

Rockcastle County Board of Education

Angela Stallworth-Mink, Chairman ♦ Anna Stevens-Goff, Vice Chairman
Matt Chaliff ♦ Misty Lakes ♦ Angela Parsons-Woods

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center ♦ 250 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456
March 14th, 2023 - 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Silent Prayer

Chairperson Mink called the meeting to order at 5:30 and asked the room to participate in a moment of silent prayer.

B. Roll Call

All members were present.

C. Reading of Board Team Commitments

Misty Lake read the Board Team Commitments aloud.

2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

Motion was made by Matt Chaliff to approve the board agenda. Anna Goff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

3. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

A. Recognition of Rockcastle County High School Cheerleaders

The showcases began with RCHS Student Council members sharing with the board the projects they have completed over the course of the school year. To begin, they introduced the RCHS Cheerleaders, who competed in the National UCA Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, FL in February. Coach Joanie Lake and the cheerleaders entered the room and thanked the board for their support and for giving the cheerleaders the amazing opportunity to compete against other cheer squads from around the country and the world. Board members congratulated the cheerleaders on their accomplishments and thanked them for representing our community so well.

B. Rockcastle County High School (Mr. Bussell)

Student Council President, Emma Ballinger, along with Silas Durham, Treasurer and Kory Tompkins, Senior member continued to share via a slideshow presentation all of the events they have spearheaded this year, including: *After the Bell* podcast, *Rock Rewards* days, *Prom Donation Drive*, *Rock's Got Talent* and the new *Farm to School* Program coming next school year. These students have worked hard to impact the culture and climate of Rockcastle County High School to serve all students and create a wonderful place for students to learn and belong.

RCHS Principal JD Bussell and Counselor Casey Harper also shared with the board the ongoing work the high school is doing to increase and improve their percentage of students who are post-secondary ready by the end of their 12th grade year. He discussed improvements to career pathways and access for more students to dual credit and A.P. courses. Mr. Bussell discussed the new Teacher Education and Law and Justice pathways and the high school's participation in Advance Kentucky, which will give students more opportunities to be prepared for postsecondary life. He mentioned that the RCMS 8th grade class toured RCHS earlier that day and that all high school students are scheduling their classes for next year. He told the board that every student has had or is having a one on one conversation with an adult about their schedule and plans for the future.

C. DECO Architects

Chris Wilson of DECO Architects shared the latest renderings of the new RCMS building project, along with a timeline of phases of the project. These designs have been submitted to KDE for approval. Anna Goff asked about the locker rooms being absent from the final design. Trent Clark stated that due to the topography of the land and the cost that the locker rooms were not able to be included at this time. He also told the board that newer, wider seating and preservation of the grassy areas beside the stadium would permit attendees to continue to watch games from those areas. Angie Mink asked about the size of the new Concession building. Mr. Clark stated that the building would house concessions, ticket sales and restrooms. The board also discussed the inclusion of the new, auxiliary gym in Phase 2, as funding permits..

4. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:

- A. Approve Minutes of the February 13th, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- B. Approve Bills for Payment
- C. Approve School Trips
- D. Approve School Fundraisers
- E. Approve Request for Family and Medical Leave of Absence
- F. Approve TC-4 Application for Substitute Emergency Certification
- G. Approve 2023-2024 Dual Credit Memorandum of Agreement with Somerset Community College
- H. Approve 2023-2024 Memorandum of Agreement with Jobs for America's Graduates(JAG) at Rockcastle County Middle School
- I. Approve 2023-2024 Memorandum of Agreement with Jobs for America's Graduates(JAG) at Rockcastle County High School
- J. Approve Option 9 Agreement with the University of the Cumberlands
- K. Approve Community Collaboration Agreement with the Daniel Boone Community Action Agency, Inc.
- L. Approve Memorandum of Agreement/Contract Modification with Striving Readers-KYCL Grant
- M. Approve Amendment to Grant Agreement PY23 between Save The Children and Rockcastle County Schools
- N. Approve Care Solace Service Agreement with Rockcastle County Schools
- O. Approve Contract Modification for LAVEC Funding

Mr. Reppert discussed the Care Solace Service Agreement with the board and the services they would provide to our schools and community. He stated that Care Solace is a navigation, web-based company that will connect students and families to mental health services and therapies they might need, 24/7. The information presented on the *dashboard* of the site can allow school and/or district administrators to know if a student needs help, but it can also be anonymous for the person seeking services. Following Mr. Reppert's explanation, Anna Goff made a motion to approve Operations/Actions. Angie Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- A. Review/Approve Monthly Financial Reports (Mrs. Sweet)
 - 1. Month Ending Balance Sheet
 - 2. Revenue & Expenditures for the Month by Fund

