

Hamlet, North Carolina
September 10, 2024

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on September 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Central Office in Hamlet, North Carolina.

The members present: Cory Satterfield, Chairman, Ronald Tillman, Scotty Baldwin, Bess Shuler and Daryl Mason. Jerry Ethridge was absent but joined by phone. Bobbie Sue Ormsby, Vice-Chairman was absent.

The administrators present: Dr. Joe Ferrell, Superintendent, Dr. Julian Carter, Associate Superintendent of Auxiliary Services of Operations and Athletics, Dr. Kate Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Melvin Ingram, Assistant Superintendent of School Safety and Support Services, Dr. Tesha Isler, Executive Director of Human Resources, Dawn Jordan, Executive Director of Finance, Cameron Whitley, Executive Director of Communications and Eva Dubuisson, Board Attorney.

Meeting Commencement

After noting that a quorum was present, Cory Satterfield, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. Cory Satterfield, Chairman, requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Bess Shuler, seconded by Daryl Mason, the minutes of August 13, 2024 (open and closed) meetings and August 27, 2024, quarterly work session were unanimously approved.

Minister's Council

Mike Patrick, representing the class of 1977, introduced himself and spoke on behalf of the Richmond County Schools Ministerial Council. The council consists of church leaders who aim to provide support to students, staff, and administration. Patrick emphasized the importance of churches as part of the community, noting that many students attend these churches. The council seeks to be a resource for schools, helping to spread important information through churches, where announcements are often well-received.

Patrick mentioned an upcoming event on September 25th, a student-led prayer gathering called "See You at the Pole." He invited those with questions to contact Mary Griffith. He also highlighted that September is National Suicide Awareness Month, urging prayer for students and staff, and that the council will be fasting and praying for the safety of the school system. Additionally, he noted that October focuses on domestic violence awareness, pointing out that many teenagers face domestic violence issues, and the council will also be praying for them.

Patrick then introduced several members of the council, representing various churches in the community. He concluded by announcing that the council will meet quarterly, with

the next meeting scheduled for October 22nd, and invited attendees to join and share concerns.

Construction Updates

Steven King presented an update on projects at Fairview Heights Elementary School, and Richmond Senior High School.

- Mineral Springs Elementary School
 - 10% of interior ceiling left to be installed
 - Interior painting is complete – just doing touchup painting now
 - Testing the geothermal HVAC system
 - Working to finalize everything to pass inspection
 - Anticipating getting a CO (certificate of occupancy) for the building on September 25, 2024
 - Pending everything passes inspection and CO is given- the building could be ready to move in as early as the first of next month
 - Building dedication ceremony will soon follow
- Fairview Heights Elementary School
 - Last two exterior doors were installed last week
 - Concrete slab below the canopy is being poured
 - Sports floor and the basketball goals will be installed by the end of the month
 - Bathrooms are complete
 - Mechanical, plumbing and electrical work going on now
 - Interior painting is complete – just doing touchup painting now
- Richmond Senior High School
 - Concrete for the second floor was poured and finished this past week
 - Last part of the roof system, bar joists were installed
 - Basement level ceiling, grid tiles, lights, flooring, painting are complete

2024 - 2025 Micropurchase Threshold Increase Self Certification

Dr. Toni Witherow presented the Micropurchase Threshold Increase Self Certification. She explained that local education agencies in North Carolina are subject to procurement laws, and under the current uniform guidance requirements, any LEA that completes the annual self-certification may raise their micro-purchase threshold from \$10,000 to either \$30,000 or \$50,000, depending on whether they are purchasing goods or services.

Since 2020, Richmond County Schools has filed this self-certification each year. By raising this threshold, we reduce the need to obtain competitive pricing from three or more vendors for smaller purchases.

Dr. Witherow requested the board to approve Richmond County Schools' self-certification for an increased micro-purchase threshold for the 2024-2025 school year.

On a motion by Bess Shuler, seconded by Scotty Baldwin the board voted unanimously to approve the increased micro-purchase threshold for the 2024-2025 school year.

