

Hamlet, North Carolina
March 10, 2026

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on March 10, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Central Office in Hamlet, North Carolina.

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

The administrators present were Dr. Joe Ferrell, Superintendent; Dr. Julian Carter, Associate Superintendent of Operations and Athletics; Dr. Kate Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Tesha Isler, Executive Director of Human Resources; Melvin Ingram, Assistant Superintendent of School Safety and Support Services; 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 5:00 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 Daryl Mason, the open session minutes of February 10, 2026, and the work session of February 23, 2026, were unanimously approved.

Recognition of Inspiring Excellence Awards

Cameron Whitley introduced Ismael Gomez, Principal of Monroe Avenue Elementary School, who presented plaques to two of his staff members: Achah Mitchell and Ledita Lindsey. Next, Cameron Whitley introduced Tiffany Spencer, Principal of Ashley Chapel Educational Center, who presented plaques to two of her staff members: Shannon Humphreys and Jackie Williams. These recipients were honored for their outstanding contributions and dedication to students and the school community.

Recognition of MLK Poster and Essay Contest Winners

Melvin Ingram recognized the first-place winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Poster and Essay Contest, an annual event sponsored by the Richmond County Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Foundation in collaboration with Richmond County Schools.

This year, students submitted essays and posters reflecting the theme: "Mission Possible: Around the World We Are Different, But We Are All the Same." Melvin Ingram commended the outstanding quality of the submissions. He expressed gratitude to the teachers, particularly the leadership of the art teachers and mentor Karen Good, for their guidance and support.

On January 19, two students were recognized at the MLK Jr. Celebration Luncheon for winning first place in their respective categories:

- ☆ First Place Poster Winner: Cross Pha, an 8th-grade student at Hamlet Middle School. Her artwork was displayed in the Board room.
- ☆ First Place Essay Winner: Marcus Henderson, a 12th-grade student at Richmond Senior High School. He shared his essay during the board meeting.

The Board congratulated both students for their outstanding work.

Ed Foundation Updates

Kristi King, Chair of the Richmond County Schools Education Foundation, provided an update on the Foundation's continued efforts to support students and educators across the district. Kristi reported that since the restructuring of the Foundation Board in 2023, the organization has awarded \$17,500 in scholarships, with an additional \$10,000 designated for current high school seniors who plan to pursue degrees in education. These scholarships are part of the Foundation's "Grow Your Own" initiative, which encourages students to return to Richmond County after completing their education and begin their careers within Richmond County Schools.

Kristi also highlighted the Foundation's commitment to supporting educators. In 2025, the Foundation launched the Empowering Educators program, which awards a \$1,000 grant to one teacher at each school in the district. Teachers submit applications describing how the funds will be used to enhance classroom learning. Teachers who have been awarded the grant have used it to fund projects such as hybrid greenhouses where students grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs while learning about water conservation, nutrition, and sustainable food systems; emotion regulation toolkits to support younger students in managing their feelings, giving them concrete strategies to stay focused and engaged; flexible seating for elementary classrooms; and field trips to expand learning opportunities. Over the past two years, the program has provided \$29,000 in grants to teachers for classroom initiatives.

Kristi shared updates on fundraising efforts, noting that the Third Annual Richmond County Schools Education Foundation Clay Shoot, scheduled for May 1, remains the Foundation's primary annual fundraiser and is currently projected to be more successful than previous years. In January, the Foundation also launched a Phantom Dinner direct-mail campaign, which offers community members an easy way to contribute financially without attending an event. Proceeds from these efforts help sustain the Foundation's scholarship and teacher grant programs.

In addition, the Foundation continues to support the district in other ways as needs arise, including assisting with tuition for a student in the Partnership Pathways program and providing monetary staff prizes during the district convocation this past August.

Kristi stated that the Education Foundation strives to serve as a promoter, advocate, and resource for Richmond County Schools and expressed appreciation to the Board of Education and district staff for their continued support.

Following the presentation, board members commended the Foundation for its dedication and hard work in supporting Richmond County Schools, particularly its efforts to grow future teachers and recognize educators throughout the district. Bobbie Sue Ormsby added that during the Education Foundation meeting earlier that day, members were informed that another surprise announcement will be coming soon.

