Hamlet, North Carolina
June 9, 2026

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on June 9, 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 5:08 p.m. Jerry Ethridge requested a Moment of Silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the open session minutes of May 12, 2026 were unanimously approved.

BETA Recognition
Cameron Whitley recognized the Monroe Avenue Elementary School BETA Club for its outstanding performance at the State BETA Competition. Camerson noted that, to the best of the district's knowledge, Monroe Avenue Elementary School is the first elementary school in Richmond County Schools history to compete at the state-level BETA competition.

Cameron introduced BETA Club Advisor Suzanne Hudson who recognized the following students for placing in the top five of their respective categories:

- Nylah Curtis – Vocal
- Jamir Brown – Poetry
- Yamileth Gutierrez – Spanish
- Christopher Chance – Spelling

Next month, these students will represent Richmond County Schools at the National BETA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Board congratulated the students for their outstanding accomplishments.

Purple Star Recognition
Melvin Ingram reported that Richmond County Schools' Go Purple Campaign was highly successful and led to the district being designated a Purple Star District. Melvin recognized Howard Lattimore, State-Level Military Consultant with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, who formally recognized the district's achievement. This recognition reflects the districtwide commitment to supporting military-connected students and families. Howard thanked school leaders and staff for their dedication, collaboration, and continued support of students and families.

Outstanding Mathematics and Science Teacher Selections
Talia Swiney presented the district's selected nominees for two prestigious state-level educator awards:

- Kristen File, 1st-grade teacher at Washington Street Elementary School, was selected as the district's nominee for the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award.
- Karen Arnold, 5th-grade teacher at Mineral Springs Elementary School, was selected as the district's nominee for the North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) Outstanding Science Teacher Award.

These recognitions honor educators who demonstrate excellence in instruction, promote student engagement and achievement, and make significant contributions to their schools and the teaching profession. Both organizations provide statewide recognition through their professional associations and annual events.

The Board congratulated the teachers for their outstanding accomplishments

Alternative Schools Modified Accountability System Model
Jennifer Taylor, Director of Testing and Accountability, presented the proposed Alternate Accountability Model for Ashley Chapel Educational Center. She recommended the adoption of Option B for the 2026–2027 academic year, which evaluates schools based on three components: Student Persistence (20%), School Achievement (20%), and School Growth (60%), as measured by EVAAS.

Jennifer noted that this model aligns closely with Ashley Chapel's goals of supporting student retention, academic progress, and successful reintegration into traditional learning environments. She also requested Board approval of this accountability model because it aligns with both the needs of the school's student population and the statewide approach for alternative schools.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the accountability model for the 2026-27 academic year as presented.

Strategic Plan
Dr. Kate Smith presented district's 2026–2031 Five-Year Strategic Plan and requested Board approval following the completion of the 30-day review. The strategic plan establishes a clear vision for the district's future and provides a framework for supporting student success in the areas of academics, social-emotional learning, and behavior. The plan also outlines goals related to auxiliary services, including transportation, maintenance, technology, and child nutrition.

Kate emphasized that the strategic plan will serve as the district's roadmap for the next five years. Upon Board approval, district staff will begin developing and implementing specific action steps designed to achieve the goals and targeted outcomes outlined in the plan.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the district's 2026-2031 Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Child Nutrition Grocery and Supply Bids
Rena Priest, Director of Child Nutrition, shared with the Board that the procurement process for the upcoming school year has been completed, and she is seeking Board approval of the following vendors:

- Food Supplies: Sysco of Raleigh – $1,431,055.78
- Supply Items: Sysco of Raleigh – $146,710.45
- Fresh Produce: Keany Produce of Raleigh – $95,514.25
- Beverages: Pepsi awarded all beverage line items – 65060, 65080, 65140-65152, 65200–65205, 65320–65327, 65325-65326, 20 oz Diet and Zero Soft drinks, 20 oz Diet Green Tea, 18.5 oz Pure Leaf Diet Tea, 9.6 oz Starbucks Nitro Coffee, and all flavor Twist Drinks
- Milk: Pet Dairy – rollover of current contract due to price stability

- Bread: Flowers – selected based on only bidder
- Pest Control: Ferguson Pest – only bidder $8,736.00
- Chemicals: Saffelle – only bidder $44,508.60
- Ice Cream: Hershey – only bidder $22,478.28

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Daryl Mason, the Board voted unanimously to approve the grocery bids for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

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 $58,976,995.20 to $59,020,249.98 representing an increase of $43,254.78.
- ★ Local Funds
  - The budget amount in the current amended budget is $11,751,605.00.
- ★ Federal Funds
  - The budget appropriation has been revised from $11,796,145.43 to $11,961,055.43 representing an increase of $164,910.00.
- ★ Capital Outlay Funds
  - The budget appropriation has been revised from $7,331,707.77 to $7,464,624.77 representing an increase of $132,917.00.
- ★ Other Local Funds
  - The budget appropriation has been revised from $3,690,969.27 to $4,630,886.92 representing an increase of $939,917.65.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, 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:

- ➢ 1510/4200/7270 School Safety
- ➢ 3430 School Improvement Plan
- ➢ 3565/8307 Title I Program Comparability of Services
- ➢ 4001 Equal Educational Opportunities
- ➢ 7530 Military Leave

On a motion by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, seconded by Bess Shuler, the Board voted unanimously to adopt policies 1510/4200/7270, 3430, 3565/8307, 4001, and 7530.

