Hamlet, North Carolina

June 27, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session for the July 2023 meeting, on June 27, 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, Ronald Tillman, and Cory Satterfield. Daryl Mason was absent.

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, Steven King, maintenance director, Katherine Bendell, director of professional development, Kylie DeWitt, Public Information Officer, and George Crump, III, board attorney.

Dr. Joe Ferrell, Superintendent, presided over the meeting until the election of the board chairman for the 2023-2024 year.

After noting that a quorum was present, Dr. Joe Ferrell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

On a motion by Wiley Mabe, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the minutes of June 6, 2023, open and closed meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Dr. Joe Ferrell opened the floor for nominations for the board chairman. Ronald Tillman nominated Wiley Mabe, and Scotty Baldwin nominated Cory Satterfield. Wiley Mabe moved to close the nominations.

Voting for Wiley Mabe as board chairman were Jerry Ethridge, Ronald Tillman, Bobbie Sue Ormsby, and Wiley Mabe. Voting for Cory Satterfield as board chairman was Scotty Baldwin and Cory Satterfield.

Wiley Mabe was elected board chairman for the 2023-2024 school year.

Wiley Mabe, chairman, asked for nominations for vice-chairman. Jerry Ethridge nominated Bobbie Sue Ormsby. Cory Satterfield nominated Scotty Baldwin. Ronald Tillman moved to close the nominations, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby.

Voting for Bobbie Sue Ormsby were Jerry Ethridge, Ronald Tillman, Bobbie Sue Ormsby and Wiley Mabe. Voting for Scotty Baldwin was Cory Satterfield and Scotty Baldwin.

Bobbie Sue Ormsby was elected as vice-chairman for the 2023-2023 school year.

Dr. Kate Smith presented the Memorandum of Agreement for the Duke University College Advising Corps for a 30-day review. This agreement will provide placement of a college advisor at Richmond Senior High School and Richmond Early College High School.

Dr. Kate Smith presented a letter from COGNIA congratulating Richmond County Schools as a candidate for the accreditation engagement which will include:

* Thorough evaluation of adherence to the performance standards and assurances,
* Assess our improvement plans, and
* Review and evaluate data related to student performance, activities, and organizational effectiveness.

Richmond County Schools will be fully accredited by next year using this process.

Dawn Jordan presented budget amendments for board approval:

* #16 – state funds
* #17 – capital outlay
* #18 – other local funds

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

Dawn Jordan asked for board approval for Richmond County Schools to operate on a continuation budget until the North Carolina state budget is approved.

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

Dawn Jordan asked board approval to pay approved employees the excess of $19,494.41, as an additional state supplement. If not used, this money for state supplements, would be returned to the state.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to approve the payment of the additional state supplement.

Steven King presented an update on the construction projects at Mineral Springs School, Fairview Heights School, and Richmond Senior High School. The focus is site work including demolition for new exit areas, fencing, removal of trees, locating utilities, underground piping, etc.

Steven King presented pictures of an abandoned building behind Rockingham Middle School that needs to be removed. He has met with the city planner, building inspector, and checked for the historical value of the building.

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve removal of this building.

Melvin Ingram presented the revised Dress Code Policy (4316). This revision removes from the policy wording of “graphics on clothing”, which board members had questioned at the June 6, 2023, board meeting. Board members were polled on June 14, 2023, for approval of policy after the revisions. Board members expressed appreciation for those in the community who chose to participate during this process. Melvin Ingram was thanked for his leadership to formulate this new community led dress code policy.

Melvin Ingram presented Attendance Policies 4400 and 4400 R-1 for board approval, waiving 30-day review. These policies removed the wording of “unexcused tardies, or unexcused early checkouts”.

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

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the Attendance Policy as presented.

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for adoption:

* Policy 1610/7800 – Professional and Staff Development
* Policy 4130 – Discretionary Admission
* Policy 5008 – Automated Phone and Text Messaging
* Policy 5040 – News Media Relations

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

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for review:

* 6315 – Drivers
* 6330 – Insurance for Student Transportation Services

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented a Resolution to Prioritize Public Schools in 2023-25 Biennial Budget for board approval. This resolution requests that the North Carolina General Assembly make investments in teacher salary increases, investments in early childhood education with more funding, and stop the expansion of the state’s private school voucher program.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented. This resolution will be signed by all board members before sending it to the North Carolina General Assembly.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Listening and Learning update:

* Conservative estimate for the additional staff positions requested would be $4,178,279.25,
* Top short-term list of priorities - cameras at both gates at RSHS, teacher assistants allowed to drive buses, replacement of intercom at Rockingham Middle School, tell our story better, and new/updated website, and
* Top long-term priorities – safety/security, student discipline, nurse at every school, principal coaching, evening academy.

For the second round from these priorities, the board was asked to select their top three, with further discussion at a future meeting. The presentation of the Organizational Structure will be forthcoming.

Board members’ reports: attended graduations at Ashley Chapel Educational Center and Richmond Senior High School; thanks to Richmond Community College for use of facilities for the ACEC graduation ceremony; enjoyed the retirement dinner for employees; visited JROTC camp in Charleston, SC; visited several principals; and appreciation to employees who are on the summer cleaning crew in all the schools.

Dr. Joe Ferrell reported:

* Summer hours: June 19 – August 11, Mondays - Thursdays with schools closed on Fridays.
* Holiday – July 4
* Need called meeting to discuss personnel in July. The board decided to meet Thursday, July 13, 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 Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 5:54 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 6:47 p.m.

Scotty Baldwin made the motion that a contract for Dr. Julian Carter as Associate Superintendent of Richmond County Schools for a term beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2026, be approved. Jerry Ethridge seconded the motion. All board members voted unanimously to approve.

Bobbie Sue Ormsby made the motion that a contract for Dr. Kate Smith as Assistant Superintendent of Richmond County Schools for a term beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2026, be approved. Cory Satterfield seconded the motion. All board members voted unanimously to approve.

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

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

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.