Finance Officer Jenny Sweet shared the monthly financial reports with the board and reminded members that there may still be adjustments and journals made to the budget as we near the end of the year. Matt Chaliff asked if Mrs. Sweet felt the budget was on track for this time of year and she stated that the district was. She also stated that the district has received no final numbers for SEEK and would not receive that information until June 1st. She noted that the finance department has been researching trend data with enrollment in order to make some projections for the next school year. Angie Woods made a motion to approve the Monthly Financial Report. Matt Chaliff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- B. Review/Approve Resolution for Selling Surplus Buses (Mr. Hopkins)

Mr. Hopkins requested that the board approve the sale of four school buses to make room for the four new buses the district has purchased and which are scheduled to be delivered this summer. Angie Mink asked how long the bid process would take. Mr. Hopkins stated that the state agency KISTA, along with Ross and Sinclair, Associates will advertise for the bids and guide the district through that process. Mr. Hopkins asked the board to approve the resolution, as well permit Dr. Ballinger and he to review and accept or deny the bids that are received. Matt Chaliff made a motion to approve the resolution. Anna Goff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

- C. Review/Approve Resolution to support Council for Better Education (CBE)

Dr. Ballinger asked the board to approve the resolution to support the CBE in their fight against HB 9 and charter schools. She noted that the district would pay \$2400.00 to show their support. Anna Goff made a motion to approve the resolution. Misty Lakes seconded the motion. All those in favor agreed.

- D. Review/Approve Amended Salary Schedule for 2022-2023

Jenny Sweet shared a few changes to the salary schedule that would impact staff who may be hired to work during the summer. For example, the Save the Children grant requires a Coordinator that would work 7 hours per day. It might also impact staff who are required to attend a training that lasts 7 hours versus 6 hours. Classified staff will be paid \$25.00 per hour for summer work, with a limit of 7 hours per day. The amendment also includes the supplement of \$1500.00 for a Deeper Learning Coach at each school, funded by a Deeper Learning grant through the state. Angie Mink requested that the salary schedule reflect the hours of travel an employee might be required to make to a training location (i.e. Louisville). The issue was discussed and the decision was made to revisit the hourly rate when the Salary Schedule for 2023-2024 is approved.

6. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

- A. Review Superintendent's Personnel Actions Report (Mrs. Ballinger)

The board members reviewed the Superintendent's Personnel Actions Report. No questions were raised about the report.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Rachelle Riddle**
- B. Janelle Jones**
- C. Jamison Rogers**

Chairperson Mink recognized the visitors in attendance and welcomed them to the meeting. Janelle Jones addressed the board by reading a prepared statement, which consisted of several descriptions of alleged incidents that her daughter had experienced at the high school. Next, Jameson Rogers, a parent in the community whose children are friends with the children of those who are speaking tonight, asked the board to be proactive in healing and helping all children in our schools. She stated that she was in attendance this evening to stand beside her children's friends and emphasized the importance of having an inclusive community for all children. Finally, Rachelle Riddle spoke to the board and suggested some solutions that would serve to improve the climate for the minority students in our district. These suggestions include: hiring a full time Diversity Coordinator of color so that minority students would have an adult to talk with when faced with any racial issue or problem and creating a Minority Student Council, which would consist of minority students in both middle and high school who could have a voice. Ms. Riddle recognized the creation of the Diversity Club at the high school and the contributions of Meaux Jones (SESC) and Holly Robinson. She requested increased Diversity Training for all school employees and the inclusion of issues of diversity in our schools, beginning in elementary school. She also asked the board to review their district policies on diversity. Chairperson Mink thanked the speakers for their input and appreciated hearing their voices on this issue.

8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mrs. Mink asked Mrs. Mattingly how the new Nutrislice menu was working and would she be able to count calories using this program. Mrs. Mattingly shared insights into the new menu format and the new Farm to School program that is in development for the next school year.

9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Dr. Ballinger reminded the board that it was the time of year when schools are moving into testing mode. She stated that the juniors took the ACT on March 7th and there were make-ups for those students who missed that original test date. She also informed the board that Graduation for RCHS was scheduled for May 22nd with the time to be announced at a later date,

10. BOARD COMMENTS

- Matt Chaliff recognized the Regional Hospitality Award received by RCHS this past week. He also appreciated Mr. Bussell's update and his comments centered around "growing our own" teachers in Rockcastle County.
- Misty Lakes had several items to share, but focused her comments on a few. First, she applauded the new Option 9 program, which offers a pathway to a teaching certification for Instructional Assistants. Next, she noted upcoming pre-school registrations and wondered about the correlation between pre-school attendance and success in kindergarten for those children. Mrs. Hubbard stated that while she did not have that information, she thought it would be beneficial to include in her communications to parents and the community regarding pre-school. Next, Ms. Lakes asked whether or not we were able to do any comparisons with our attendance this year and in previous years? Mr. Reppert stated that we couldn't compare to the past two years due to COVID and the different codes allowed by the state during this time to mark attendance. He also informed the board that, as of today, the district student enrollment is 2845. Mrs. Lakes also commended the district Spelling Bee and appreciated the Facilities Fun Facts in Mr. Clark's Department notes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Matt Chaliff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48. Angie Woods seconded the motion. All members present agreed. Meeting adjourned.