

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
September 27, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Board Work Session

Present: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair and Ms. Vicky 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; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman 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. Mr. Huss and Mr. Isley participated via call-in for the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. McMichael announced the next regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

Ms. McMichael announced the Work Session of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Bethany School Bid Tabulation:

Ms. McMichael recognized Mr. E.C. Stophel and Dr. Sonja Parks for comments. Mr. Stophel presented bid tabulation sheet for two projects, one for the replacement roof for Old Bethany Gymnasium and secondly for an option for the Main Building roofs (Attachment 1-A). Mr. Stophel stated the bid proposal came to the school district from SKA Consulting Engineers. Mr. Stophel stated this project would be an emergency plan to save the structure.

Mobile Two-Way Radio Communication Systems for Transportation Department:

Ms. McMichael recognized Mr. Chris Cox – Director of Transportation for comments regarding the Mobile Two-Way Radios. Mr. Cox stated the two-way radio system would provide a real time communication system for the school bus drivers. He stated the radio system would provide better response time for the following as listed.

- Mechanical Issues / Breakdowns
- Inclement / Severe Weather Events
- Directions / Assistance with Route Operations
- Location of students
- Emergency / Crisis

- COVID-19 Mitigation

Mr. Cox introduced Mr. Ron Wells with Mobile Communications of America for additional comments. MR. Wells stated the system is covered for five years with installation and base system coverage. Mr. Cox stated the total system investment is \$401,345.38. Mr. Cox stated currently the method of communication for the school bus drivers is mobile phones. He noted the challenges presented for efficient and timely communication with mobile phones as listed.

- Unlawful to use a mobile phone while the bus is in motion
- Driver must identify a safe location and pull over and secure the bus in order to use a mobile phone
- If a call is made to the driver – they have to find a safe location and return the call
- Concerns with drivers unable to hear calls
- Concerns with phones being charged and ready for use

Mr. Cox presented additional information as listed:

- Proposed System (Attachment 2-A)
- Operational Description (Attachment 3-A)
- System Equipment List and Pricing (Attachment 4-A)
- Subscriber Radio Information
- Maintenance Services
- Purchase Options (Attachment 5-A)
- General Information
- System Coverage / Info about Mobile Communications of America
- Service Maps

Mr. Rodney Cates from Rockingham County Emergency Services stated the two-way radio system would help with communications with the county especially during emergency situations.

Capital Funding Update:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments. Dr. Parks presented the Capital Outlay request for restricted sales tax (Attachment 6-A). Dr. Parks stated the projects have been prioritized according to pressing needs for the district.

COPS Camera Grant Fund:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Kacey Sensenich for comments. Ms. Sensenich presented a report on the COPS Camera Grant awarded to the school district from the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Sensenich stated the funds would be received in October for the \$500,097 grant. The grant will allow for the purchase of 354 new cameras for security, 717 cameras will be in place with a total view of 1514-angled view from multi-functional cameras.

Ms. Sensenich stated all access doors on all school facilities have a security cameras in place.

Perfect Attendance Incentive Plan for Teachers:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Ken Scott for comments. Dr. Scott presented the plan to provide an incentive bonus payable to teachers with perfect attendance (Attachment 7-A). The Board discussed the plan with no decision to move forward at this time.

Strategic Plan Update:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for an update on the Strategic Plan. Dr. Perkins provided a Strategic Plan update with the following areas as listed.

- NC STAR Indicators
- Actions Report
- Our Direction Statement – Rockingham County Schools will empower each child to be a life-long learner, equipped to contribute in a changing, complex society.
- RCS Core Belief Statements

- Leadership Teams Progress in Implementing Indicators and Meeting Objectives
 - Comprehensive Progress Report
- Dr. Perkins stated the team will present again in October for updates and questions and will present for board approval in November.

