Hamlet, North Carolina

February 7, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on February 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: Dennis Quick, interim superintendent, Dr. Julian Carter, associate superintendent, Dr. Kate Smith, assistant superintendent, Melvin Ingram, executive director of auxiliary services, Michael Williams, director of instructional technology, Dana Mintmier, director of exceptional children, 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 5:02 p.m.

Scotty Baldwin requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

After noting the change of presenters to following business items: 8.03 – Regional Principal of the Year – Kylie DeWitt; 8.04 – MLK Poster and Essay Winners – Kylie DeWitt; and 8.09 – Construction Updates – Steven King; the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Kylie DeWitt introduced Derrick Watkins, principal of Ninth Grade Academy, who presented the Inspiring Excellence Awards to Angela McDonald (certified), Renee O’Neal (classified) and Kenny McBride (bus driver).

Angela McDonald is the assistant principal. She maintains great relationships with staff and students. She is willing to listen, solve problems, and is excellent at doing her job.

Renee O’Neal is the bookkeeper. She is committed to the school, has the best interest of everyone, is willing to make things happen, and does a great job every day.

Kenny McBride is a bus driver. He is always willing to make extra trips whenever needed. He is a joy to work with.

Kylie DeWitt introduced the Pee Dee Electric 2022-2023 Bright Idea winners:

* Amanda Defibaugh from Cordova Middle School
* Amber Diggs from Fairview Heights School
* Melissa Davidson and Jill Rogers from L. J. Bell School
* Victor McCaskill from Richmond Senior High School

Kylie DeWitt introduced Jim Butler as Sandhills Regional Principal of the Year. He will represent our district at the state level.

Kylie DeWitt recognized the MLK Poster and Essay contest winners. Kerra Barrick was the poster contest winner and Elana Johnson was the essay winner. Elana read her essay.

Jim Butler, RSHS Principal introduced and thanked Mike Snead, Lee Wallace, Scott Waters, and Sherrill Jackson for broadcasting Raider football games on station WJSG 104.6 for 25 years.

Melvin Ingram and Kylie DeWitt recognized the school resource officers – Henly Smith, Major Mike Rush, Bill Williams, Tony McNair, and Chief Ricardo Leak. These officers have a combined experience in law enforcement of 183 years.

Dana Mintmier presented the following contracts for approval:

* Language Resource Center Inc.
* Public Consulting Group LLC
* ProCare Therapy

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Scotty Baldwin the board unanimously approved the contracts as presented.

Dr. Kate Smith asked for approval of the COGNIA systems accreditation after the 30-day review.

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to approve the COGNIA Systems Accreditation as presented.

Construction updates:

* February 5, 2023, bids will be received for the three construction projects at Fairview Heights, Mineral Springs, and RSHS. Bids will be opened February 9, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
* Meeting to discuss the Safety/Security Grant to purchase reader access system and replacement of cameras will be February 8, 2023.
* Roof at Ellerbe Middle School is complete.
* Plans to add 15 new parking spaces at the front of the East Rockingham School campus.
* Starting the roofing project at Fairview Heights School.
* Conducting survey to remove underground fuel tanks at schools.
* Conducting survey of needs on athletic fields at RSHS.
* Seal coatings have been done on all parking lots, with the exception of the main roads at RSHS and a small area beside the gym at Hamlet Middle.
* Delivery of two chillers for Mineral Springs and RSHS has been delayed. The funds for these chillers will be used for the paving and other various projects. Payment for the chillers will be funded next fiscal year.

Steven King asked for approval for the parking lot paving at Rockingham Middle School. Hudson Paving had the lowest bid at $160,325.00.

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

Melvin Ingram presented the results of the School Uniform Policy survey. There were 1,634 responses. The Advisory Committee will meet on February 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members’ reports: visited schools, attended athletic events and RSHS Football Banquet, participated in MLK Celebration events, met with Student Health Advisory Team, recognized the Beta Clubs in the middle and high school for the awards received at state Beta Club Convention, and recognized the district awards for Teacher of the Year and Regional Principal of the Year from Richmond County Schools.

Dennis Quick, Interim Superintendent, reported on:

* Recognized that both the Regional Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year are from Richmond County Schools.
* Proud of the great representation of the Beta Clubs at the state convention with all the awards won.
* Need 2-3 board members to hear reassignment appeal from parent. Scotty Baldwin, Ronald Tillman, and Jerry Ethridge volunteered. Time and date to be scheduled.
* Results of the Salary Study will be analyzed with the information shared with the board in preparation for presentation to the Richmond County Commissioners.
* Revisions to the program at Ashley Chapel Educational Center is going really well, with all administrators championing this effort.
* On January 5, 2023, a Richmond County school bus was struck by a truck and overturned. Twenty-seven students were on the bus. Joyce McRae, Chad McCurry, and Gwen Baldwin immediately after arriving on the scene, helped students, organized the area in preparation for the arrival of emergency response. Thanks to Bob Smith (911); Buddy Williams (EMS); rescue units from Rockingham, Ellerbe, Cordova, Hamlet; Christie Land (First Health- Rockingham and Pinehurst), Atrium Health (Wadesboro), and Scotland Memorial Hospital (Laurinburg).
* Thanks to the board for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent.

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for approval after 30-day 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
* 7360/8225 – Crowdfunding on Behalf of the School System

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

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests for approval:

RSHS – Quiz Bowl Competition– Columbia, SC - February 25 – 4 students

RSHS – Teacher Cadet Conference – Raleigh, NC – March 10-11, 2023 – 8 students

RSHS – Quiz Bowl Competition – Aiken, SC – March 11, 2023 – 4 students

RSHS – Quiz Bowl Competition – Rock Hill, SC - March 25, 2023 – 4 students

Cordova Middle School – 6th Grade – Medieval Times, Myrtle Beach, SC – April 6, 2023 – 82 students

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

Melvin Ingram presented the RSHS trip to Italy for July 17-25, 2024. This trip will be presented by Ashleigh Larsen at the next board meeting and will be voted on after a 30-day review.

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 Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 6:31 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:19 p.m.

Dr. Julian Carter presented the personnel report and addendum.

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

Ronald Tillman recommended studying the middle school sports programs.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.