Graduation Rate

Arthur Gilliam, Dropout Prevention Coordinator, presented an overview of the Mentor & Me program, a structured, school-based mentoring initiative designed to identify and support at-risk students through relationship-building and data monitoring. Arthur emphasized that while graduation rate data is important, his primary focus is supporting individual students, noting that improvements in outcomes naturally follow when students receive the support they need.

The program uses a data-based rubric reviewed every nine weeks to evaluate students in four categories: attendance, grades, discipline referrals, and tardies. Staff review more than 1,600 report cards each grading period and assign points within each category. For example, attendance is measured by block absences at the high school level, with fewer absences earning higher point

values. Grades are also scored, with honor roll-level performance earning the highest points and lower performance earning fewer points.

After points from all four categories are totaled, students are placed into performance tiers:

- Green (8–10 points): Students performing well
- Yellow (5–7 points): Students doing adequately but needing monitoring
- Red (2–4 points): Students considered at risk of dropping out
- Black (0–1 point): Students in imminent danger of dropping out

The program's goals are for 80% of students to fall in the Green category, 10–15% in Yellow, 5–10% in Red, and no more than 5% in Black. Arthur noted that when reviewing the data, he prioritizes reducing the number of students in the Red and Black categories while recognizing that many students in the Yellow category may need only small improvements to move into Green.

Data from the first and second nine-week periods showed that 9th and 10th grade students generally performed better overall than 11th and 12th grade students. Arthur explained that this may be partly due to transitions in school structure and student independence, including the shift away from the former 9th Grade Academy model and the increased freedom students experience as they progress through high school.

Following each data review, the Mentor & Me team identifies students in the Red and Black categories and assigns them a staff mentor. Mentors work directly with students through daily check-ins, goal setting, and accountability, ensuring students attend school regularly, remain engaged in class, and maintain academic progress. The program also includes family communication, ensuring parents or guardians are aware of the mentoring relationship and can support student accountability at home.

Arthur recognized the Mentor & Me team, which includes credit recovery teachers, behavior interventionists, the ISS teacher, the school social worker, and other support staff. He credited these staff members with being the “hands and feet” behind improvements in the school's graduation rate, highlighting their efforts in monitoring student progress, contacting families, providing resources, and connecting students with outside support services when needed.

Arthur also highlighted two student success stories from the program:

- Kydaven Diggs, who initially attended Ashley Chapel Educational Center, worked closely with Arthur and school staff to improve his behavior and academic performance. With strong family support and consistent mentoring, Kydaven made significant progress and successfully returned to Richmond Senior High School, where he continues to perform well academically and maintain positive behavior.
- Quency Byrd, a current senior, also attended Ashley Chapel during his junior year after experiencing academic and behavioral challenges. Through regular mentoring and consistent effort, Quency improved his attendance, stayed out of trouble, and successfully returned to Richmond Senior. He has developed an interest in construction through Career and Technical Education courses, participated in workforce training programs involving fiber optics, and achieved a strong score on the ASVAB, opening potential career pathways, including military service.

Arthur emphasized that these examples demonstrate how consistent mentorship, family involvement, and accountability can change a student's trajectory. He reiterated that the goal of the program is not simply to raise numbers, but to ensure that each student has the support needed to succeed.

Board members commended Arthur and the Mentor & Me team for their passion, dedication, and collaborative efforts, noting that the program reflects a community approach to supporting students and improving outcomes. They also congratulated the highlighted students and expressed appreciation for the staff members working behind the scenes to help students overcome challenges and graduate successfully.

CTE Program Updates

Wendy Wallace, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE), provided an update on CTE programs, workforce partnerships, and student opportunities. She shared that with the arrival of Amazon Web Services in the region, there is an increased demand for workers skilled in fiber optics, HVAC, and plumbing. To help generate interest in these fields, fiber optic splicing micro-courses were offered at Richmond Community College (RCC), with approximately 20 students participating in the fall session and another 20 in the spring. One student has already completed the training and is obtaining a fiber optic splicing certification. HVAC training is currently offered through RCC's Scotland campus, and plumbing training is available through RCC's construction trades pathways. CTE is also exploring hands-on activities for middle school students to introduce them to these trades at an earlier age.

