

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
March 8, 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; Ms. Angela Martin, Human Resources; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Terry Worrell, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Nick Herman, Board Attorney; and Ms. Renée 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 the work session is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC via live stream.

Ms. McMichael announced the next regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC via live stream.

Ms. McMichael announced the Public Hearing for the Proposed Draft Budget for 2021-2022 will be held during public comments at the regular Board Meeting this evening. A sign-up sheet was provided for Public Comments for the Public Hearing prior to the 6:00 p.m. start of the meeting.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Reverend Peter A. Dodge from Alliance Christian Church, Reidsville, N.C. gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Alston moved that the Board amend the agenda, adding item 4.3 –Recognitions and then approving the amended agenda as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion and the vote was 7/0.

STUDENT RECOGNITION / APPRECIATION

Ms. Alston read an introduction Mr. Christopher Wilson for a time of recognition. Christopher was a previous Reidsville High School student. He sang a song he had performed for an audition to The Juilliard School of Music.

Ms. McMichael introduced Ms. Peyton Baynes for at time of recognition. Peyton was a student at Rockingham County High School. She presented a piece of her own artwork, a drawing of Lucy (Dr. Shotwell's beagle) to Dr. Rodney Shotwell.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / PUBLIC HEARING ON RCS 2021-2022 DRAFT REQUEST BUDGET /BOARD COMMENTS

Public Comments:

1. Ron Price
2. Rochelle Tucker
3. Madelin Rondon-Perkins
4. Lissa Harris
5. Diane Parnell
6. Bernie Parnell
7. Jon Williams
8. Mary Ryan
9. Jim Fink
10. Jeremy Martin
11. Elaine McCollum
12. Kacey Wyrick

Public Hearing Comments:

There were no public comments for the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Draft Request Budget.

Board Comments:

Ms. Alston read a background overview of Mr. Christopher Wilson who sang during the time of recognition. Christopher was a previous Reidsville High School student. He sang a song he had performed for an audition to The Juilliard School of Music. Ms. Alston also thanked Dr. Stephanie Ellis for her work to organize a successful Covid Vaccination Clinic held at RCC for the RCS employees on Sunday, March 7, 2021.

Ms. McKinney recognized Maggie Milligan, a Morehead High School student who recently won the Microsoft U.S. National Championship. She was also named the N.C. Champion in Microsoft Works. She has been invited to participate again in the competition.

Ms. Rakestraw thanked Dr. Shotwell for the sense of family he created in the school system. Ms. Rakestraw welcomed Dr. Terry Worrell as the Interim Superintendent. Ms. Rakestraw thanked all those that worked and organized the Covid Vaccination Clinic held this past Sunday at RCC.

Ms. McMichael thanked Mr. Charlie Hall for attending the meeting this evening. She also thanked all of the County Commissioners for their support and assistance with the Covid Vaccination Clinic held March 7, 2021. Ms. McMichael congratulated Haley Sinclair, a senior at RCHS, who recently participated in the Distinguished Young Women of North Carolina. Haley was awarded the “Be Your Best Self Scholarship” for community involvement and volunteerism. Haley was honored as the Distinguished Young Women First Runner-up Overall for the state of North Carolina. Ms. McMichael thanked Christopher Wilson for performing his song this evening. Ms. McMichael congratulated the McMichael High School basketball team for achieving 2AA semi-finalists in the regionals. Ms. McMichael also congratulated Maggie Milligan from Morehead High and wishes her well in the competition.

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 – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 1-A)
3. Approval Consent Item – Adoption of Board Policies and Approval of Policy 2127 on Second Reading – Dr. Cindy Corcoran (Attachment 2-A)
4. Approval Consent Item – Head Start 2021-2022 Budget – Dr. Cindy Corcoran / Ms. Rhonda Jumper (Attachment 3-A)

5. Approval Consent Item Planned Services Agreement with Johnson Controls – Dr. Sonja Parks (Attachment 4-A)
6. Approval Consent Item – Early College Calendar for 2021-2022 on Second Reading – Dr. Charles Perkins (Attachment 5-A)
7. Approval Consent Item - Board of Education Meeting Minutes for approval:
 - February 8, 2021 – Open Session Board Meeting Minutes
 - February 22, 2021– Open Session Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - February 3, 2021 – Open Session Special Called Meeting Minutes
 - February 12, 2021 – Open Session Special Called Meeting Minutes
 - February 21, 2021 – Open Session Special Called Meeting Minutes

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

Bus Driver Substitute List:

Justin Cunningham

Bus Monitor Substitute List:

None

Child Nutrition Substitute List:

None

SACC/Early Childhood Center Substitute List:

None

Substitute Teacher List:

None

Substitute Head Start Teacher List:

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Transfer of Capital Funds for the Purchase of Maintenance Vehicles:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the transfer of capital funds for the purchase of maintenance vehicles. Dr. Parks presented for board consideration a transfer of capital funds to the amount of \$380,000 for the purchase of seven (7) maintenance work vehicles and others as listed below.

