

Hamlet, North Carolina
February 6, 2024

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session, on February 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Central Office in Hamlet, North Carolina at 118 Vance Street.

The members present: Wiley Mabe, chairman, Bobbie Sue Ormsby, vice-chair, Jerry Ethridge, Ronald Tillman, Cory Satterfield, Daryl Mason, and Scotty Baldwin.

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, Dr. Wendy Jordan, director of Student Services, Dana Mintmier, director of Exceptional Children, Haley Gordon, director of secondary ELA, Social Studies, AIG and ML, Steven King, director of Maintenance, Mike Williams, director of Technology Systems and Student Information, Katherine Bendell, director of Instructional Technology, Cameron Whitley, director of Public Information, 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.

Daryl Mason requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Daryl Mason, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the minutes of January 2, 2024, and January 16, 2024 (open and closed) meetings were unanimously approved.

After noting that Item 8.01-Inspiring Excellence Awards from Rockingham Middle School will be moved to the March 6, 2024, meeting, the agenda, as presented, was approved by unanimous consent.

Cameron Whitley presented the Inspiring Excellence Awards plaques to Edward McDonald and Ashley Baldwin (Fairview Heights School.)

Wiley Mabe, Ronald Tillman, and Scotty Baldwin were recognized with merit certificates from NCSBA (North Carolina School Board Association) for educational training hours.

Melvin Ingram presented the MLK Poster and Essay first place winner: Mitchell Newton (from REaCH) – 1st place essay winner and Keely Haggerty and Gema Rodriguez-Sousa (RSHS) – 1st place poster winner.

Suzanne Hudson updated the board on the Teacher Cadets. Currently there are 19 students in two classes at RSHS. The cadets will be attending the state conference in March. This conference is completely student-run.

Melvin Ingram updated the board on Love the Bus Week. February 12-16, 2024, is a time to celebrate and thank bus drivers for their service. Currently, there are 95 drivers, 81 bus routes traveling 5,559 miles per day, and 45% of RCS students ride a bus.

Melvin Ingram thanked the School Resource Officers (SRO) and law enforcement officers (who collaborate to serve as needed) for their dedication. February 15, 2024, is SRO Appreciation Day.

Currently there are three officers serving as an SRO in the schools: Chief Mike Rush, Bill Williams, and Tony McNair.

Mike Way informed the board of Athletic Updates. Presented were:

- List of all sports indicating head and assistant coaches,
- Number of students in grades 9-12 participating,
- List of fundraising projects sponsored by each sport, and
- Revenue, Expenses, Profit/Loss totals by each sport.

Kate Smith presented the 2024-2025 Traditional and REaCH calendars for board approval. The board members discussed Option 1 and 2 Traditional Calendar proposals.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to approve Option 1 Traditional Calendar and the Richmond Early College Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

Dr. Kate Smith presented the 2022-2023 School Designations for growth status. Schools that met expected growth: Fairview Heights School, L. J. Bell School, Richmond Early College, Rockingham Middle School, and West Rockingham School. Schools that exceeded expected growth: Cordova Middle School, Hamlet Middle School, Monroe Avenue School, and Ninth Grade Academy. Richmond Early College met graduation rate of 100%.

Steven King presented the contract award recommendation for L. J. Bell Elementary School Metal Roof Retrofit Project for board approval. Southern Metal Systems, Inc. from Wendell, NC, had the lowest bid at \$357,000.00.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to approve the roofing bid from Southern Metal Systems, Inc. for L. J. Bell Elementary School.

Steven King presented a visual slide presentation of the work done at each construction site.

- Richmond Senior High School – buildable site completed with footings to be dug soon; completion date January 3, 2025
- Mineral Springs School – completion date August 26, 2024
- Fairview Heights School – completion date October 2, 2024

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the policies for board approval:

- 3625 – Ninth Grade Participation in Athletics (delete)
- 3625/5016 – Non-Employee and Volunteer Athletic Coaches (new policy)
- 7100 – Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
- 7130 – Licensure
- 7510 – Leave
- 7730 – Employee Conflict of Interest
- 7820 – Personnel Files

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

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

- 3610 – Counseling Program
- 4040/7310 – Staff-Student Relations
- 4110 – Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission
- 6401/9100 – Ethics and the Purchasing Function
- 6430 – Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 9125 – Participation by Minority Businesses

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests:

- Richmond Senior High– CTE (Harbor Freight Youth Summit) - Florence, SC – March 21, 2024 - 3 students
- Richmond Senior High – FBLA (State Conference) – Greensboro, NC - March 21-23, 2024 – 10 students
- Cordova Middle – Skill, USA (State Conference) – Greensboro, NC - April 23-25, 2024 – 9 students
- Richmond Senior High School – Skills, USA (State Conference) – Greensboro, NC – April 23-25, 2024 – 30 students
- Richmond Senior High School – Teacher Cadet (State Conference) – Raleigh, NC - March 2, 2024 – 19 students

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

Board members commented on: Leadership Richmond tour of CTE classes at RSHS, Black History program at Cole Auditorium, Football Banquet, Student Health Advisory Council meeting, Growing Readers at L. J. Bell School, MLK luncheon, Teacher Cadet Program, Educational Foundation, and sporting events.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

- Cameron Whitley’s report highlights successes within Richmond County Schools (i.e. graduation rate, CTE courses, after school tutoring, schools who met or exceeded growth, Beta Club, School Health Program, school counselors and social workers, grants awarded, safety and security in buildings, STEM program).
- Black History Month – program Wednesday and Saturday at RCC directed by Arthur Gilliam.
- Teacher Working Conditions (TWC) survey.
- Exciting basketball games - the games never disappoint!

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

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 6:50 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:55 p.m.

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

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel and addendum reports as amended to include Anthony Billingsley as head baseball coach at Hamlet Middle School.

George Crump presented for board approval, the Improper Equipment Fees Resolution.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution that authorizes George Crump, board attorney, to act pro bono for Richmond County Board of Education in the lawsuit for the \$272,300.00 judgment.

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the Policy 4150 – School Assignment. After discussion, the board requested that the final vote on this policy be at the March 6, 2024, meeting. Dr. Isler will send the updated policy to all board members prior to the meeting.

The board will have a called board meeting on February 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.