Hamlet, North Carolina

March 7, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on March 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Central Office in Hamlet, North Carolina.

The members present: Wiley Mabe, chairman, Bobbie Sue Ormsby, vice-chair, Scotty Baldwin, Jerry Ethridge, Daryl Mason, Ronald Tillman, and Cory Satterfield.

The administrators present: Dr. Joe Ferrell, superintendent, Dr. Kate Smith, assistant superintendent, Melvin Ingram, executive director of auxiliary services, Dawn Jordan, finance officer, Michael Williams, director of instructional technology, Jennifer Taylor, testing coordinator, Katherine Bendell, director of professional development/curriculum technology, Dr. Wendy Jordan, director of student services, Steven King, maintenance director, Dr. Tesha Isler, Beginning Teacher coordinator, Greg Norton, director of CTE, Kylie DeWitt, Public Information Officer, and George Crump, III, board attorney.

After noting that a quorum was present, Wiley Mabe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Wiley Mabe requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Daryl Mason, the minutes of February 7, 2023, open and closed meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The agenda, as presented, was approved by unanimous consent.

Kylie DeWitt introduced Willette Surgeon, principal of Washington Street School, who presented the Inspiring Excellence Awards to Melissa Dennis (certified), Michelle Watkins (classified) and Laura Welch (bus driver).

Melissa Dennis is an EC teacher. She is a team player, volunteers to help others, and is conscientious.

Michelle Watkins is a teacher assistant. She is very talented and has used this talent to decorate the foyer and hallways each month.

Laura Welch drives a bus. Many times, she drives her route and two other bus routes. She is always willing to help.

Kylie DeWitt presented a slide show highlighting the many Beta Club state winners from the recent convention in Greensboro. Winners were from the middle and high schools.

Ashleigh Larsen presented information about the RSHS trip to Italy with the EF (Education First) Tour program for July 17-25, 2024.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to approve the trip as presented.

Students With the Ability to Thrive (SWAT) program was presented by Bruce Stanback. This is a pilot program sponsored by United Health Care at the Leak Street after-school program. Thirty students from L.J. Bell, West Rockingham, Washington Street and Rockingham Middle participate. Yolanda Epps implements social and emotional activities. Jeff Epps provides STEM activities. The goal of the program is to build leadership skills, pride and self-esteem, relationships, happiness and confidence.

Matt Bramstedt presented the Construction Contract for board approval. LS3P received 3 bids for the combined construction project from Cooper Tacia, Monteith Construction, and Muter Construction. Muter Construction was the lowest bidder. The project name is 2023 RCS Construction Projects (7201-218290), per contract.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the construction contract as presented.

A short break was taken at 6:10 p.m. Meeting resumed at 6:19 p.m.

Dawn Jordan presented the following budget amendments for board approval:

* #4 – State Funds
* #5 – Local Funds
* #6 – Federal Funds
* #7 – Other Local Funds

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments as presented.

Jennifer Taylor presented the Fall EOC testing data. Testing and accountability results included Biology, English 2, Math 1, and Math 3 data. The report compared the Fall 22-23 test data to the most current year (Fall and End-of-Year 2021-22). The data shows trending upward in all areas.

Jennifer Taylor presented the Summer School Remediation Plan for board approval. The plan includes:

* Additional instruction and opportunity to re-take the EOG/EOC assessments,
* Tests to be administered:
  + EOG Math, grades 3-8
  + EOG Reading, grades 4-8
  + EOG Science, grades 5 and 8
  + EOC Biology, English II, Math 1 and Math 3
* Instructional dates – June 13-14 at all schools
* Testing dates – June 15-16

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to approve the plan as presented.

Greg Norton presented CTE Curriculum Course change for board approval. Changes are:

* Adding courses to Sales Pathway - Sales I and II
* Dropping course of Advanced Manufacturing I and II
* Adding course – Basic Electrical Trade I and II

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to approve the CTE curriculum course as presented.

Jim Butler presented Curriculum Course changes. Courses added to high school curriculum are:

* African American Studies II
* Teacher Cadet III and IV
* French I and II
* Spanish for Heritage Learners I and II
* AP Music Theory

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to approve the curriculum courses as presented.

Melvin Ingram gave an update on the focus groups in each school who will review results of the Uniform Policy survey, discuss options, and make recommendations to the current Uniform Policy. A recommendation will be made to the Board at the June 2023 meeting.

Melvin Ingram presented for approval the facility use agreement from the Carolina Diamondbacks baseball team, asking for use of the softball field at Cordova Middle School on Monday – Friday at 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. with an occasional Saturday and/or Sunday use. Coaches are John Holder and Kyle Baker.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the facility use request as presented.

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests for approval:

RSHS – FBLA State Leadership Conference – Greensboro, NC – March 23-25, 2023 – 5 students

RSHS – HOSA State Leadership Conference – Greensboro, NC – April 11-15, 2023 – 9 students

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to approve the field trips as presented.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented Surplus Items to list on Govdeals.com for approval.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to approve the Surplus Items as presented.

Board members’ reports: enjoyed the swearing-in and reception of Dr. Joe Ferrell as superintendent, visited schools, attended athletic events and Spring sports games, participated in Read Across America, attended Black History Month programs, proud of the Growing Readers programs at L. J. Bell and Monroe Avenue, thanks to the newspaper for highlighting employees and students, RSHS men’s basketball team is Eastern Regional winner and will play Saturday, March 11 in the state 4A championship game, Donald “Bootsie” Pettigrew named Coach of the Year for conference, thanks to the various AAU coaches who help prepare student athletes for middle and high school participation in sports, and recognized the maintenance department for appreciation week.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

* Visited eleven schools on the Listening and Learning Tour. Will complete the tour by March 13.
* Attended staff meetings at five schools and the transportation department.
* Met with several public officials.
* Attended meeting in Greensboro with superintendents and community college presidents. Spent time with Dr. Dale McInnis discussing partnership with RCS and RCC.
* Attended the RCC Gala and attending the Richmond County Chamber annual meeting on Thursday.
* March 5-11 is National School Social Worker’s Week.
* Need to schedule budget work session. Board members agreed to schedule on March 14 at 4:00 p.m. Budget requests will be presented to county manager on March 20, 2023.
* Congratulations to the RSHS men’s basketball team, who will compete for state championship Saturday, March 11 in Chapel Hill, NC.
* Green and gold day on Friday, March 10 in support of basketball team.

Wiley Mabe citing NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3),(6) requested a motion to go into closed session.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 7:04 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:35 p.m.

Melvin Ingram presented the personnel report, and addendums.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted to approve the personnel reports as presented.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.