Hamlet, North Carolina

May 2, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on May 2, 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. Julian Carter, associate 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, 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 5:01 p.m.

Jerry Ethridge requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the minutes of April 4, 2023, open and closed meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Kylie DeWitt introduced Joy Watson, principal at West Rockingham Elementary School. Joy Watson recognized Amy Allen (certified), Angelika Cameron (classified), and Nathaniel Short (bus driver) for the Inspiring Excellence Awards.

Amy Allen is a 4th grade ELA/Social Studies teacher. She is always positive. Her leadership impacts and inspires the students, staff, and parents.

Angelika Cameron is a technology assistant and is always willing to help, is dependable and is a team player.

Nathaniel Short is a bus driver and head custodian. He is dependable, professional, and caring.

Zane Searcy, a junior at RSHS, gave his speech, “The Strong Tower of Duty”, for the American Legion Oratorical Contest. He won third place at the state level competition at Chapel Hill, NC in March.

Shanda Roberson presented information on the 2025 summer trip to Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. This trip is sponsored by EF Educational Tours. The initial meeting with prospective participants is scheduled for May 31, 2023, at RSHS. The cost is $4200.00. Payment plans are available from the company.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the trip for the summer of 2025 as presented.

Steven King presented updates on the construction projects and safety grant.

* Muter is under contract for the construction projects at Richmond Senior High Sschool, Mineral Springs Elementary School and Fairview Heights Elementary School.
  + Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at RSHS;
  + Zoom meetings are scheduled every other Tuesday each month;
  + In May, fencing, trailers, dumpsters, etc. will be in place at each site; and
  + Beginning in June, demolition will begin in preparation for the new construction.
* Installation of the Door Access Control System (card reader system) will begin at RSHS.
  + With the School Safety Grant funding, all materials needed have been purchased. (Deadline to spend the grant money is June 30, 2023.)
  + Application will be submitted to the Center for Safer Schools in August for second grant for installation of equipment in other schools.
* The OpenGate (weapons detection system) which was approved for purchase at the April 4, 2023, will be installed this summer at RSHS. The company will install and provide training.

Dawn Jordan presented budget amendments for board approval:

* #8 – State Funds
* #9 – Federal Funds
* #10 – School Food Service Funds
* #11 – Other Local Funds

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments as presented.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the updated 2023-2024 Traditional and Early College calendars for board approval. Revision included:

* January 1, 2024 – Holiday
* January 2, 2024 – optional workday
* November 14, 2023, and April 16, 2024 – Parent/Teacher Conference Days (full mandatory workdays for staff) – Traditional Calendar
* October 19, 2023, and March 14, 2024 – Parent/Teacher Conference Days (full mandatory workdays for staff) – Richmond Early College Calendar
* Traditional Calendar: June 6, 2024, last day of school – June 11, 2024, required workday – June 12, 2024, optional workday
* Richmond Early College Calendar: May 15, 2024, last day of school – May 20, 2024, required workday – May 22, 2024, optional workday

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to approve the calendar revisions as presented.

Dr. Ferrell presented for board approval the Surplus Items to be listed on Govdeals.com.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to approve the Surplus Items as presented.

Melvin Ingram gave an update on the Uniform Policy meetings and results. Policy 4317 - Student Dress Code was presented for a 30-day review.

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for review:

* Policy 3101 – Dual Enrollment
* Policy 4023 – Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students
* Policy 4155 – Assignment to Classes
* Policy 4310 – Integrity and Civility
* Policy 4334/5035/7345 – Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)
* Policy 5028/6130/7267 – Automated External Defibrillator

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests for approval:

* RSHS – Beta Club (national convention) – Louisville, KY– June 16-20, 2023 – 20 students
* REaCH – Beta Club (national convention)– Louisville, KY – June 16-20, 2023 – 20 students
* Ellerbe Middle – Beta Club (national convention) – Louisville, KY – June 22-26, 2023 – 7 students
* Rockingham Middle – Beta Club (national convention) – Louisville, KY – June 22-26, 2023 – 27 students
* RSHS – Welding Class (AWS certification) – Florence, SC – April 28, 2023 – 17 students – (trip was approved in April, listed for documentation only)
* RSHS – Skills USA – (national conference) – Atlanta, GA – June 19-24, 2023 – 1 student (student cost $1715.00)
* RSHS – HOSA Club – (international leadership conference) – Dallas, TX – June 20-25, 2023 – 1 student (student cost $2081.00)
* RSHS – Senior Trip – Orlando, FL – April 19-23, 2024 – 38 students (student cost $850.00)

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to approve the field trips as presented.

Board members’ reports: school visits, attended Volunteer Breakfast at L. J. Bell Elementary School, expressed thanks to all the volunteers at all schools, attended the Student Health Advisory Council meeting, attended Duke Energy Night at RCC, reminder of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4 at 12:00 noon at the old Richmond County Courthouse in Rockingham, remember the families of Linda McDonald and Dr. Fred McQueen, and the question was asked as to how grief is handled in the schools.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

* Weekly updates sent to the board members,
* List of school events for May and June provided by Kylie DeWitt,
* The STEM event showcased the awesome projects and experiences of students,
* Listening and Learning tour will be complete by the end of May.
* Schedule a work session for presentation of results of Listening and Learning meetings after the June 6, 2023 – regular board meeting; dinner, then work session.
* Schedule the July regular board meeting for June 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

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

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 6:08 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 6:44 p.m.

Dr. Julian Carter presented the personnel report and addendum.

Wiley Mabe recused himself from the vote of the personnel reports, due to family member listed on the report.

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

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.