront costs and all costs will come out of any settlement regarding the JUUL case litigation. He presented for board approval to enter into the case litigation as discussed.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board approve to move forward with JUUL litigation Class Action Suit as presented. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Board of Education 2022 Meeting Schedule:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule. Dr. Shotwell presented the 2022 Board Meeting schedule for board approval (Attachment 8-A).

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve 2022 Board Meeting schedule as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Traditional – Year Round and Early College 2022-2023 School Calendars:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for comments regarding the traditional, year round and Early College 2022-2023 school calendars. Dr. Perkins presented the traditional, year round and Early College 2022-2023 school calendars for first reading (Attachment 9-A).

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the first reading of the traditional, year round and Early College school calendars for 2022-2023 as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Review Mask Policy per Session Law Requirement:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Stephanie Ellis for comments regarding the review of the face masks policy. Dr. Ellis stated per Session Law 2021-130/Senate Bill 654, Part X, the school district is required to review and vote on the face mask policy. Dr. Ellis stated Option I moves to make masks optional for indoors for students and staff. Dr. Ellis stated Option 2 moves that face masks are required for students and staff while indoors. Dr. Ellis requested board approval on Option I or Option 2 as stated.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board adopt Option 2 that face masks are required for students and staff while indoors. There was no second.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board adopt Option 1 that face masks are optional immediately for students and staff. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 3 for and 4 against. The board continued discussion and voted again.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board adopt Option 1 that face masks are optional for students and staff. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 3 for and 4 against. The board continued discussion.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board adopt Option 1 that face masks are optional effective January 4, 2022 for students and staff. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 4 for and 3 against. The motion passed.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board transfer the responsibility of contact tracing over to the Health Department effective January 3, 2022. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 6/2. The motion passed. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted in opposition.

Approval – Request for Broadband Access for Rockingham County with Rockingham County Commissioners and Rockingham County Community College (Student Impact):

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the request for broadband access for the county and community college. Dr. Shotwell stated the county, school district and community college are preparing a RFP for broadband access to households, which is not a wireless or satellite service, but is an actual fiber run to the home. Dr. Shotwell stated the school district has been asked to contribute \$1,000,000 towards the project. Dr. Shotwell stated it is the school district’s intention to utilize their federal ESSER funding to cover the school system contribution to the project.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the district provide \$1,000,000 of ESSER funds for the broadband access project as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Project Development and Pre-Construction Services Agreement for HVAC and Related Improvements:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the project development and pre-construction services agreement. Dr. Parks stated the administration has worked with Johnson Controls/Sutton Kennerly Associates to finalize the districts prioritized projects and develop an Agreement for Project Development and Pre-Construction Services so the district can begin the design/bid phase only for the priority HVAC projects outlined in Appendix B of the Agreement as described as listed below.

1. Western Rockingham Middle School – HVAC System Design (Main Building and Buildings 2, 3, 4, and 5)
2. Morehead High School – HVAC System Design (Media Center) and bid replacement of air-cooled chiller in kind
3. McMichael High School – Design and Bid replacement of Heat Pumps (Commons Area and Gymnasium) and bid replacement of cooling tower in kind
4. New Vision School – Bid replacement of (2) Rooftop Units in kind

Maintenance Director, Mr. E.C. Stophel reviewed the top needs for the HVAC system replacement using the federal ESSER funds. Dr. Sonja Parks presented the project development and pre-construction services agreement for HVAC and related improvements for board approval (Attachment 10-A).

Action: Ms. Alston moved that the Board approve the Project Development and Pre-Construction Services Agreement for HVAC and related improvements as presented. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 4/3. The motion passed. Mr. Isley, Ms. Rakestraw and Ms. McMichael voted opposed.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Trails for Schools Report:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for a report on Trails K12 for Schools program. Dr. Parks also had Ms. Jenny Edwards on zoom for comments during the report. Dr. Parks presented the report with comments on highlights of the Trails for School program as listed below.