Wendy also shared that a new automotive training facility supported by Hendrick Automotive Group is being constructed at RCC, which will provide a direct pathway for Richmond Senior High School automotive students to continue their training. CTE continues to offer several short-term certification programs that allow students to earn workforce credentials and enter the workforce quickly if they choose. Programs currently include construction trades, lineman, machining, nurse aide, welding, medical assisting and pharmacy tech. Welding remains one of the most popular programs with approximately 25 students enrolled and strong demand. Medical assisting and pharmacy tech currently have no enrolled students.

She also discussed the upcoming state computer science graduation requirement, which will begin next year for all incoming ninth graders. Students will meet this requirement through courses such as computer science, 3D modeling and animation, Adobe Visual Design, or Adobe Video, with middle school students showing strong interest in the 3D modeling and animation course. As part of career exploration efforts, all eighth-grade students recently visited Richmond Senior High School to tour CTE classes and learn about potential career pathways.

CTE has realigned its program framework to better align with industry standards and workforce needs. With the ninth-grade students now at Richmond Senior High School they will have increased access to CTE courses and can begin focusing on career pathways earlier.

- Q (Daryl Mason): Has JROTC participation reduced due to all of the CTE courses offered?
A (Wendy Wallace): No, participation has not reduced. While JROTC is housed under the CTE umbrella, it does not count as a CTE course credit, though students may earn a credential after completing their third level of JROTC.

Wendy also discussed the rollout of the North Carolina Career Impact Pro Initiative, which focuses on strengthening career development planning for students beginning in middle school. State legislation requires students to develop a career plan by eighth grade and update it in tenth grade, with an emphasis on ongoing conversations between students and educators about career goals. Hamlet Middle School counselor Kristen Pruitt will serve on the regional Career Development Planning Committee. A grant was awarded to two regions, and she will represent the Sandhills region. Through this role, she will participate in meetings and bring back ideas and strategies to help expand career development opportunities for students at the elementary (beginning in fifth grade), middle school, and high school levels.

Students continue to have success in Career and Technical Student Organizations. Students from Future Business Leaders of America placed well at regional competitions and will compete at the state level. HOSA has their state competition at the end of the month. On February 20, SkillsUSA went to Fayetteville and a couple students placed in the American Spirit Team competition and they will go on to compete at the SkillsUSA state competition in April.

Members of the Technology Student Association have been invited to a conference in April showcase a student-created podcast developed through the Adobe Video course.

Wendy reported that Richmond County Schools is one of five districts in the region with credential attainment rates of 70 percent or higher, meaning that most students enrolled in CTE programs earn an industry-recognized credential.

- Q (Ronald Tillman): Is anything offered to students to help with resume building?
A (Wendy Wallace): The district also plans to expand the use of the career development platform MajorClarity, which allows students to build resumes, track credentials, and document work-based learning experiences beginning in middle school to help prepare them for future careers.
- Q (Scotty Baldwin): How long will classes continue to be offered if no one is enrolling in them? Since some classes are already full, is it possible to eliminate the classes with no interest and expand the ones with high interest?
A (Wendy Wallace): I can definitely look into that.

Washington Street Elementary School Family Resource Center

Kendra Faries, Community Schools Coordinator at Washington Street Elementary School, shared information regarding the upcoming opening of the Washington Street School Family Resource Center. The center is being established as a dedicated hub for students, families, and community partners. It will provide accessible support services, including family engagement programs, community resource navigation, academic support opportunities, and wellness-focused initiatives designed to strengthen connections between home, school, and the community.

The center reflects the school's commitment to removing barriers for families, increasing access to essential resources, and fostering a welcoming environment where all families feel supported. The Family Resource Center will also serve as a model for how community schools can coordinate services in one location to better meet the diverse needs of students and families.

Jessica Lowder, Associate Director of the Sandhills Region Community Schools at Student U, shared that the initiative has grown rapidly. In July 2024, the program began with nine schools. By July 2025, it expanded to 23 full-service community schools. As of January this year, there are now 41 schools participating in the North Carolina Community Schools Coalition, with additional expansions planned in the near future. Jessica stated, "It is my dream for every school to be a community school."

