

Rockingham Board of Education
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
November 20, 2023
Special Called Board Meeting
Parents' Bill of Rights
4:00 p.m.

Open Session Minutes

Present: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair and Ms. Vicky Alston, Vice Chair. Board Members: Mr. Philip Butler, Ms. Vickie McKinney, Ms. Paula Rakestraw and Mr. Bob Wyatt. Administrative staff: Dr. Shawn Stover, Superintendent; Dr. Charles Perkins, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services; Ms. Erselle Young, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Logistics; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Dean Richardson, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Brandon McPherson, Board Attorney and Ms. Renee Brown, Board Assistant were present. Absent: Mr. Brent Huss

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McMichael called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Six members were present at roll call. Board member Mr. Huss was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rakestraw moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Alston. The vote was 6/0 Unanimously Approved.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Parents' Bill of Rights

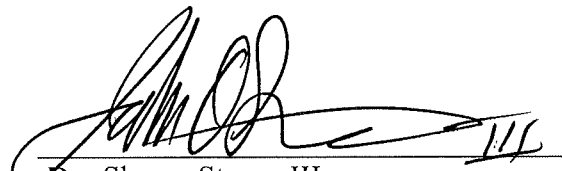
Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Corcoran and Mr. McPherson for their presentation. Dr. Corcoran stated at our last board meeting, each of you received a hard copy of the policy packet that you see in front of you on the screen. The Senate bill 49 enumerates the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, the education, the health care and mental health of minor children. It has required that school districts across the state of North Carolina respond and adjust to this piece of legislation. In turn, the State Board of Education has sent recommendations for revisions of some of the existing policies that you've had and been able to read. We will meet the deadline because my goal is for us to hear and talk about it as we listen to Mr. McPherson's presentation today, but also to be able to bring these board policies back to you in December and allow you to vote on them, and then we will have met the January 1 deadline that we've been required to meet. I do believe that most of your questions are going to be answered in this presentation by Mr. McPherson today. Dr. Corcoran pointed out that if you look at the grid that is at the very beginning of this packet, you'll see that most of these are required. So even though sometimes we get that recommendation of recommended, highly recommended, or required, most of what you're seeing in this packet is required. As I mentioned in my email to all of you last week, the district team and other stakeholders will be looking at how to interpret and respond to the requirements, which may take the form of creating additional local policies or regulations. So I anticipate that, as our team meets with different stakeholders that help advise and talk with us, when we do this, there may be some additional policies or regulations for local policies that we create. And as always, I will bring this back to our board policy committee. And of course, it will always run through that committee and then run through for approval.

We've received some information and guidance from NCDPI regarding the timeline. The Parent's Guide to the Bill of Rights is not required of us until the first day of school after January 1, 2024. So I'm confident that we'll have our guide book by then. We've also been required to submit to DPI by September 15, 2024, an upload of our guide with a link on our website, where all the information will be posted. We've already been looking at other school districts' websites to see what they look like and the best way to disseminate this information to parents and make it something that they can understand. Dr. Corcoran encouraged board members to reach out to staff for further clarification. Gratitude was extended to Mr. McPherson and the staff for their efforts in ensuring parents have necessary information for informed decision making. The floor was handed over to Mr. McPherson for his presentation. Mr. McPherson went through the Parents' Bill of Rights presentation in great detail. It was decided that Mr. McPherson would continue the discussion at our next board meeting, which is set to begin at 6:00 p.m. tonight. The Board will be amending the regular meeting agenda, adding item 8.3A.

Action: Ms. Alston moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. McKinney, motion carried on a vote of 6/0.
Adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes read and approved:


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


Dr. Shawn Stover III
Superintendent of Schools

December 11, 2023