

Hamlet, North Carolina
January 2, 2024

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session, on January 2, 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, Jennifer Taylor, director of Testing and Accountability, Dawn Jordan, executive director of Finance, Steven King, director of Maintenance, Mike Williams, director of Technology Systems and Student Information, Katherine Bendell, director of Instructional Technology, Kylie DeWitt, executive director of Communications, and George Crump, III, board Attorney.

After noting that a quorum was present, Wiley Mabe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Jerry Ethridge 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 December 7, 2023, open and closed meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Mike Williams presented E-Rate funding requests for the 2023-2024 school year.

On motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge the board voted unanimously to give permission for Mike Williams to request services, review and approve services proposed by vendors, and enter contract on behalf of the school district.

Jennifer Taylor presented the Summer Program Plan for 2023-2024 for board approval. The purpose is to provide additional instruction and the opportunity for students to retake the EOG/EOC assessments. The summer program will be held at all school sites on June 11-12 and retest administration on June 13-14.

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

Steven King presented an update on the construction projects at Mineral Springs School, Fairview Heights School, and Richmond Senior High School.

- Richmond Senior High School – power was shut down December 27-29, 2023, to install 70 feet of storm water and sanitary sewer pipes, including 2 storm boxes; an additional day (January 15, 2024) is needed to complete; dry wall has been hung in basement, lighting replaced and over spring break sound panels will be installed in band room and carpet replaced.
- Mineral Springs School – walls are being erected

- Fairview Heights School – concrete slab for gym completed; erecting the building will begin in February.

Steven King reported on additional maintenance updates completed over the holiday season:

- Painting completed in main hallways at Fairview Heights
- Cafeteria and front entrance doors painted at Cordova Middle School
- Removal of pegboard on front wall and carpeted side walls in band room and, painting of stairwell handrails and band room at RSHS
- Removal of carpet from media center at Cordova Middle School and new quartz tile installed.
- Block building behind Rockingham Middle School removed.

Steven King presented two commissioning proposals for the construction projects:

- Alpha Commissioning Engineers, Inc. – Fairview Heights - \$12,700.00; Mineral Springs - \$15,300.00; and RSHS - \$19,700.00
- CMTA Commissioning – RSHS - \$19,500.00; Fairview Heights - \$5,300.00; and Mineral Springs - \$9,000.00

RSHS is the only project that requires the commissioning report, due to the square feet requirement (10,000 sq. ft or larger) per the North Carolina Energy Code (C-408). The commissioning includes examination of service water heating systems, electrical power, and lighting systems. Payment will come from ESSER funds.

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to approve commissioning reports for RSHS (\$19,500.00) and Mineral Springs School (\$9,000.00).

Dawn Jordan presented budget amendments, #3 – state funds, #4 – federal funds, and #6 – other local funds, for board approval.

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

Dr. Tesha Isler presented an update on the Policy – 4150 School Assignment. Three areas for board members to consider before approving the policy:

- Granting children of staff members to attend the school where they work, to request any school in the district, or attend school in the feeder middle school district where they live.
- Grant approval for the reason of childcare.
- Transportation to daycare centers – currently the cost of transporting children to daycares is \$35,000.00 plus the loss of state funding because of the efficiency rating of the transportation system.

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the policies for board approval:

- 4130 – Discretionary Admission
- 4334/5035/7345 – Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)
- 4342 – Student Searches
- 5210 – Distribution and Display of Non-School Material

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

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

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

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests:

- Richmond Senior High– Beta Club – Greensboro, NC - Beta Club State Convention – January 25-27, 2024 – 42 students
- Hamlet Middle – Beta Club – Greensboro, NC – January 28-30, 2024 - 20 students
- Ellerbe Middle – Beta Club – Greensboro, NC – January 28-30, 2024 – 24 students
- Cordova Middle – Beta Club – Greensboro, NC – January 28-30, 2024 – 8 students

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

Comments from board members: wonderful concerts, programs, and displays of art during the month of December.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent’s Report:

- January is School Board Appreciation Month – thanks for your service.
- The North Carolina Election date is March 5, 2024, the same night as the regular board meeting. Several board members are running for re-election. The March board meeting was decided to be changed to March 7, 2024.
- The application deadline for Richmond Senior High football head coach is Friday, January 5, 2024. Interviews are scheduled for January 11 and 12. There will be a called meeting, January 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. to determine hiring of the coach.

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 6:34 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 6:55 p.m.

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

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel and addendum reports.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.