Principal Dina Gunnells explained that the Community Schools model is built around four pillars, which align closely with Washington Street Elementary School's NCStar indicators that guide school improvement efforts. During Kendra's first School Improvement Team meetings, the team reviewed the School Improvement Plan and aligned the Community Schools pillars with the school's indicators. They found that many indicators connect to multiple pillars, showing how well the model fits the work already being done.

In March, the school will review its MTSS process and needs assessment to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This information will also help guide the Community Schools advisory team.

Additionally, the model aligns with the NCDPI and State Board of Education strategic plan

Principal Dina Gunnells also thanked the maintenance department for their hard work and dedication in preparing the Community Schools room.

Kendra invited the Board and administrators to attend the Grand Opening of the Washington Street School Family Resource Center on Friday, March 20, at 11:00 a.m. The event, called “Eagles Branch,” will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a tour of the center, and an opportunity to meet the staff and community partners who will support the center’s work.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Kate Smith shared the Strategic Plan 2026-2031 development timeline, explaining that the district is beginning the process of planning for the next five years. Over the coming weeks, Richmond County Schools will engage a variety of stakeholder groups, including community partners, staff, and students, to gather feedback that will help shape the district’s priorities and direction.

Kate stated that the goal is to present a draft of the Strategic Plan to the Board in May, reflecting stakeholder input, with the intent of seeking Board approval in June.

Board members were also informed that an email had been sent requesting their individual feedback on the strategic planning process. In addition to the scheduled stakeholder meetings, departmental meetings will be held at Central Office, and feedback will also be gathered from principals and students in grades 6-12.

The following stakeholder meetings are scheduled as part of the strategic planning process:

<u>Stakeholder Group</u>	<u>Date</u>
Minister’s Council & Student Support Staff	March 16, 2026
Technology	April 1, 2026
Teacher Advisory Council	April 16, 2026
Career and Technical Ed Business Advisory	April 20, 2026
Assistant Principals	April 21, 2026
Principals	April 23, 2026
Student Health Advisory and Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council	May 5, 2026

Summer Camps

Dr. Kate Smith shared the following summer programs:

<u>Summer School Event</u>	<u>Event Location & Dates/Times</u>
RtA Reading Camp	<p>Washington Street School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7:45 am-1:15 pm ○ June 8-11 ○ June 15-18 ○ June 22-25 ○ June 29-July 1

Ready, Set, Kindergarten Camp	Each elementary school will host their own camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:00am-12:00pm ○ July 27-30 ○ August 3-5
RSHS Summer School Credit Recovery	Richmond Senior High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:00am-12:00pm ○ Session 1: June 8-June 25 ○ Session 2: July 13-30
STEM Camp Rising 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th graders	Washington Street School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7:45am-1:15pm ○ June 15-18

2026-2027 School Calendar

Dr. Kate Smith presented the conclusion of the 30-day review period, asking the Board to adopt the 2026-2027 school year calendars.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the traditional and early college academic calendars for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

New Internet Contract

Katherine Bendell, Director of Technology, and Shane Wood, IT Services Manager, presented information about the district's internet service contract. Katherine explained that an RFP (Request for Proposals) for internet services was issued on February 2 and remained open for one month. When the submission period closed, the district received one proposal from Spectrum. Using the evaluation rubric, Spectrum's proposal received a rating of 100%.

Katherine shared that Spectrum offered several service plan options. All proposed plans are less expensive than what the district currently pays while also providing improved service and allowing for future infrastructure growth.

Currently, the district pays approximately \$20,000 per month for internet service across the district. The recommended plan would cost approximately \$13,000 per month, resulting in a savings of about \$7,000 monthly.

The recommended contract is for five years with the option to renew annually for up to five additional years before issuing another RFP if desired. Katherine noted the district's current contract has a similar structure. The new contract must be in place by July 1.