- 7 maintenance work trucks
- 1 mail van
- 1 dump truck

Action: Ms. McKinney moved that the Board approve the transfer of capital funds for the purchase of maintenance vehicles to the amount of \$380,500 as requested for seven work trucks, one mail van and one dump truck as presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 6/1. Mr. Wyatt voted opposed.

Approval – Western Tennis Courts Bid Tabulation:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks regarding the western tennis courts bid tabulation. Dr. Parks updated the Board regarding the tennis court facility at Western Rockingham Middle School. She stated the district received six proposals from contractors. Those sealed bids were opened on February 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Parks presented the lowest bid from the J.H. Kern Corporation for \$440,000 with information of the funding for the project (Attachment 6-A).

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve to request funds from the restricted sales tax fund for the project as presented. Ms. McKinney 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 7-A).

- Budget Amendment #15 – State Public School Fund
- Budget Amendment #16 – Local Current Expense Fund
- Budget Amendment #17 – Federal Grant Fund
- Budget Amendment #18 – Other Restricted Fund

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the budget amendments as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 6/1. Mr. Isley voted opposed.

Approval – 2021-2022 Proposed Eligibility Priority Selection Criterion for Head Start:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Ms. Rhonda Jumper and Ms. Michelle Cheek for comments regarding the 2021-2022 Proposed Eligibility Priority Selection Criterion for the Head Start Program for board consideration. Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Ms. Rhonda Jumper and Ms. Michelle Cheek prepared and presented for board review and board approval the 2021-2022 the revised Head Start Proposed Eligibility Priority Selection Criterion. Dr. Corcoran reviewed the document with the Board and requested board approval (Attachment 8-A).

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Proposed Eligibility Priority Selection Criterion for the Head Start Program as reviewed and presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – RCS Cares About Your Safety – Back to School Re-Entry Plan for Pre-Kindergarten – 5th Grade:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Stephanie Ellis for comments regarding the RCS Cares About Your Safety - Back to School Re-entry Plan for Pre-Kindergarten thru 5th grade students. Dr. Ellis presented a powerpoint covering items as listed. Dr. Ellis recommended for board consideration based on the current COVID-19 metrics falling below the 6% for positive tests and sustaining the downward rate of positive tests in our county, that RCS recommends for students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten thru 5th grade, return to face-to-face instruction.

- Thank you to the RCS School Nurses – You are our RCS Heroes
- Thank you to all of those that made the March 7, 2021 Covid Vaccination Clinic possible:
 - R.C. Health Department
 - Emergency Services
 - Rockingham County Schools
 - RCS School Nurses
 - Cone Health
 - Sheriff Sam Page and Sheriff's Department
 - Rockingham County Officials and County Commissioners
 - UNC Rockingham
 - Civil Air Patrol
 - National Guard
 - Rockingham Community College
- Thank you to the RCS Board of Education for your support and assistance to make the Covid Vaccination Clinic a success
- RCS Cares About Your Safety – Guide to Our Safe Return to Learn Update
- Covid-19 Resources and Guidance Documents
- CDC Indicators and Thresholds - Risk of Introduction and Transmission of COVID-19 in schools

- Plan C (Remote Learning), Plan B (AA/BB Day) and Plan A (Five Days Attending) – Thresholds for Our Safe Return to Learn
- Current NC COVID-19 Data and Reports
- Rockingham County Positive Test: 5.1% as of March 8, 2021
- COVID-19 Metrics for consideration
- Ventilation System Pilot Updates
- Transportation Considerations
- Recommendation for Board Consideration to Plan A

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve to return to Plan A for Pre- K thru 5th grade students on March 22, 2021 for face-to-face learning, five days a week instruction, with a remote learning day designated on March 29, 2021 for teachers. Ms. Rakestraw included in the motion, directing the administration that middle and high school students return as soon as allowed by the Governor. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 6/1. Mr. Isley voted opposed.

Mr. Isley had made a motion to amend the motion, stating the return date of March 15, 2021 on Plan A for Pre-K thru 5th grade students. There was no second.

Approval – Budget Amendment #19 – Local Current Expense Fund:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the budget amendment for Local Current Expense Fund - #19. Ms. Ellis presented budget amendment #19 for board approval (Attachment 9-A). Ms. Ellis stated the amendment will expend local funds to pay for the Interim Superintendent salary, plus travel allowances through June 30, 2021 as presented.