Policies for Review
Melvin Ingram presented the following policies for a 30-day review.
Policy Numbers/Regulation Code:

- ➢ Policy: 1310-4002 Parental Involvement
- ➢ Policy: 2330 Board Meeting Agenda
- ➢ Policy: 2340 Parliamentary Procedures
- ➢ Policy: 3225-4312-7320 Technology Responsible Use
- ➢ Policy: 4318 Use of Wireless Communication Devices
- ➢ Policy: 4342 Student Searches
- ➢ Policy: 5071-7351 Electronically Stored Information Retention
- ➢ Policy: 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services
- ➢ Policy: 7130 Licensure

Policy 4315 Tuition for Discretionary Admissions
Dr. Ferrell presented Policy 4315, Tuition for Discretionary Admission, for board discussion. The policy provides that, unless otherwise stated, tuition will be charged to students admitted under Policy 4130 Discretionary Admission who do not reside within the state or district. Tuition may not exceed the local per-pupil allocation for current expense as provided by Board of Commissioners. The tuition rate will be determined annually by the Board no later than August 1.

Dr. Ferrell noted that, in the past, the district has not charged tuition for students admitted under discretionary admission. The current per-pupil cost is $2,331.33. He explained that most out-of-district students are children of district employees, who are automatically approved due to their parent's employment with RCS.

After board discussion a motion was made by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, and the Board voted unanimously to keep the tuition for discretionary admissions at zero cost.

Construction Updates
Steven King presented the following construction updates to the Board:

<table>
<tr><td>LJB to Former RNGA</td><td>

Interior/exterior painting, flooring, rubber wall base, playgrounds, room ID plaques, marquis sign, sidewalks, awnings, HVAC work, basketball goal adjusters, lighting upgrades, security vestibule, 2 new rooms in old weight room - Complete
White/cork boards – Ship date 6-12-26
Coat/bookbag storage – Ship date 6-5-26
Moving – pre-K 5-2-26, other areas 6-1-26, front office 6-8-26
Playground fencing – Installation to begin 6-15-26
Spirit rock relocation – Planning
Technology – Panels to be removed from LJB & installed on mobile carts
Child Nutrition – Cleaning kitchen, checking out cooking equipment in progress
Transportation – Routes being adjusted
4th Stakeholder site meeting 7-16-26

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<tr><td>Various Projects</td><td>

RMS Auditorium Remodel (Summer 2026)

Seating – Removal to begin 6-3-26
Painting – To begin week of 6-8-26
Concrete floor resurfacing – To begin week of 6-22-26
New seating installation – To begin week of 7-6-26
Carpet replacement – To begin week of 7-27-26

RSHS

Partial roof replacement – Complete
Roof replacements 8 athletic buildings – Planning
Refinish gym wood floors 6-30-26

New LJ Bell

Survey - Complete
Geotechnical - Planning
Moseley - working on schedule, due diligence, *schematic design (holding for auditorium decision)
RCS, Bordeaux, Mosley - Mechanical systems (Bard mobile unit 6-3-26)
Relocating pod playground to MSES - Planning
Maintenance Dept. – Removing fencing, Pre-K playground items, parts/systems to be salvaged

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	• Pre-K Classrooms
	  o RNGA – Building/fire/health inspections complete
	  o MSES – Building inspections: Fire 6-3-26, Health 6-4-26
	  o ERES – Building/fire/ inspections to be scheduled
	• Summer Cleaning and Floor Care
	  o Furniture moved into hallways prior to 6-8-26
	  o Cleaning/floor care to begin 6-8-26
	• Miscellaneous
	  o Cleaning/refinishing rubber gym floors
	  o Grease trap/septic tank pumping
	  o Mulch for playgrounds
	  o HVAC coil cleaning
	  o Backflow testing
	  o Sprinkler testing
	  o Stage drape cleaning/fire treatment
	  o Facility Needs Survey

Surplus of Real Property
Steven King presented a resolution requesting Board approval to declare the James Building and associated parcels located at 106 Rice Street, Hamlet, North Carolina, as surplus property. Mr. King explained that, pursuant to applicable North Carolina General Statutes, the property must first be offered to Richmond County. If the County declines the property, the Board may then determine the method of disposition.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution declaring the James Building and associated parcels as surplus property and authorizing their disposition in accordance with applicable North Carolina General Statutes.

New LJ Bell Construction
Ashley Dennis from Moseley Architects and Blair Bordeaux, President of Bordeaux Construction presented an update on the LJ Bell Elementary School project. They reviewed cost comparisons between renovating the existing auditorium and constructing four additional classrooms with a stage addition to the gymnasium. They explained that the classroom option would provide additional student capacity and simplify construction due to site elevations and building connections.

