

**Rockingham Board of Education  
Western Rockingham Middle School  
Media Center  
915 NW Ayersville Road  
Madison, NC 27025**

**March 25, 2024  
Work Session  
12:00 Noon**

**Open Session Minutes**

Present: Ms. Vicky Alston, Board Chair and Ms. Vickie McKinney, Vice Chair. Board Members: Mr. Philip Butler, Mr. Brent Huss, Ms. Kimberly McMichael, 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; and Ms. Renee Brown, Board Assistant were present. Mr. Brandon McPherson, Board Attorney joined by phone.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Alston called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 08, 2024. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. at Central Administrative Offices located at 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

There is a work session scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2024, beginning at 12:00 noon at Leaksville-Spray School Media Center, 415 Highland Drive, Eden, NC.

Access the latest agendas from the Rockingham County Board of Education by visiting [www.rock.k12.nc.us/board-of-education](http://www.rock.k12.nc.us/board-of-education) and clicking on "Board Meeting Agendas".

**Ms. Virginia Hoover, an Alderman from Madison attended the meeting.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board amend the agenda, adding item 6.4 Legislated Additional Bus Pay Increase. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0 Unanimously Approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Presented consent items for Board consideration:

1. Approval Consent - NCSBA Application for Member Training Credit - Dr. Stover

2. Approval Consent - Auditor Contract Renewal - Ms. Annie Ellis (**Attachment 1-A**)

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval - Head Start Quality Improvement Budget and Narrative Justification - Dr. Cindy Corcoran and Ms. Rhonda Jumper

Ms. Alston recognized Dr. Corcoran and Ms. Jumper for comments regarding the Head Start Quality Improvement Budget and Narrative Justification for board consideration. Dr. Corcoran and Ms. Jumper presented and reviewed the 2024-25 Grant and Budget Narrative Justification for board approval (**Attachment 2-A**). Board members asked questions and commented on the information presented.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the Head Start Grant and Budget Justification as presented. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0

Approval - Kids Companion Before/After Childcare Program Rate Increase - Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services and Leah Ward, Coordinator of RCS Child Care Services

Dr. Corcoran and Ms. Ward returned to the Board for the final approval to increase the RCS Kids Companion Before and After School Child Care Program. The new rates would begin with the summer camps of June 2024 and carry into the fall for the 2024-25 school year. The rates have not been increased since 2016. (**Attachment 3-A**) Board members asked questions and commented on the information presented. **The Board approved the rate increase with the option to revisit in November 2024.**

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the rate increase with the option to revisit in November 2024. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0. Unanimously Approved.

Approval - Playground Upgrades at Leaksville-Spray and Moss Street Elementary School - Ms. Erselle Young

Ms. Alston recognized Ms. Young for the presentation of playground upgrades. Ms. Young stated that the Board of Education and the Rockingham County Commissioners approved playground equipment upgrades for Leaksville-Spray Elementary and Moss Street Elementary in December 2023 and January 2024. The Operations and Logistics Department is requesting approval for Miracle Recreation Equipment Company to provide demolition of the old equipment and assembly and installation of the new equipment at each location. The total cost of the project is \$287,814.58. Board members asked questions and commented on the information presented. (**Attachment 4-A**)

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the playground upgrades at Leaksville-Spray Elementary and Moss Street Elementary as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0. Unanimously Approved.

**REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Old Bethany Gym Discussion - Ms. Erselle Young

Ms. Alston recognized Ms. Young for comments regarding the Old Bethany Gym. Ms. Young reported



that on March 7, 2024, several RCS officials, including two Board members, met with representatives from the Bethany Community Basketball League. The purpose of the meeting was to explore potential partnerships between RCS and the league to sustain their program while minimizing costs to the district. The Old Bethany gym currently serves over 400 basketball players. However, to continue accommodating the league's activities, a new fire panel and boiler must be installed. Ms. Young also emphasized the operational expenses associated with maintaining the Old Bethany facility. The league has proposed the possibility of a lease agreement between their 501-C organization and the Rockingham County Schools Board of Education. There was discussion concerning lights being left on in the main building at Old Bethany despite the Board's decision to disconnect the electricity from the main building on May 9, 2022; the action was not carried out as instructed. Mr. Gene Kelley shared his expertise on the electrical usage at Old Bethany during deliberations with Board members. Ms. Rakestraw recommends including Old Bethany in the discussion with the facilities committee as they review the phase development plan. A few board members expressed that, due to our budget constraints, the district should not spend any funds on Old Bethany. There are multiple decisions that need to be made regarding the property. Board members asked questions and commented on the information presented.

