

Hamlet, North Carolina
March 10, 2025

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on March 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Central Office in Hamlet, North Carolina.

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

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 5:01 p.m. Daryl Mason requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bess Shuler, the open session minutes of February 11, 2025, were unanimously approved.

Recognition of Inspiring Excellence Awards

Cameron Whitley introduced Dr. Theresa Gardner, Principal of Fairview Heights Elementary School, who presented plaques to two of her staff members: Rhonda Jenkins and Paris McRae. Next, Cameron Whitley introduced Karen Allen, Principal of Ninth Grade Academy, who presented plaques to two of her staff members: Anna Odom and Renee O'Neal. These recipients were honored for their outstanding contributions and dedication to students and the school community.

High School Report on CADCA Conference in Washington, DC

Dr. Wendy Jordan recognized Teresa Smith, Interim Director of DSS, who presented an opportunity some students had to travel to Washington, D.C., representing the local Drug-Endangered Family Task Force. This task force, operating under the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), has been active since 2017, focusing on drug prevention initiatives.

Smith highlighted that the task force receives grant funding from Community Impact North Carolina (SYNC) and focuses on youth-centered messaging, such as medication safety and substance abuse prevention. Students Marcus Henderson, Nicholas Powell, and Ved Patel, all juniors at Richmond Senior High School, attended the national conference, where they engaged with others on drug prevention efforts. They also voluntarily spoke with staffers, receiving positive feedback for their representation of Richmond County. Bruce Standback drove the students to the conference in Washington, D.C.

Smith emphasized continued efforts in youth outreach and messaging within local high schools. Plans include using grant funds for educational materials such as candy bars or pencils with prevention messages. The board expressed appreciation for the task force's work and its impact on students.

Summer School

Dr. Kate Smith presented the 2025 Summer Programs to the board, outlining the various academic enrichment and remediation opportunities available to students.

The programs include:

- **EOG/EOC Remediation Camp** (June 10 – 13) at all elementary, middle, and high schools.
- **Read to Achieve (Summer Reading Camp) & ELD Camp – MEP Grant** (June 16 – July 16) at Washington Street Elementary, with a break from June 30 – July 4.
- **STEM Camp** (June 16 – 19) at Washington Street Elementary for rising 1st – 5th graders.
- **Career Development (CTE) Camp** (June 16 – 19) at Richmond Senior High for rising 6th – 8th graders.
- **Kindergarten Summer Bridge** (July 28 – August 7) at all elementary schools, pending grant approval (decision expected by May 5, 2025).
- **Credit Recovery Program** at Richmond Senior High, running in two three-week sessions (June 9 – 26 and July 7 – 24), with no classes the week of July 4.

Dr. Smith highlighted the importance of these programs in supporting student learning and readiness for the upcoming school year.

E-Rate Internet Project at RSHS Football and Soccer Field House

Katherine Bendell presented a proposal to the board seeking approval for the installation of internet access at Richmond Senior High School's football and soccer field houses. This project aims to enhance connectivity in these critical areas by extending fiber internet from the main building, supporting instructional and educational activities. The installation will include fiber cabling, network switches, cabinet enclosures, and wireless access points. Encore was selected as the vendor based on a competitive bid that offered the best balance of cost, quality, and experience. The improved connectivity will enhance student learning and create a more connected school environment.

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the board voted unanimously to approve the E-Rate Internet Project as presented.

Construction Updates

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

- **Mineral Springs Elementary School**
 - Building construction is complete and operational.
 - Service road grading and gravel base are done; paving is pending weather conditions.
- **Fairview Heights Elementary School**
 - Construction is nearly complete, with only minor punch list items remaining.

- The building has been in use for several months without any issues.
- **Richmond Senior High School**
 - Ongoing work on HVAC, electrical, plumbing, sprinklers, and roofing.
 - Interior work includes completed stud walls, drywall priming, installed lockers, lighting, and wall tiles.
 - Gym equipment, cabinets, and other materials are on-site and awaiting installation.
 - Waterline installation starting Wednesday (weather permitting).
 - Precast concrete bridge installation following waterline completion.
 - Courtyard grading, sidewalk, and canopy work.
 - Weight room flooring installation on April 17, followed by equipment installation during spring break.

