Hamlet, North Carolina

December 7, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session, on December 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Washington Street School at 566 East Washington Street Extension, Rockingham, North Carolina.

The members present: Wiley Mabe, chairman, Bobbie Sue Ormsby, vice-chair, Jerry Ethridge, Ronald Tillman, and Cory Satterfield. Daryl Mason and Scotty Baldwin were not in attendance.

The administrators present: Dr. Joe Ferrell, superintendent, Dr. Julian Carter, associate superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Kate Smith, assistant superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Melvin Ingram, assistant superintendent of School Safety and Operations, Dr. Tesha Isler, executive director for School Administration and Policy, Dawn Jordan, executive director of Finance, Steven King, directory of Maintenance, Kylie DeWitt, executive director of Communications, and George Crump, III, board Attorney.

After noting that a quorum was present, Wiley Mabe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Ronald Tillman requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the minutes of November 7, 2023, open and closed meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Kylie DeWitt announced the 2023 Christmas Card Winners: Axel Morales, 5th grader from West Rockingham School; Thu Tran, 7th grader from Hamlet Middle School; and Natalie Hudson, 9th grader from Richmond Early College.

Steven King presented an update on the construction projects at Mineral Springs School, Fairview Heights School, and Richmond Senior High School.

* Richmond Senior High School – relocation of electrical that feeds E building and the football stadium was quoted as not to exceed $224,540.00. This will be paid out of the contingency fund for the RSHS project. The contract states that the owner and contractor agree that cost savings shall be shared 25% contractor and 75% owner.
* Mineral Springs School – wall is going up, making lots of progress.
* Fairview Heights School – foundation was laid December 6, and the slab will be completed by January 3, 2024.

Steven King presented the change orders for the projects:

* PCO #016 – building permit for RSHS - $8,715.10
* PCO #013 – RSHS asbestos encapsulation - $18,141.71
* PCO #006 – RSHS Band Room – asbestos abatements - $3,542.00
* PCO #009 – Mineral Springs – building permit - $4,215.85
* PCO #003 – Fairview Heights – building permit - $3,183.30
* PCO #004 - Fairview Heights – design changes directed by AHJ - $0.00
* PCO #010 – Mineral Springs – document revisions per AHJ comments - $0.00

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve the change orders as presented.

Dr. Kate Smith asked for board approval of the School Improvement Plans for 2023-2024 after the 30-day review.

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to approve the improvement plans as presented.

Dawn Jordan presented budget amendments, #1 – state funds and #2 – federal funds, for board approval.

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

Dr. Tesha Isler presented an update on the Policy – 4150 School Assignment. Focus groups met in November, surveys were completed, and feedback was received from attorney. An invitation to join in discussion of transportation/reassignment policy was sent to the twenty local daycares. Eight daycare directors met with Melvin Ingram on December 4, 2023. Board members are asked to review the policy and transportation procedures to daycares, to either adopt, add, or amend the policy as presented at the January 2, 2024, board meeting.

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the policies for board approval:

* 4240/7312 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
* 6220 – Operation of School Nutrition Services
* 6230 – School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards
* 7232 – Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace
* 7520 – Family and Medical Leave

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

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the following policies for 30-day review:

* 4130 – Discretionary Admission
* 4334/5035/7345 – Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)
* 4342 – Student Searches
* 5210 – Distribution and Display of Non-School Material

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests:

* Richmond Early College – Beta Club – Greensboro, NC - Beta Club State Convention – January 25-27, 2024 – 80 students

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

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

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve the surplus report as presented.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Richmond County Schools Facility Study. Dr. Jim R. Watson, president of WSRR Consulting Group, LLC has submitted the scope of work, estimated timeline, and cost of this study.

The study would include:

* Assessing current student capacities at all schools, which include demographic data and student enrollment projections.
* Recommendations for renovations, additions, possible new schools, and evaluation of consolidation of school(s).
* Assessment of all playgrounds and gymnasium bleachers.

The start date is projected to begin January 2024 with study completion by April 15, 2024. The cost of this study is $24,000.00 which is paid in three increments (January, March, and April). The printing cost of report is to be paid by Richmond County Schools.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the facility study plan.

Comments from board members: attended concerts, STEM night, school dance – Winter Wonderland at Cordova Middle School, NCSBA Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC, and workshop at conference with NCHSAA officials

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

* Students from the Ninth Grade Academy won 2nd place in the video/art contest at the NCSBA Annual Conference.
* Lauren Lutz and RSHS choral members have been invited to perform during lunch session at the NCSBA Annual Conference in November 2024.
* The month of December has lots of athletic events, concerts, and programs to attend.
* Friday, December 15, 2023, will be a full day for students to make up day absent in August.
* January 2, 2024, is scheduled as optional workday. January 3, 2024, is first day back from holidays for students.
* Tuesday, January 2, 2023, is the regular scheduled meeting of the board.

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

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 10:45 a.m.

The board returned from closed session at 11:10 a.m.

Dr. Julian Carter presented the personnel report, and the addendum.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel and addendum reports.

There being no further business, on a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:11 a.m.