- Purpose for the trails – To get students outside with nature-based learning – Social and emotional well-being is promoted by the trails
- Existing School Trails:
 - 2014 Western Rockingham Middle School Trail and Outdoor Classroom

- 2021 Moss Street Partnership School Learning Trail
- 2021 Booker T. Washington Learning Trail
- Safety on School Trails – There have been no reports of crime on any of the trails
- Maintenance – There is a 3 year tree clearing contract with no cost to RCS
 - Volunteers also work on the trails
- Proposed Trail for Rockingham County High School – There is a proposed ½ mile track around RCHS
 - Proposed timeline for the trail is to begin work December 2021
 - Completion of the trail is planned for April 2022
 - Ribbon Cutting is planned for May 2022
- Cash and In-Kind
 - Trail construction is 100% grant funded
 - Project staff support are provided by RCEF and RoundRock Design
- Contact for Trails for Schools – Ms. Jenny Edwards, Executive Director at jenny@helprockinghamstudents.org

Board Chair Announcements:

Ms. McMichael thanked those for attending the meeting. She stated she hopes the staff will be able to enjoy their family over the holidays.

The Board took a 10-minute break.

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)(3)(2)(8) to maintain confidentiality and discuss matters related to specific employee considerations according to state law. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Action: Ms. Alston moved to return to open session, seconded by Ms. McKinney. The vote was 7/0.

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—Administration

—Licensed

Latavia Baker-Fall

Effective 12/6/21-9/30/22

Amanda Marchese

Effective 1/3/22

Eliana Montanez Acevedo

Effective 11/17/21

Quandicia Scales

Effective 1/5/22

Anne Scherrer

Effective 1/18/22

—Classified

JoAnna Cox

Effective 12/13/21

Angela Crawford

Effective 12/7/21

Shelena Exum

Effective 2/7/22

Jennifer Niemczura

Effective 12/13/21

Natalie Reid

Effective 12/12/21

Alexis Teague
Effective 12/13/21
James Torbett
Effective 1/5/21
Tana Dillon
Effective 12/1/21
Ashley Elmendorf
Effective 11/29/21
Tilyn Galloway
Effective 12/17/21
Zanette Goode
Effective 11/29/21
Cassie Gover
Effective 12/6/21
Lori Houchins
Effective 12/13/21
Jamie McCain
Effective 11/15/21
Aubrie Oliver
Effective 11/29/21
Lori Snipes
Effective 11/29/21
TERMINATIONS:
—**Licensed**
—**Classified**
TRANSFERS:
—**Administration**
—**Licensed**
Rebecca Day
Effective 12/1/21-6/10/21
Annie Snavely
Effective 12/2/21
—**Classified**
Jaime Allen
Effective 8/23/21
Cynthia McAllister
Effective 11/23/21
William Bottoms
Effective 1/3/21
Michael Fox
Effective 11/22/21
Micheala Holmes
Effective 1/3/22
Marcelle Laidlow
Effective 12/1/21
Talmadge Priddy
Effective 11/10/21
Dewey Smith
Effective 11/22/21
Nicole Taylor
Effective 12/6/21
Jane Valentine
Effective 11/8/21-6/10/22
Leah Ward
Effective 12/10/21
Janet Baughn
Effective 12/13/21
Jennifer Lee
Effective 12/13/21
Michelle Wesley

Effective 1/10/21

Cindy Yancey

Effective 11/8/21

Resignations:

—**Administration**

Jonathan Williams

Effective TBD

—**Licensed**

Jeffrey Allen

Effective 1/14/22

Betty Cardwell

Effective 12/10/21

Kristin Carter

Effective 11/5/21

Nedine Rowe

Effective 12/17/21

Christine Wenger

Effective 1/19/21

—**Classified**

Nikki Anderson

Effective 12/31/21

Ashley Carter

Effective 11/4/21

Donna Collins

Effective 11/19/21

Ciara Farmer

Effective 12/17/21

Mark Haley

Effective 12/31/21

Jill Jackson

Effective 11/26/21

Marquita Scales

Effective 11/5/21

Robin Vaughn

Effective 11/8/21

Nancy Villalobos

Effective 11/5/21

Airy Willis

Effective 11/15/21

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Alyssa Slater

Effective 3/1/22

Amy Smith

Effective 3/1/22

—**Classified**

Tanya Badgett

Effective 3/1/22

Carolyn Dunovant

Effective 3/1/22

Debbie Fulp

Effective 3/1/22

Pearl Joyner

Effective 3/1/22

Kelly Vaughn

Effective 3/1/22

Leave Requests:

None

Action: Ms. Alston moved to accept the personnel report as presented, seconded by Ms. Rakestraw. The vote was 6/2. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted in opposition.

Action: Ms. Alston moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wyatt. The vote was 7/0.

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

January 10, 2022