**(Attachment 5-A)**

Elementary Student Health Report - Dr. Cindy Corcoran

Ms. Alston recognized Dr. Corcoran for her report. Dr. Corcoran presented a PowerPoint presentation discussing school based telehealth and an opportunity in Rockingham County Schools. She highlighted on the following:

- Learning From Others
- Refining Our Vision: Ask the five whys
  1. Access to healthcare
  2. Return students to classrooms
  3. Increase instructional time
  4. Decrease absenteeism
  5. Reduce the impact of illness on students, schools, and families

Dr. Corcoran stated that several individuals were able to visit Bessemer Elementary School in Guilford County, including Board Members, Central Office Staff, Reidsville Area Foundation, and Cone Health. The group received an overall description of the program along with a demonstration by a Certified Medical Assistant and Dr. Jenkins. RCS would like to mirror this outstanding work by piloting it at Moss Street Elementary School. Dr. Corcoran thanked Dr. Jenkins, his team, and Bessemer Elementary School for their hospitality. Board members asked questions and commented on the information presented. Staff will conduct further research. Dr. Corcoran will propose a pilot of this program at Moss Street now that we have a benefactor willing to assist with funding. The proposal will be brought back to the Board on April 5th.

Legislated Additional Bus Pay Increase - Ms. Annie Ellis

Ms. Alston recognized Ms. Ellis for her report. Ms. Ellis presented her report in great detail. She stated that to maximize the state allotment, the best option would be to increase school bus drivers' pay by an additional 1.75%. The increase will take effect with the March 29th payroll, and retroactive pay will be included in the April 30th payroll. **(Attachment 6-A)**

Committee Reports

Each committee listed below presented the following information: Committee Members, Committee Goals, and Summary of Actions. The presentations were as follows:

- Safety Committee - Presented by Mr. Butler
- Board Policy Committee - Presented by Ms. McMichael
- Finance Committee - Presented by Ms. Rakestraw

- Facilities Committee - Presented by Ms. Rakestraw

The Board took a ten-minute break at 2:00 pm.

**Mr. Huss left the meeting at 2:00 pm.**

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Action: Mr. Butler moved for the Rockingham County Board of Education to enter Closed Session, to discuss confidential personnel information, pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(1), and (a)(6), and to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(3). Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 6/0. The Board moved into closed session at 2:11 pm.

Action: Ms. McKinney moved to return to open session, seconded by Ms. Rakestraw. The motion carried on a vote of 6/0.

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **Recommendations:**

#### **—Classified**

LaDeanah Seager

Effective 3/18/24

Marsha Sartin

Effective 3/18/24

Whitney Steadman

Effective 9/11/23

#### **Substitutes:**

##### **School Nutrition**

Caitlin Jay

Effective 3/11/24

##### **Substitute Teachers**

Sandra Cates

Effective 3/07/24

Tamar Lipscomb

Effective 3/13/24

Sydney Moore

Effective 3/07/24

Cassandra Morgan

Effective 3/11/24

Kasey Rickard  
Effective 3/07/24

**Assignment Changes:**

**—Classified**

Robyn Ashby  
Effective 3/04/24

Felicia Fashina  
Effective 3/12/24

Stephanie Saeger  
Effective 3/18/24

Whitney Steadman  
Effective 3/11/24

**Separations: No Board Action Required**

**—Licensed**

Janelle Ball-Brooks  
Effective 5/31/24

Janet Brooks  
Effective 4/07/24

Kendall Harris  
Effective 3/07/24

**—Classified**

Brent Epling  
Effective 3/22/24

Keith Hairston  
Effective 4/05/24

**Retirements: No Board Action Required**

**—Licensed**

Tracey Anderson  
Effective 6/11/24

Ramona Bankston  
Effective 5/24/24

Jeanie Clark  
Effective 8/01/24

Laurel Clark  
Effective 6/12/24

Donna Edrington  
Effective 6/12/24

Diantha McKinney  
Effective 6/12/24

Sandra Sowers  
Effective 6/30/24

Jacqueline Whicker

Effective 6/12/24

—**Classified**

Phyllis Barrett

Effective 6/05/24

Peggy Stines

Effective 6/12/24

**Employments Addendum:  
Recommendations:**

—**Classified**

Angela Smith

Effective 3/18/24

—**Administrator Recommendations**

Pamela Watkins

Effective TBD

**Substitutes:**

Substitute Teachers

Buford Fox

Effective 3/19/24

Charlene Pettie

Effective 3/19/24

**Assignment Changes:**

—**Classified**

Scott Isley

Effective 3/04/24

Sandra Worley

Effective 3/20/24

**Separations: No Board Action Required**

—**Classified**

Sharon Gauldin

Effective 3/29/24

Kendra Gillian

Effective 3/13/24

Douglas Neal

Effective 3/12/24

Marsha Sartin

Effective 3/19/24

**Retirements: No Board Action Required**

—**Licensed**

Donna Carter

Effective 6/30/24



Melissa Landreth

Effective 6/30/24

Brian Otter

Effective 6/12/24

—**Classified**

Nicole Taylor

Effective 6/30/24


Michael Weddle

Effective 6/12/24

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved to accept the personnel report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Butler, motion carried on a vote of 6/0.

Action: Upon motion by Ms. McKinney and second by Ms. Rakestraw, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes read and approved:



Ms. Vicky Alston, Board Chair  
Rockingham County Board of Education



Dr. Shawn Stover III  
Superintendent of Schools

April 08, 2024

