

Hamlet, North Carolina
March 6, 2024

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session, on March 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, and Daryl Mason. Scotty Baldwin attended the meeting by phone.

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, Dawn Jordan, executive director of Finance, Steven King, director of Maintenance, Mike Williams, director of Technology Systems and Student Information, Greg Norton, director of CTE, and Cameron Whitley, director of Public Information (interim).

After noting that a quorum was present, Wiley Mabe called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 February 6, 2024, and February 26, 2024, (open and closed) meetings were unanimously approved.

Cameron Whitley introduced Windy Taylor, principal, who presented the Inspiring Excellence Awards plaques to Carmen Carillo and Amanda Gainey from Rockingham Middle School.

Beta Club state winners from RSHS, REaCH and Rockingham Middle School were recognized. The Beta competition will be held in Savannah, SC in June.

The Richmond Senior High School Cheerleaders are the NCCCA Division 1 non-tumbling co-ed state champions. The cheerleaders were introduced by their coach, Meredith Hood.

Dr. Kate Smith presented the 2022-2023 School Designations for growth status. Ellerbe Middle School met expected growth. Principal Dr. Joseph Moree was recognized.

Dr. Tesha Isler announced the Purple Star Designation for Hamlet Middle School, Fairview Heights School, and Richmond Senior High School. Purple Star designation recognizes strong support of military students and their families.

Dr. Kate Smith and Greg Norton presented updates in Curriculum:

- New graduation legislation for current freshmen and sophomores, giving the opportunity of an accelerated pathway to complete high school requirements in three years.
- Senate Bill 681: Arts Education Requirement – one credit of arts education completed at any time during grades six through twelve.
- Senate Bill 193: Career Development Plans – all middle and high school students shall complete a career development plan beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.
- House Bill 8: Computer Science Graduation Requirement – computer science course needed to fulfill graduate requirements by the 2026-2027 school year. RCS will apply for waiver for next two years to implement courses that align with the requirement.

- Short-Term Certification program for 2024-2025 seniors in the areas of:
 - Medical Assisting
 - Pharmacy Tech
 - Machining
 - Building and Construction Trades
 - Electrical Linemen
- 2024 Arts Alive on March 12-14 at RCC
- Summer School for 2024:
 - EOG/EOC Remediation Camp
 - Read to Achieve Camp
 - CTE Camp
 - Credit Recovery for NGA and RSHS
 - Kindergarten Summer Bridge
 - STEM Camp

Melvin Ingram introduced the Middle School Athletic Directors:

- Cordova Middle School – Gerald Ratliff – 39% student participation
- Hamlet Middle School – Lauren Brewer & Kevin Alfonso – 30% student participation
- Ellerbe Middle School – Grover McDonald – 46% student participation
- Rockingham Middle School – Amanda Gainey – 28% student participation

Melvin Ingram presented report of School Safety:

- 2022-2023 Grant/Reallocation - \$393,210.23 used to complete door access in all schools and \$203,369.32 for SRO allocation (2022-2024).
- 2023-2024 Grant Award - \$300,000.00
 - 85% distributed and 15% distributed July 2024.
 - Entire award available until June 30, 2025.
 - Priorities - card-swipe readers, weapon detection devices, blood trauma kits, additional security camera, vape detectors.
- Community Involvement: WATCH D.O.G.S. and Breakfast and Lunch Buddy Programs.

Steven King presented a visual slide presentation of the work done at each construction site – RSHS, Mineral Springs, and Fairview Heights.

Dawn Jordan presented budget amendments for board approval:

- #6 – State Funds
- #7 – Federal Funds
- #8 – Capital Outlay Funds
- #9 – Other Local Funds

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

Dr. Tesha Isler updated the board on the recent evaluation of all board policies of Richmond County Schools. This review was completed by NCSBA (North Carolina School Board Association) legal counsel/policy department. The report stated that the manual is well updated and in great shape. Thanks to Ann Yarborough for updating the polices effectively.

Dr. Tesha Isler presented Policy 4150 – School Assignment for final board approval.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to approve the Policy 4150 as presented.

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the policies for board approval:

- 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

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

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

- 1725/4035/7236 R-1 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Definitions
- 2110 – Board Member Elections
- 3200 – Selection of Instructional Materials
- 6126 – Naloxone (Narcan) Administration
- 6235 – Beverage Vending Sales
- 9120 – Bidding for Construction Work

Melvin Ingram presented the Field Trip Requests:

- Richmond Senior High– CTE (RCC Welding Class) - Florence, SC – March 29, 2024 - 13 students
- Richmond Senior High – HOSA (State Conference) – Greensboro, NC – April 2-6, 2024 – 10 students
- REaCH – AIG (District wide AIG Skills) – Arapaho, NC – April 15-17, 2024 – 100 students

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to approve the fields trip as presented.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented Surplus Items for board approval.

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

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Resolution by the Richmond County Board of Education Supporting Local Control of School Calendars for board approval.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Cory Satterfield, the board approved signing the resolution as presented. All board members will sign the resolution.

Board members commented on: Wax Museum at Fairview Heights School, the African folktale presentation at Cordova Middle School, the Blue Collar Tour (welding) at RSHS, Read Across America, Growing Readers, success of girls and boys basketball teams, the need for more students to take advantage of scholarships, attended candidate forum – such a forum event would be beneficial

for parents and community members, congratulations to Ronald Tillman and Jerry Ethridge who were re-elected as board members, and to Bess Shuler for her election as school board member.

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the Superintendent's Report:

- Congratulations to Ronald Tillman and Jerry Ethridge who were re-elected to the board.
- Thanks to Dr. Tesha Isler for implementing the Purple Star Designation process. Thanks to the principals for supporting students of military families.
- April board meeting is scheduled for April 9 (2nd Tuesday). The first Tuesday falls on the Easter Holidays.
- The RSHS girls' and boys' basketball teams are in the regional playoffs. The boys play Friday night at home. The girls travel to Wilmington. The finals will be played at Wake Forest University March 14 and 16, 2024.
- Meeting scheduled with Bryan Land and the county finance officer to discuss the 2024-2025 budget.
- Needed Budget work session is scheduled for March 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served.

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 6:46 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 7:43 p.m.

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

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel reports as presented.

Dr. Ferrell and Melvin Ingram reported on the bus situation where a parent got on the bus.

Wiley Mabe reminded the board about 2024 Arts Alive program.

There being no further business, on a motion by Cory Satterfield, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.