- Q (Bess Shuler): Is Spectrum the district's current provider, and are you recommending staying with them at a better price?
A (Katherine Bendell): Yes. Spectrum is the current provider, and the new contract offers a lower cost.
A (Shane Wood): The new agreement also provides improved service. It includes higher internet speeds than the district currently uses. While the district does not yet have the equipment to fully utilize those speeds, future infrastructure upgrades, such as replacing switches, will allow the district to take advantage of the increased capacity.
- Q (Scotty Baldwin): Is the rate locked in for the duration of the contract?
A (Katherine Bendell): Yes, the rate is locked in for the duration of the contract. However, Spectrum may charge relocation fees if services or equipment must be moved due to school relocations or remodeling. The RFP includes language requiring at least 60 days' notice so the process can be managed appropriately. The technology department anticipated possible

temporary or permanent school moves and built this into the agreement. If a school were permanently closed, the cost would change because that location would be removed from the service agreement.

- Q (Ronald Tillman): Does this come out of our local budget?

A (Katherine Bendell): The district pays the bill up front, but approximately 90% of the cost is reimbursed through the E-Rate program, with the remaining 10% covered by state fund PRC 073.

A (Dawn Jordan): The payment is initially made using Low Wealth funds. When the E-Rate reimbursement is received, the funds are returned to the local budget for the following year.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommended Spectrum internet service contract for the district.

Resolution Authorizing Lease of Real Property

Dr. Julian Carter presented to the Board a Resolution Authorizing the Lease of Real Property, requesting approval to allow Jymco Construction Company to lease a portion of land owned by Richmond County Schools adjacent to the field of the former Hoffman School. The land would be leased to Jymco Construction Company for the temporary storage of materials related to a utility project in the Town of Hoffman. The Town of Hoffman has contracted with Jymco Construction Company to complete the project which is expected to take place over the next six months.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Lease of Real Property to Jymco Construction Company.

Moseley Contract Agreement

Steven King recommended that the board enter into a contract with Moseley to provide professional design services for the new LJ Bell Elementary School project. He explained that the exact design of the new school has not yet been determined. The purpose of contracting with the architectural firm is to begin the design process collaboratively. The district will work alongside Moseley to determine the final layout, materials, and features, with the goal of providing the highest quality elements such as flooring and roofing that the budget allows.

Steven also clarified details about contract exhibits. Exhibit D is an AIA contract that Moseley will use with their own subconsultants; it is not a contract with the school district. Exhibit E outlines Moseley's billing rates for services outside the scope of the primary contract. For example, if funds remain and the district decides to add additional construction or features, those hourly rates would apply. Eva DuBuisson added that the contract specifies the district would first attempt to negotiate a lump sum fee for any extra work. If an agreement cannot be reached, the hourly rates listed in Exhibit E would then apply.

Scotty Baldwin raised concerns about the overall project cost, which is estimated at \$44,071,055, including \$1.3 million set aside as a contingency buffer. His primary concern involved the project scope, which states that the existing gymnasium and auditorium would remain as part of the project. Baldwin recalled that keeping and repurposing the auditorium may increase costs, and he questioned whether maintaining it might force the district to sacrifice quality or quantity to keep the auditorium.

Steven responded that the top priority will be ensuring the school has the required number of classrooms and instructional spaces, along with necessary facilities such as a cafeteria to support students and staff. Once those core needs are met, the district can evaluate additional elements such as renovating the auditorium, retaining the pod building, and remodeling the gym. He acknowledged

Scotty's concerns as valid but noted that many details cannot be finalized until the district begins working through the design process with Moseley.

Scotty reiterated that his concern stems from the project being very close to the top of the available budget. Looking at the long-term needs of the district, he asked whether the district might achieve greater overall value by reducing or eliminating certain elements, such as the auditorium, in order to increase classroom space or improve quality elsewhere. He also asked whether including the auditorium renovation in the contract scope meant the district was committed to keeping it.

Eva clarified that the district is not contractually obligated to keep the auditorium. The project scope referenced in the contract is primarily used as an assumption to calculate Moseley design fees, based on an estimated \$36 million construction budget that includes renovation of the existing gym and auditorium. However, this scope does not determine or lock in the final design, meaning adjustments can still be made as planning progresses.

Scotty concluded by emphasizing that he is looking at the broader, long-term picture, noting that the auditorium is the same age as the existing school building, which may affect decisions about whether investing in its renovation is the best use of project funds.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the Board voted unanimously to approve entering into contract with Moseley Architects for the new elementary school project.

