Hamlet, North Carolina

January 3, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on January 3, 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: Dennis Quick, interim superintendent, Dr. Julian Carter, associate superintendent, Dr. Kate Smith, assistant superintendent, Melvin Ingram, executive director of auxiliary services, Katherine Bendell, director of professional development/curriculum technology, Michael Williams, director of instructional 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 5:00 p.m.

Cory Satterfield requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the minutes of December 8, 2022 (morning) and December 8, 2022 (afternoon), open and closed meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Noting there were no changes and/or additions, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Kylie DeWitt recognized the board members with gift baskets from the schools for School Board Appreciation Month. Board members were celebrated for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the students, staff members, and the community of Richmond County.

Kylie DeWitt introduced Jamie Greene, principal of East Rockingham School, who presented the Inspiring Excellence Awards.

Andre Ellerbe is an exceptional children’s teacher in the self-contained behavioral classroom. His leadership impacts students in a positive way encouraging them to be the best they can be. His classroom is conducive to learning and his goal is to do what is right for the students.

Tim Watkins is a technology assistant. He serves the school in a variety of ways and is always willing to help in any manner. He is dependable, kind, and treats others with respect.

Chasity Sellers is a bus driver and a care assistant in the exceptional children’s classroom. She is dependable, professional, and caring. She has a positive relationship with the students and steps in when needed.

Melvin Ingram and Kylie DeWitt recognized members of the Richmond County Sheriff’s Department, Hamlet Police Department and Rockingham Police Department with certificates for Law Enforcement Appreciation Month. Thanks and appreciation were expressed for their exemplary service to the school system.

Katherine Bendell introduced Angel Mabe, principal at Mineral Springs School. On December 9, 2022, Teena Robinson was recognized as North Carolina Sandhills Regional Teacher of the Year. Angel Mabe read some of the comments from students, staff members, parents, and administrators about Teena Robinson from the interview process. On February 17, 2023, the interviews begin for state level teacher of the year competition.

Dr. Kate Smith presented the proposal for 2024 COGNIA Systems Accreditation for a 30-day review. COGNIA is a national recognized organization that uses research-based standards and evaluation criteria to examine a school system either for school-based or district-based. This accreditation system encourages continuous improvement, shared themes across schools, and identifies key characteristics as hallmarks of excellence. The accreditation will be on a 6-year cycle and cost is approximately $30,000.00. The funds for the process of accreditation are included in the budget.

Board members’ reports:

* Attended many of the awesome programs in the schools during December, excellent entertainment, proud of the students, and the programs were well-attended.
* Community Breakfast on December 8, 2022, at Ninth Grade Academy was a great time of fellowship with community members.
* Attendance at the Core Training sponsored by the NCSBA in Raleigh on December 12-13, 2022, by Scotty Baldwin and Cory Satterfield.
* Proud of Teena Robinson as regional teacher of the year as well as all other teachers who positively affect the students daily.
* Received a flag from Hamlet High School from the 1970’s that was found. This flag was given to the museum in the Stinson Building in Hamlet.
* Reminder of importance of the availability of the defibrillators and training for first aid/ CPR. Would like an update from the schools.
* Reminder of the MLK celebrations January 13-16, 2023.
* Remembered Archie Killough and his family. He was a former teacher and athletic official. Thanks to Jim Butler for the light tribute at the RSHS stadium in memory of Archie Killough.
* Plan a date to recognize and show appreciation to the many local athletic officials.

Dennis Quick, Interim Superintendent, reported on:

* Wonderful programs at the schools in December.
* Thanks to the school board members for their support, dedication, leadership, and commitment.
* Recognized the winners of the Christmas Card contest – students from East Rockingham School, Cordova Middle School, and Richmond Senior High School.
* End of the first semester of 2022-2023 school year is January 24, 2023. Exams scheduled for January 18-24, 2023.
* Reminder of upcoming MLK Celebrations. Students are participating in the poster and essay contests.

Melvin Ingram presented the 2023-2024 Traditional and Early College Calendars for approval.

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

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for approval after 30-day review:

* 3420 – Student Promotion and Accountability
* 3620 – Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
* 4050 – Children of Military Families
* 4100 – Age Requirements for Initial Entry
* 4110 – Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission
* 4155 – Assignment to Classes
* 4400 – Attendance
* 4700 - Student Records

Policy 3460 – Graduation Requirements was submitted for 30-day review at the December 8, 2022, meeting. Since further review is necessary, this policy has been resubmitted for a 30-day review with updates.

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

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for review:

* 3102 – Online Instruction
* 3220 – Technology in the Educational Program
* 3460 – Graduation Requirements
* 4130 – Discretionary Admission
* 4220 – Student Insurance Program
* 4240/7312 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
* 4270/6145 – Concussion and Head Injury
* 4300 – Student Behavior Policies
* 4334/5035/7345 – Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)
* 6125 – Administering Medicines to Students
* 7130 – Licensure
* 7241 – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators
* 7360/8225 – Crowdfunding o Behalf of the School System

Melvin Ingram asked that the 30-day review of Policy 7241 – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators, be waived due to enforcement of policy beginning January 6, 2023

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to waive the 30-day review of Policy 7241.

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

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 5:56 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 6:18 p.m.

Dr. Julian Carter presented the personnel report and addendum.

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

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously by show of hands to approve Dr. Michael Joe Ferrell as superintendent with terms of contract as presented to the board beginning February 13, 2023, to June 30, 2026.

Dr. Joe Ferrell was introduced. He thanked the board for their confidence and promised to work every day to improve the lives of the students. His goals are to support, grow, and aspire for excellence, working together to change the lives of the students and their families.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:23 p.m.