Ward Black Law Presentation on JUUL Lawsuit:

Ms. McMichael recognized Attorney, Ms. Janet Ward Black for comments. Ms. Ward Black presented what JUUL nicotine products do and how it is marketed. She stated the product is marketed to those under age 18. She explained litigation seeks to replenish funds incurred by school districts and address the vaping issues on school property. School Board Attorney Mr. Nick Herman stated he had reviewed the contract and had no legal reservations regarding the litigation. Mr. Herman stated if the Board determined to move forward, the item would need to be placed on a future agenda for action.

Backpack Program and Fundraising Efforts:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran for comments. Dr. Corcoran stated she surveyed each of the school principals regarding the backpack program. Dr. Corcoran presented the number of students being serviced through the Backpack Program at each elementary and middle schools (Attachment 8-A). Dr. Corcoran reported for the breakfasts counts as listed:

- July Breakfast – 1,666 & lunch 1,165
- August Breakfast – 26,129 and Lunch 35,821
- As of 9/17 – Breakfast – 39,053 and Lunch 48,752

Dr. Corcoran stated fundraising efforts have begun in most of our schools. She stated students have not been able to gather for the fall kick off for fundraisers and families may not be able to purchase items due to consequences of COVID-19.

The Board took a 10-minute break.

CLOSED SESSION

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3)(5) (6) to discuss confidential personnel matters, contractual matters, real property, preserve attorney client privilege. 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

Administrator Contracts:

Employments:

—Administration

—Licensed

Abigail Carter

Effective 9/20/21

James Fain

Effective 9/20/21

Emily McCants

Effective 9/21/21

Laudy Moreno Gomez

Effective 9/15/21

Ebony Davis

Effective 10-11-21—9/30/2022

Elizabeth Leach

Effective 9/27/21
Diana Lopez Quintero
Effective e 9/27/21
Blanca Moreno Yonda
Effective 9/20/21
Kourtland Stokes
Effective 10/18/21

—**Classified**

Kristin Cole
Effective e 10/4/21
Veronica Hutchens
Effective 9/20/21
Racheal Ponce
Effective 9/27/21
Marsha Sartin
Effective 9/27/21
Patty Bondurant
Effective 9/27/21
Megan Branch
Effective 9/27/21
Faye Flint
Effective 10/4/21
Rita Hanks
Effective 9/27/21
Tammy Markham
Effective 10/11/21
Brandy Nelson
Effective 9/27/21
Vicki Weddle
Effective 9/27/21

TERMINATIONS:

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

Lisa Neal
Effective 3/31/21

TRANSFERS:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Jennifer Hankins
Effective 9/14/21
Yazmyne Harrison
Effective 9/30/21
Sherene Peterkin
Effective 9/14/21

—**Classified**

Kristin Bailey
Effective 9/17/21
Samantha Bauguess
Effective 9/13/21
Rhiannah Locklear
Effective 9/17/21
Cherrie Madren
Effective 10/1/21
Rally Pass
Effective 9/22/21
Cheryl Dove
Effective 9/27/21
Tara Edwards
Effective 9/20/21
Cynthia Lewis

/Effective 10/4/21
Therese Lewis
Effective 9/20/21
Denise Watlington
Effective 9/13/21

Resignations:

—**Administration**

Holly Williamson
Effective 11/12/21

—**Licensed**

Jennifer Crane
Effective 10/14/21
Justin Swain
Effective 10/5/21

-Classified

Jessica Lashley
Effective 8/9/21
Clara Perry
Effective 9/16/21
Marsha Sartin
Effective 9/22/21
Makayla Allen
Effective 9/13/21
Robert Paschal
Effective 9/24/21
Janet Yeager
Effective 10/5/21

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Jane Lemons
Effective 8/1/21

—**Classified**

Linda Bullins
Effective 8/1/21
Sandra Allen
Effective 9/1/21

Leave Requests:

None

Action: Ms. Alston moved to accept the personnel report and personnel addendums as presented, seconded by Ms. McKinney. The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rakestraw. The vote was 7/0. {10:00 p.m.}

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

October 11, 2021