Further Discussion and Q & A:

- Q (Chairman Satterfield): When Moseley begins designing the school, and they include the auditorium and gymnasium because that's what the Board would like. Once the plans are developed, they will be sent to a contractor to review and determine whether the project can be completed within a certain budget. Does the contractor decide the price it can be done for or is it already included in the overall construction cost?

A (Steven King): The process is somewhat different when using a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). Instead of sending the project out as a traditional scope bid, the district would work directly with the construction manager during the process. Cost estimates would still be based on square footage and related factors. The construction manager will review the plans and discuss what work would be required for areas like the auditorium and the gym. Those decisions would involve multiple conversations throughout the process.

Eva clarified that the current contract under discussion is only for design. After that, the district would select the CMAR. At that point, they would determine a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). Decisions such as whether to renovate the existing auditorium or build a new one would affect that maximum price. If the Board later decided to change the plan for example, by choosing not to keep the existing auditorium that would be acceptable.

- Q (Daryl Mason): Will the Board receive some type of estimate comparing the cost of keeping the existing auditorium versus building a new one?
A (Chairman Satterfield): Building a new auditorium is not part of the current scope of work. The scope includes renovating the existing auditorium but does not include constructing a new one.

Steven added that one possible scenario would be to keep the auditorium but not renovate it. The auditorium and gym would continue operating as they currently do. If the district determined that renovation was not within the budget, the design firm and construction manager could potentially plan the new building around those spaces and the district could address upgrades to them at a later time.

Scotty noted that doing so would leave the district with a 60-year-old auditorium sitting there. Bobbie Sue Ormsby responded that at least the school would still have an auditorium.

Scotty clarified that he was approaching the issue from a financial perspective rather than an emotional one.

Bobbie Sue replied that if nothing is done to the auditorium right now, it would not impact the budget.

Ronald said that Scotty made a good point. He noted that the Board has previously discussed the need to eliminate some of the older buildings. At some point, he said, the district will have to make difficult decisions if the goal is to move forward and catch up with facility needs.

Chairman Satterfield concluded by saying that while everyone would like to keep both the auditorium and the gym, he does not want to sacrifice other priorities such as quality flooring, additional classrooms, or playground space. He added that the Board will continue to examine these issues as the project moves forward. Ashley from Moseley indicated that these different scenarios could work, and the Board will rely on that expertise during the process.

Construction Updates

Steven King presented the following construction updates to the Board:

<p>RNGA to an Elementary School</p>	<p>Painting, cleaning, floor refinishing, plumbing trim out – WIP New playgrounds – Grading WIP, Playsets material delivery 3-25-26 Sidewalks & awnings – WIP Lighting upgrades – WIP Safety vestibule – WIP Basketball goal height adjusters – WIP Exterior door painting - WIP RFP’s - Fencing, rubber wall base Stakeholder site meeting Wednesday 3-18-26</p>
<p>RSHS Running Track Reno</p>	<p>Work resumed Thursday 2-26-26 Projected completion Friday 3-13-26</p>
<p>RSHS Baseball Field Reno</p>	<p>Monitoring irrigation, sod growth, and drainage</p>
<p>Various Projects</p>	<p><u>RSHS</u> Partial roof replacement – WIP</p> <p><u>RMS</u> Auditorium remodel (Summer 2026) Painting – PO issued Concrete floor resurfacing – Quote received Carpet replacement – Quote received Seating – On order</p> <p><u>New LJB</u> Architect contract/fee negotiations – WIP CM at Risk – RFQ responses due 3-11-26 Moving logistic – WIP</p>

*WIP = Work in Progress

There will be a walkthrough of the former RNGA facility for administrators and LJB staff on Friday, March 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Board members are also invited to attend.

Some of Rockingham Middle School's auditorium seats will be listed for sale on GovDeals. The seats will be sold in groups of eight, and all proceeds from the sale will go directly to Rockingham Middle School.

25-26 Budget Amendments

Dawn Jordan presented the following 25-26 budget resolutions for Board approval.