24-25 Budget Amendments

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

- State Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$58,731,886.26 to \$58,924,064.26 representing an increase of \$192,178.00.
- Local Funds
 - The budget amount in the current amended budget is \$11,904,263.00.
- Federal Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$21,961,216.41 to \$22,009,443.50 representing an increase of \$48,227.09.
- Capital Outlay Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$3,765,984.00 to \$3,918,278.00 representing an increase of \$152,294.00.
- Other Local Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$4,302,695.72 to \$4,402,148.29 representing an increase of \$99,4562.57.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Ronald Tillman the board voted unanimously to approve the budget resolution 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:

- 6430 Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 6450 Purchasing of Services
- 7650 Employee Travel and Other Expense Reimbursements
- 8305 Federal Grant Administration
- 9125 Participation by Minority Businesses

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bess Shuler, the board voted unanimously to adopt policy amendments 6430, 6450, 7650, 8305 and 9125.

Policies for Review

Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for a 30-day review.

Policy Numbers:

- 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
- 5150 Reporting to External Agencies
- 7130 Licensure
- 9110 Use and Selection of Architects, Surveyors, and Construction Managers at Risk

Field Trips

Melvin Ingram presented the field trips.

- Richmond Senior High School – Wrestling to Greensboro, NC – February 20, 2025 – February 22, 2025
- Richmond Senior High School – FBLA to Greensboro, NC – March 20, 2025 – March 22, 2025
- Richmond Senior High School – Band to Atlanta, GA – May 9, 2025 – May 10, 2025

Surplus

Dr. Joe Ferrell requested board approval to declare the following items as surplus and list them for sale on GovDeals.

Career & Technical Education Department (CTE)

- 2-color offset printer
- Lock saw
- Cutting plotter
- Masonry saw
- Milling machine
- Printer press
- Valve refacer

Central Office

- Oak chairs & bench from the front lobby

Child Nutrition Department

- 2011 Ford E-250 van

Maintenance Department

- 1,000-gallon fuel tank (No FA #)
- Single-wide mobile classroom (Serial #770-65-49) – Hamlet Middle School

Ellerbe Middle School

- 100+ keyboard/mouse combos
- 5 overhead projectors
- 52 document cameras
- 24 printers
- 2 scanners
- Student Desks:
 - 20 navy blue
 - 22 aqua blue
 - 74 tan
 - 8 black
- Student Desk Chairs (Small):
 - 35 hunter green
 - 58 blue
 - 63 teal
 - 64 tan
 - 17 yellow

- Student Desk Chairs (Large):
 - 2 hunter green
 - 2 blue
 - 14 teal
 - 21 tan
 - 33 mauve

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the board voted unanimously to approve listing all surplus items on GovDeals.

Board Members Comments

Scotty Baldwin

- Shared that he attended the Middle School Soccer Jamboree last Thursday at Richmond Senior High School's football field. He noted that there was a great turnout and enjoyed seeing the middle school teams play on the "pro field."

Ronald Tillman

- Recognized the African American Club and Arthur Gilliam for doing such a great job during the Black History program last month.
- Ronald Tillman shared that he participated in Read Across America at Washington Street Elementary School. He told the children that as people get older, they may lose some of their five senses, including their ability to read, saying, "I wear bifocals," which the students found amusing. The students also laughed when he said, "what am I supposed to sit in the small chair provided for reading."
- Recognized fall sports teams that made the playoffs, including boys' wrestling and boys' and girls' basketball, stating, "Richmond County showed up."

Jerry Ethridge

- Shared that he attended the College Promise Information Session at Richmond Community College.
- Shared he attended his first Board of Directors Orientation meeting in February, which was held via Zoom due to weather conditions. He met many new people during the orientation. He will attend a week-long meeting in May.

Chairman Satterfield

- Recognized Cameron Whitley for her excellent work in posting pictures of Read Across America on Facebook.

Bess Shuler

- Shared that she had a blast reading to the kindergarteners at LJ Bell Elementary School.
- Kudos to the winter sports teams. She enjoyed cheering on the boys' and girls' basketball teams.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ferrell

- The soccer jamboree went well
- The postponed baseball and softball jamboree will take place this Wednesday.
- Art's Alive events are happening this week:
 - Band performance: Tuesday night at 6:00 PM
 - Wax Museum: Wednesday night at 4:00 PM
 - Chorus performance: Thursday night at 6:00 PM

- There is a Board Work Session on Tuesday, March 25, at 5:00 PM.

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

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 5:57 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 6:24 p.m.

Personnel Report

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the personnel report and addendum, requesting an amendment to include two principal contracts.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, the board unanimously approved the amended personnel report and addendum.

Return to Closed Session

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

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to return to closed session at 6:26 p.m.