Hamlet, North Carolina

June 6, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on June 6, 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. Julian Carter, associate superintendent, Dr. Kate Smith, assistant superintendent, Melvin Ingram, executive director of auxiliary services, Dr. Pam Patterson, director of Federal Programs/Title I, Dr. Toni Witherow, director of math/science 6-12, Dawn Jordan, finance officer, Steven King, maintenance director, Michael Williams, director of instructional technology, Katherine Bendell, director of professional development/curriculum technology, Greg Norton, director of CTE, Rena Priest, Child Nutrition director, 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 5:08 p.m.

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

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the minutes of May 2, 2023, open and closed meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Katherine Bendell recognized the winners of the American Legion Ellerbe Post 73 essay contest. The essay was on the United States Constitution. Sara Dawkins (first place), and Hunter Hogan (second place), were unable to attend.

Major (Ret) Darryl A. Kelly introduced the members of the RSHS JROTC Archery Team. They qualified for the Eastern Nationals Archery Competition in their inaugural season, under the leadership of 1st Sgt. Aaron Light.

Jason Perakis introduced the SkillsUSA competition winners:

* Naaman Perakis – 1st place regional Drone Pilot competition in Fayetteville, NC and 2nd place state Drone Pilot competition in Greensboro, NC – had to forgo national competition due to prior commitments.
* Bethzaira Lopez Zapata – 1st place state Jobs Skills Demonstration Open (focus on micrometers and calipers in machining) in Greensboro, NC – will compete at SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA

Dr. Kate Smith gave an update on the Aspiring Leaders Program. Blair Small and LaShana Shubert, two of the thirty-one participants, spoke of the phenomenal experience of this valuable leadership program.

Rena Priest presented the 2023-2024 Child Nutrition lowest bids for board approval.

* Main Grocery and Supply – Sysco of Raleigh, NC
* Fresh Produce – Honeycutt Produce, Chadbourn, NC
* Beverage – Pepsi
* Milk -Dean Dairy
* Bread – Flowers Bakery
* Pest – Carolina Pest
* Chemicals (floor cleaner and dishwashing) – Saffle

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

Dr. Pam Patterson presented the Micro-Purchase Threshold Resolution for board approval. This resolution, which increases the purchase threshold of federal funding, must be approved annually.

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

Dr. Pam Patterson reported on the 2022-2023 Comprehensive Needs Assessment and Review/Revision of District Plan for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and RLIS (Rural, Low-Income Schools). This plan needs board approval to authorize Dr. Joe Ferrell as the representative to file the application.

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

Steven King presented an update on the construction projects. The fencing, job trailers, and the heavy equipment are in place to begin the site work as soon as school is dismissed for the summer. Weekly meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays each month. The tentative completion dates are: Mineral Springs School on August 9, 2024, and RSHS/Fairview Heights Schools on November 1, 2024.

Dawn Jordan presented the following contracts for board approval:

* Southern Engineering and Testing, P.C.
* Education Direction
* Leak Street Alumni, Inc.

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

Dawn Jordan presented budget amendments for board approval:

* #12 – State Funds
* #13 - Federal Funds
* #14 – Capital Outlay Funds
* #15 – Other Local Funds

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

Melvin Ingram presented Policy 4316 – Student Dress Code for board approval.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted 6 -1 to approve Policy 4316, and to delete the word “strongly” when recommending that another adult be present when discussing a dress or appearance violation. The board also noted that the wording of graphics on clothing will be reviewed at the next board meeting. Upon approval of Policy 4316 – Student Dress Code, Policy 4317 – School Uniform was deleted. Jerry Ethridge voted no on the approval of the policy.

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for adoption:

* Policy 3101 – Dual Enrollment
* Policy 4023 – Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students
* Policy 4155 – Assignment to Classes
* Policy 4310 – Integrity and Civility
* Policy 4334/5035/7345 – Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)
* Policy 5028/6130/7267 – Automated External Defibrillator

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

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for review:

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

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Report for approval:

* RSHS – JROTC (2023 JCLC mandatory requirements) – Fort Jackson, SC– June 11-17, 2023 – 20 students

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

Board members’ reports: attended REaCH graduation, band/chorus concerts, award ceremonies, Baccalaureate service, retiree dinner; planning on attending graduation ceremonies at Ashley Chapel Educational Center (June 8) and Richmond Senior High School (June 9); and remember the family of Laura Cromer.

Dr. Joe Ferrell dittoed all the items on the board members’ reports.

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 6:24 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:04 p.m.

Dr. Julian Carter presented the personnel report, with the addition of Rebecca Wright, and the addendum.

Ronald Tillman recused himself from the vote of the personnel reports, due to a family member listed in the report.

On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, 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 7:05 p.m.