- Budget Amendment #19 – Local Current Expense Fund

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the budget amendment #19 – local current expense funds as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed 2021-2022 Draft Request Budget Discussion:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for remarks and review with the board concerning the 2021-2022 Proposed Request Budget. Ms. Ellis provided the link to view the budget online and how to access the file at: <https://www.rock.k12.nc.us/finance> (scroll to RCS Budgets & Reports and click “Draft Proposed Budget 2021-2022”). Ms. Ellis presented the 2021-2022 draft Proposed Request Budget. She reviewed and stated the following in her presentation to the Board.

- March 22, 2021 Work Session – The draft budget will be reviewed and revised per the Board’s direction
- April 19, 2021 Board Meeting – The draft Proposed Request Budget will be presented to the Board for Board approval
- Reviewed the PRCs
- ADM funding is based on 11,200 Students
- 505 teachers are employed
- Reviewed budgets and line items in:
 - State Funds
 - Local Funds
 - Federal Funds
 - Child Nutrition Services
 - Before and After School Care Funds
 - Other Restricted Funds
 - Budget Books will be revised and updated as directed and revised per the Board for the March 22, 2021 Work Session

First Quarter Test Scores:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for the report on first quarter test scores. Dr. Perkins provided a powerpoint presentation report on the state assessments and student performance. Dr. Perkins stated the summer school session is “Acceleration Academy” and will be provided. Dr. Perkins reported on the following.

- United States Department of Education – Waiver (Other NC legislation has to be addressed before accountability is waived.)
- Impact of COVID-19 on regular instruction
 - Regular instruction has been greatly impacted since March 13, 2020
 - Student grades have suffered resulting in learning loss for students
 - K-3 major impact on literacy and math
 - Grades 4-9 greater impact on math
 - Overall decline in EOC performance – 8% from previous fall semester
 - Major social and emotional wellness needs of students and adults
- Fall EOC Results
 - Math I – Scores down -13.3 for Grade Level Proficient and -3.5 for College Career Ready
 - Math 3 – Scores down -8.2 for Grade Level Proficient and -12.3 for College Career Ready
 - Biology – Scores down by -8.8 for Grade Level Proficient and -5.4 for College Career Ready
 - English II – Scores down by -0.7 for Grade Level Proficient and -1.4 for College Career Ready
 - EOC Interventions have been put in place as listed:
 - Students who scored not proficient have been placed in remediation groups to prepare to retest this summer
 - Students have been assigned APEX tutorials
 - School District is providing small group instruction Professional Development training for secondary schools
 - School District is contracting with USA Test Prep to purchase their NC EOC test prep program to students to use
 - EOC Information:
 - Student in the End of Course courses have the opportunity to retest in the summer during summer session
 - Schools have created recover CANVAS courses to allow students to recover course credit due to course failures occurring during the remote learning time
 - DPI Exam and Score Scale distribution for End of Courses allowed about 50% of the scores to be an A or B and 75% were either A,B or C. About 10% graders were Fs.
 - Kindergarten – 3Grade MClass Data:
 - Kindergarten MOY – 87% below or well below on TRC measure
 - First Grade MOY – 75% below or well below on TRC measure
 - Second Grade MOY – 55% below or well below on TRC measure
 - Third Grade MOY – 49% below or well below on TRC measure
 - iReady Math Diagnostic Data:
 - How do districts compare to the Benchmarks
 - iReady Reading Diagnostic Data:
 - How do the districts compare to the Benchmarks
 - Summer Learning Opportunity:
 - House Bill 82 states Summer Learning Choice for NC Families:
 - HB 82 passed by the NC House and sent to the NC Senate
 - 150 total hours of instruction or 30 days
 - K-12 program focuses on reading, math, science in K-5 and grades 6-8
 - Focus on credit recovery and EOC courses in high school
 - Transportation will be provided and meals will be served
 - Completely option for parents/students
 - Funding is uncertain at this time

Dr. Perkins thanked the Board for their support for the teachers, students and families as they work to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Superintendent's Report:

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

Dr. Shotwell presented a powerpoint presentation with highlights of his time as Superintendent of Rockingham County Schools.

Board Chair Announcements:

There were no announcements.

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 maintain confidentiality and discuss matters related to specific employee considerations according to state law. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

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

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—Administration

—Licensed

—Classified

Rodney Boykin

Effective 2/22/21-6/7/21

Michael Fox

Effective 3/1/21

TERMINATIONS:

—Licensed

—Classified

TRANSFERS:

—Administration

—Licensed

Deirdre Courts

Effective 3/15/21

—Classified

Resignations:

—Administration

—Licensed

Kevin Curtis

Effective 2/26/21

—Classified

Lisa Neal

Effective 1/25/21

David Price

Effective 2/18/21

Retirements:

—Administrative

—Licensed

—Classified

Cassie Hairston
Effective 3/1/21
Leave Requests:
None

Action: Mr. Isley moved to accept the personnel report as presented, seconded by Mr. Huss.
The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Huss moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Isley. 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

April 19, 2021