Board members discussed the possibility of retaining the existing auditorium without renovation. Project representatives advised that maintaining the auditorium would still require significant expenditures for code compliance, including fire suppression, fire alarm systems, emergency lighting, temporary power, HVAC, and structural considerations, resulting in additional costs without increasing classroom capacity.

Ashley and Blair also reviewed the project schedule, noting that design work is currently delayed pending final Board direction regarding the auditorium and classroom configuration. They emphasized the need for a timely decision to maintain the project timeline and discussed potential strategies to recover lost time through early demolition, abatement, and site preparation activities.

During discussion, several Board members noted that the Board had previously approved demolition of the auditorium and construction of four classrooms and requested clarification regarding the renewed discussion of the auditorium. Bobbie Sue Ormsby explained that additional information had become available regarding potential historic tax credit opportunities, which prompted further consideration of available options.

Attorney Eva DuBuisson provided an overview of the New Markets Tax Credit program, a federal financing tool designed to encourage investment in economically distressed and rural communities.

She explained that the program could potentially provide additional funding but that any funding awarded through the program would not be available until spring 2027 and therefore could not impact immediate decisions regarding the auditorium project.

Eva explained that the program utilizes federal tax credits to attract private investment and noted that it is not a loan that must be repaid. In response to a Board question, she stated that any funding received would be an investment in the project and could not be used for general funding. She explained, if funding were awarded, the Board could work with project designers to identify upgrades or additions that could be incorporated into the project at a later stage.

She noted the next steps would be to schedule a joint meeting between the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners to receive a detailed presentation on the program and discuss potential participation.

Board Members' Comments
Chairman Satterfield
- Pleased with being Chairman and would like to continue being Chairman if that is what the Board wants
- Graduations were great

Bobbie Sue Ormsby
- Last year's Technology Jamboree was great, and this year was even better.
- Amazon donated so much to the Tech Jamboree.
- Impressed with how ACEC principal talked about each student that graduated

Jerry Ethridge
- Katherine did a great job with the Tech Jamboree.
- Has been watching the different stages of the old NGA converting to LJB and it looks great

Daryl Mason
- Coach Rich is the organizer of an AU-Track team this summer and is seeking sponsors to help support kids that can't afford it. They are RCS kids. It's $250 per kid. Please reach out to Coach Rich if you would like to be a sponsor.

Roanld Tillman
- Attended all graduations
- Impressed with ACEC principal being able to connect with each graduate
- Shout out to our boys' baseball team and our girls' and boys' track teams on their outstanding accomplishments this season
- Impressed with the work Coach John Rich and Regie Miller have done with the athletes

Superintendent's Report
Dr. Ferrell
- The LJB staff are moving into the former NGA, which will serve as the temporary home of LJ Bell Elementary School during construction.
- Reflected on the district's Purple Star recognition, noting that the initiative grew from feedback received during his listening and learning tour regarding support for military-connected students and families. He credited Dr. Tesha Isler, Melvin Ingram, school principals, and district staff for helping the district earn Purple Star District recognition.
- Praised all graduation ceremonies
- Recognized Tiffany Spencer for her connection with students during ACEC graduation
- Reminded the Board that summer hours begin this week, with offices open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays

- Shared that he would be attending meetings with the State Superintendent and other superintendents in Asheville next week
- District staff are actively planning for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year

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Board Attorney Eva DuBuisson informed the Board that Board Policy 2200 requires the election of the Chair and Vice Chair to take place at the regular July Board meeting. Since the Board is scheduled to conduct the organizational meeting on June 30, one day before July, she advised that the Board would need to waive Policy 2200 in order to proceed with the election on that date.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the Board voted unanimously to waive Policy 2200 and hold the organizational meeting on June 30.

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 6:43 p.m.

The Board reconvened into open session at 8:32 p.m.

Personnel Report
Dr. Tesha Isler presented the personnel report and addendum.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, the Board voted 6-1 to approve the personnel report and addendum excluding the two individuals discussed in closed session. Jerry Ethridge voted against it.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, the Board voted 6-0 to approve a one-year contract for Wandesha Jackson. Daryl Mason abstained.

On a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Daryl Mason, the Board voted 6-0 to approve a four-year contract for Michael Morman. Ronald Tillman abstained.

Scotty Baldwin then made a motion to extend the contracts of Melvin Ingram and Kate Smith to 2030. Ronald Tillman seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Bess Shuler then asked for discussion of the organizational meeting process. She would like to know which Board members are interested in the office of Chair or Vice Chair. Ronald Tillman and Daryl Mason both indicated they are not. Scotty Baldwin shared that he had expressed support for Bobbie Sue Ormsby as Vice Chair, but he would also be interested in the position and gave some reasons. Bobbie Sue Ormsby indicated she was also interested in remaining as Vice chair. Jerry Etheridge and Bess Shuler both indicated they are not interested in becoming an officer at this time.

Adjourn
There being no further business, on a motion by Scotty Baldwin, seconded by Ronald Tillman, Chairman Satterfield adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.