- ★ State Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$58,601,714.20 to \$58,833,365.20 representing an increase of \$231,651.00.
- ★ Federal Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$11,546,962.60 to \$11,732,183.43 representing an increase of \$185,220.83.
- ★ Capital Outlay Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$4,855,533.50 to \$5,302,949.93 representing an increase of \$447,416.43.
- ★ Other Local Funds
 - The budget appropriation has been revised from \$3,497,852.55 to \$3,544,777.11 representing an increase of \$46,924.56.

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

- 1740-4010 Student and Parent Grievance Procedure
- 2125-7315 Confidential Information
- 4240-7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
- 4270-6145 Concussion and Head Injury
- 5150 Reporting to External Agencies
- 6310 Organization of Student Transportation Services

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobby Sue Ormsby, the Board voted unanimously to adopt policy amendments 1740-4010, 2125-7315, 4240-7312, 4270-6145, 5150 and 6310.

Surplus

Dr. Ferrell requested board approval for the following items to be listed for sale on GovDeals:

RSHS: Marquee sign
RMS: Auditorium seats
LJB: 4 Mobile units

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Bess Shuler, the board voted unanimously to approve listing the surplus items for sale on GovDeals.

Board Members' Comments

Chairman Satterfield

- Basketball and football were fantastic this year.
- Our basketball and football teams had fantastic seasons. However, the way the North Carolina High School Athletic Association is currently set up is going to make it challenging to win championships because in large counties like Mecklenburg, Wake, Cumberland, and Guilford, as well as private and charter schools that are recruiting. Until the General Assembly addresses these issues, it will remain difficult. I commend our coaches and players because they are disciplined.

Bobbie Sue Ormsby

- There was a diverse group of people that attended Will King's first inaugural softball tournament, and it was amazing.

Jerry Ethridge

- Visited the Bus Garage and learned about the easy routing system they use to see exactly where buses are.
- Attended Read Across America at LJ Bell Elementary School
- Congratulations to everyone that participated in Read Across America.
- Congratulations to the boys' Raider basketball team for winning their conference championship.
- Congratulations to the girls' Raider basketball team for playing so well.
- Shared photos of school's office staff greeting guests/students with smiles with Dr. Isler
- Christina Eller, a retired teacher at RSHS, lost her father-in-law, Joel Eller. His memorial service will be held this Friday.
- Jamie Stricklin, an electrician in the maintenance department, recently lost his mother. Her memorial service will be held this Friday at 12:00 PM.

Ronald Tillman

- Attended Bobby Little's memorial service. Arthur spoke at it and did an amazing job.
- Visited a couple schools during Read Across America
- Kudos to the football team and Coach Denson. They had a watered-down athletic banquet due to the snow.
- Impressed with the high GPAs of our athletes—great to see students staying focused on academics, not just athletics.

Scotty Baldwin

- Visited a couple schools during Read Across America. Suggested that everyone avoid reading Fox in Socks. As an entrepreneur, words like "married" and "tripped" me up.
- Looking forward to spring sports kicking off.

Bess Shuler

- Read to four elementary classrooms' for Read Across America
- Attended the Community Center visit at Piney Grove. It is great allowing community members the opportunity to ask the school district questions.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ferrell

- Congratulations to Bobbie Sue, Cory, Daryl, and Scotty on being elected to serve another four years on the school board. Thank you for continuing to serve our community.

- I know it has been a long week and a long meeting, but I hope everyone takes a moment to feel proud of this school district.
 - Arthur deserves special recognition, his work and the stories of families whose futures are being changed by helping students are truly inspiring.
 - The Community School Program at Washington Street is another great example of the positive work happening across the district.
 - Provided the Board with a document highlighting not only my accomplishments but the accomplishments of my cabinet members.
 - Provided the Board with a checklist to start my evaluation progress.
 - Recognized Kristi King for everything she does for this community and for our students, and I encourage everyone to support her efforts whenever possible.
 - Last Saturday Kristi King had the first scholarship softball tournament in honor of her son, Will King. The most special thing about that day is that it would have been Will's 18th birthday. The event was incredible and had a great turnout. I encourage everyone to support Kristi whenever possible.
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Cory Satterfield citing NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) and (6) requested a motion to go into closed session.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session at 7:16 p.m.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene into open session at 7:37 p.m.

Personnel Report

Dr. Tesha Isler presented the personnel report and addendum.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel report and addendum.

Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, Chairman Satterfield adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.