Local Testing Program Data

Jennifer Taylor presented to the board the districts local testing program and two-year averages. Jennifer stated that in compliance with North Carolina General Statute 115C-174.12(d), Richmond County Schools will complete and submit the Local Testing Program Survey to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Jennifer explained that in even-numbered years, school districts are required to report the two-year average number of tests administered and the average testing time. If a district exceeds the state average in either category, it must implement a plan to reduce the affected category. For the 2023-2024 reporting year, the state averages were 69.3 tests administered and 85.7 minutes of testing time. Richmond County Schools reported averages below the state averages with 57 tests administered and 64.5 minutes of testing time. As a result, no action plan is required.

Jennifer also discussed the 2024-2025 Local Testing Program. This program includes district-initiated tests but excludes federal tests (such as NAEP), state tests (such as EOC/EOG), and teacher-directed classroom assessments (e.g., common assessments).

The 2024-2025 school year, the Local Testing Program will include:

- Grades 4-8: i-Ready Reading Diagnostics
- Grades K-8: i-Ready Math Diagnostics
- Grades 4-5: mCLASS Oral Reading Fluency and mCLASS MAZE assessments
- Grade 2: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), a universal screener to identify AIG students

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Daryl Mason the board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 Local Testing Program.

24-25 Budget Resolutions

Dawn Jordan presented the following 24-25 budget resolutions for board approval.

- State Funds
 - The budget reflects \$57,698,480, a decrease of \$2,005,327.97 from last year.
 - The state allotments have not been fully received yet.
- Local Funds
 - Local funds total \$11,904,263.00.
 - In November 2022, the board approved \$600,000.00 for a construction project, which is included in this year's budget.
- Federal Funds
 - No federal funds have been received yet.
 - Funds typically arrive in October.
 - Operations are currently running on carryover funds.
- Capital Funds
 - The capital funds show \$3,429,000.00 an increase of \$1 million due to the board's decision in November 2022 to appropriate additional funds if needed.
- School Nutrition Fund
 - These funds remain the same as last year, at \$6,455,681.00.

- Other Local Funds
 - These funds decreased from last year to \$3,175,731.91.
 - The decrease is attributed to not receiving nurse extender funding and other funds yet.
- Budget Section 14 Amendment
 - Richmond County Board of Education authorizes the superintendent to transfer funds in accordance with general statutes 115C-433 on June 30, 2025, to balance the budget to actual expenditures for the state, local, federal, capital outlay, child Nutrition, trust & agency, and local special revenue funds.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason the board voted unanimously to approve the budget resolution as presented.

EC Contracts

Dawn Jordan presented the following EC contract for board approval:

Contract Title	23-24 Cost	24-25 Cost	Increase	Decrease
AMN Healthcare, Inc.	\$172,000.00	\$169,000.00		\$3,000.00

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman the board voted unanimously to approve all ten EC contract as presented.

Policies for Adoption

Melvin Ingram presented the conclusion of the 30-day review period, asking the board to adopt amendments for the following policies.

Policy Numbers:

- 1310-4002 Parental Involvement
- 3460 Graduation Requirements
- 4240-7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
- 4270-6145 Concussion and Head Injury
- 5071-7351 Electronically Stored Information Retention
- 8340 Insurance

On a motion by Daryl Mason, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to adopt policy amendments 1310-4002, 3460, 4240-7312, 4270-6145, 5071-7351, and 8340.

Board Members Comments

Jerry Ethridge shared that he visited all the schools and they all looked good and clean. He also expressed all schools seemed to have had a smooth beginning to the new school year.

Chairman Satterfield shared that the Convocation was really good. It had good vibes, and it was a great way to start a new school year.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ferrell shared that all schools are off to a successful start to the new school year, stating that it has gone better than he anticipated.

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

On a motion by Daryl Mason, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 5:49 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 6:39 p.m.

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the personnel report.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bess Shuler, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel report and addendum as presented.

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bess Shuler, Chairman Satterfield adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.