Hamlet, North Carolina

August 1, 2023

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session, on August 1, 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, assistant superintendent of school safety and operations, Dawn Jordan, finance officer, Dana Mintmier, director of exceptional children, Steven King, maintenance director, Mike Williams, director of instructional technology, Katherine Bendell, 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 5:01 p.m.

Cory Satterfield 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 June 27, 2023, and July 13, 2023, open and closed meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Kylie DeWitt presented an update on the REaCH participation at the National Beta Club Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Suzanne Hudson reported on the RSHS students at the convention.

Dr. Kate Smith updated the board on the summer camps and summer school sessions:

* EOG/EOC Remediation Camp – gains in reading, math and science scores;
* Read to Achieve reading camp for 2nd and 3rd graders – over 150 students participated;
* RCS Acceleration Camp for kindergarten, first, fourth and fifth graders – over 200 students participated;
* Young Engineers Camp (STEM) for kindergarten through eighth grade – design process and hands on learning;
* Career Development (CTE) camp – over 130 students participated;
* Summer Bridge Academy for rising kindergarten and sixth grade students – over 100 students participated and REaCH had camp with over 200 students participated;
* Credit Recovery/Summer School for ninth through twelfth students.

Dr. Kate Smith presented the Memorandum of Agreement for the Duke University College Advising Corps for board approval, after the 30-day review.

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

Mike Williams presented the Device Report. There were 5 thermal events with the HP ProBook x360 11G1 Notebook PCs. The devices were comprehensively evaluated by HP. The findings were that the damage was consistent with a thermal event on user left side of device. Evidence of a significant drop or impact to the device caused the screws on the battery to be cracked and shifted the battery out of place. An additional 20 devices were also sent for examination, which also showed physical damage to the devices. Options include: 1) replace the batteries in the existing devices with new batteries, and 2) allow RCS to purchase new HP G9 devices at discounted price of $325.00. The plan for the 2023-2024 school year is:

* RSHS and Ninth Grade Academy will begin without devices,
* Purchase laptop carts for the storage of the devices in the classrooms,
* Replace batteries in 1700 existing laptops,
* Purchase approximately 500 new devices,
* Begin yearly replacement cycle, and
* Only CCP student at RSHS will be issued laptops.

Mike Williams asked the board for approval to increase the Student Technology Fee for grades K-12 to $30.00 and students will not be charged for damages. Previously the fee was K-8 ($10.00) and 9-12 ($30.00) and students would pay for laptop damages.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted to approve the increase in the technology fee. Ronald Tillman did not vote for the increase.

Steven King presented an update on the construction projects at Mineral Springs School, Fairview Heights School, and Richmond Senior High School. The updated completion dates are:

* Richmond Senior High School – November 28, 2024 (29 days behind schedule)
* Mineral Springs School – July 29, 2024 (38 days behind schedule)
* Fairview Heights School – October 18, 2024 (gained 13 days)

At Mineral Springs School, there was one change order of $5,576.72 for repairing an uneven concrete floor. This amount came out of the contingency funds, so no additional funds were needed.

Dana Mintmier presented contracts for board approval:

* #1 – AMN Healthcare, Inc.
* #4 – Speech Therapy of the Sandhills
* #5 – The Stepping Stones Group LLC
* # 6 – Margaret A. Zastrow

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

Dawn Jordan presented the Implementation of Salary Study. A request for board approval to implement the first phase of the new salary schedule for School Resource Officers, Technology Staff, and Child Nutrition managers and assistant managers.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to implement the new salary study as presented.

Melvin Ingram presented the 2023-2024 Coaches Supplement Schedule with a 10% increase, to increase the gate at middle school games to $5.00 (from $3.00), and to add the track program in the middle schools for board approval.

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

Melvin Ingram presented the Dress Code Policy (4316) asking for board approval to remove the following paragraph: “When a school staff member or school administrator discusses a dress or appearance violation with a student, it is recommended that another adult be present and at least one of the two adults should be the same gender, as appropriate, as the student.”

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

Melvin Ingram presented information on the RAVE Panic Button. This is a free application for cell phones to help with safety and in reporting emergency issues.

Wiley Mabe asked for a motion to take a short recess. On a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to take a short recess at 6:20 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:29 p.m.

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

* 4231/5021/7263 – Face Coverings
* 7340 – Employee Dress and Appearance
* 7503 – Teleworking
* 7810 – Evaluation of Licensed Employees
* 7815 - Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees

Melvin Ingram asked the board to waive the 30-day review of Policy 4231/5021/7263 – Face Coverings. This policy is not needed.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to waive the 30-day review.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to approve deletion of Policy 4231/5021/7263.

Melvin Ingram presented 5030 E-A Facility Use Agreement for 30-day review.

Melvin Ingram presented the following polices for board approval:

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

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:

* RSHS - Senate – Leadership Retreat – Big Pine Retreat Center in Hamlet, NC – August 18-20, 2023 – 15 students

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

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Surplus Item for board approval.

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

Comments from board members: visited new principals and the site work for construction projects, discussed support of band program, asked if middle school students can participate in band, and asked if sixth grade students could be introduced to the locker system before school. Open House schedule will be sent by Kylie DeWitt.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

* Administrative Retreat at Big Pine today and the next two days at Central Office.
* Four-day work week will be over the week of August 7, 2023.
* Early College teachers are back at work and school begins August 8, 2023.
* August 18, 2023, is the first RSHS football game.
* Stuff the Bus with school supplies is happening today. Thanks to Kylie DeWitt, Ginny Sellers, Michelle Parish (from United Way), Kristi King (from RC Chamber), and Beta Club members for their assistance.
* Convocation is August 24, 2023, at the Cole Auditorium, with the Teacher of the Year breakfast at 8:30. Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year will be announced.
* Traditional school begins August 28, 2023.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 6:51 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:53 p.m.

Cory Satterfield made a motion to set the per pupil tuition for students residing outside of the school system boundaries as $1,332.68 per year. Per Policy 4135 – Tuition for Discretionary Admissions, the tuition rate must be determined annually by the board not later than August 1. Jerry Ethridge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted to approve the personnel and addendum reports as presented.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.