Hamlet, North Carolina

April 4, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on April 4, 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, Dr. Toni Witherow, director of math/science 6-12, Dawn Jordan, finance officer, Michael Williams, director of instructional technology, Jennifer Taylor, testing coordinator, Katherine Bendell, director of professional development/curriculum technology, Hayley Gordon, secondary ELA/SS/Gifted coordinator, 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 5:03 p.m.

Bobbie Sue Ormsby requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Kylie DeWitt introduced the 2023 Richmond County Schools spelling bee winner, Joseph Odom (from Rockingham Middle School), and runner-up winner, Hadley Bowdren (from L. J. Bell Elementary School).

Jim Butler introduced members and coaches of the 2022-23 men’s basketball team.

* 2022-23 team record 28-3
* Southeastern Conference winner
* Six players All Conference and Donald (Bootsie) Pettigrew – Coach of the Year
* Eastern Regional winner
* NCHSAA 4A state runner-up
* 2023 NC Farm Bureau Sportsmanship Award – Dakota Chavis
* NC Basketball Coaches Association (NCBCA) Player of the Year – Paul McNeil, Jr.
* District Player of the Year 1st team – Paul McNeil, Jr.
* District 2nd team – Julian Cole

Hayley Gordon introduced Hadley Garner, Gabrielle (Gabby) Lutz, and Damian Zamora. These students will attend Governor’s School this summer.

Dr. Toni Witherow presented the 2023 Summer Camp plans and opportunities for students. The following programs will be available:

* EOG/EOC Remediation and Testing
* High School Credit Recovery/Summer School
* Summer Acceleration Camp
* Summer Reading Camp
* Summer Bridge Academy
* Young RCS Engineers Camp
* Career Development Summer Camp
* Summer Camp Extras – Jerry Honeycutt physical challenges, Rockin’ Rollin’ Video Games, Laser tag Truck, and the ROC, Inc.

Jennifer Taylor presented the Alternative Schools’ Modified Accountability Plan for Ashley Chapel Educational Center. Approval of Option B, which uses 3 years of data, is requested. The plan includes:

* 20% Student Persistence
* 20% School Achievement
* 60% School Growth

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

Melvin Ingram gave an update on the meetings held at the schools on the Uniform Policy. Meetings have been held at 13 out of 15 schools. Wednesday, April 5 and Thursday, April 6, are the last two scheduled meetings. A presentation and recommendation will be made to the Board at the May 2, 2023, meeting.

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests for approval:

RSHS – Skills USA (state conference) – Greensboro, NC – April 18-20, 2023 – 21 students

RSHS – JROTC (eastern archery finals)– Louisville, KY – May 10-13, 2023 – 8 students

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

Melvin Ingram presented OPENGATE threat Detection Device system for board approval. The weapons detection system is designed for automatic screening of people with backpacks, bags, etc. The cost for the system for RSHS is $79,579.99. Funding of this system is provided from the Safety and Security Grant.

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve purchase of the OPENGATE system.

Board members’ reports:

* Focus on security and discipline to provide safe environment for schools, and add SRO positions at every school;
* Attended Arts Alive which showcased the amazing talent of students and the hard work of staff to highlight the arts;
* Would like Growing Reader programs in every school;
* Attended Education Foundation meetings – looking forward to this committee becoming more active;
* Attended Spelling Bee and participated in Uniform Policy meetings in the schools;
* Remember the families of Gracie Jackson, B. J. Hatchell and Bill Rohleder – who influenced the students’ lives; and
* Appreciative of Dr. Ferrell’s Listening and Learning Tour and the Friday updates.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

* Attended School Uniform school meetings. Thanks to Melvin Ingram for professionally handling the meetings with parents.
* Completed 75% of Listening and Learning Tour. Will schedule a work session in May with board members for results of the tour.
* Recognize Assistant Principals this week for their hard work in the critical role they play in the schools.
* Met with the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council at RSHS.
* Spring Break begins Friday.

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

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 6:09 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:03 p.m.

Melvin Ingram presented the personnel report and addendum.

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 Cory Satterfield, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.