Hamlet, North Carolina
October 12, 2026

The Richmond County Board of Education met in regular session on October 12, 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; Scotty Baldwin, Vice-Chairman; Bobbie Sue Ormsby; Jerry Ethridge; Ronald Tillman; Daryl Mason; and Bess Shuler.

The administrators present were Dr. Joe Ferrell, Superintendent; Dr. Kate Smith, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Melvin Ingram, Assistant Superintendent of Safety and Operations; Dawn Jordan, Executive Director of Finance; Cameron Whitley, Executive Director of Communications and Policy; and Eva DuBuisson, Board Attorney. Danielle Meeks, Executive Director of Human Resources, was absent.

Meeting Commencement
After noting that a quorum was present, Cory Satterfield, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Bobbie Sue Ormsby 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 September 8, 2026, were unanimously approved.

Recognition of Inspiring Excellence Awards
Cameron Whitley introduced Dr. Joey Moree, Principal at Ellerbe Middle School who presented plaques to two of his staff members: Lana Grant and Rahmeishia McKiver.

Next, Cameron Whitley introduced Spencer Shaw, Interim Principal at Richmond Senior High, who presented plaques to two of his staff members: Kenya Nicholson and Casey Smith.

These recipients were honored for their outstanding contributions and dedication to students and the school community.

Special Recognition
Cameron Whitley presented the Board with the Gold Bell Award for Whole-Board Recognition. This award recognizes school boards in which every member completes at least 12 hours of training during the previous academic year. Richmond County Schools' Board of Education received the award for the 2025–2026 academic year in recognition of their dedication to professional development and their commitment to serving the district and community.

Cameron Whitley also recognized students who represented Richmond County Schools in the community and thanked them for being outstanding representatives of the district.

Recognition of Beginning Teachers
Tina McNeill recognized the following educators as Richmond County Schools' 2026-27 Beginning Teachers of the Year: Stella Brown (CMS), Asiana Corpas (ERES), Brittany Layne Grant (HMS), Carissa Byrne (LJBES), Tina Griffin (MSES), Natalie Pattan (MAES), Joshua Horton (RSHS), Lindsay Honeycutt (WSES), and Ashley Stubbs (WRES). These teachers have demonstrated dedication and the hard work needed to ensure their students' success.

Finally, Tina McNeill ended on a high note by announcing Ashley Stubbs from WRES as the district's Beginning Teacher of the Year.

Athletics Update
James Johnson, Director of Athletics, provided the Board with some athletic updates, including fall athletics, student-athlete participation, and recent accomplishments across several programs. He also provided an overview of DragonFly and its role in managing athletic records and compliance, as well as an explanation of how NCHSAA student-athlete eligibility is determined and monitored.

CTE Updates
Wendy Wallace, CTE and Arts Director; Jason Perakis, High School Career Development Coordinator; and Cherie Young, Middle School Career Development Coordinator, presented Career and Technical Education (CTE) updates to the Board. They discussed the district's focus on purposeful pathways for students, student internship results for the 2025–2026 school year and placements scheduled for 2026–2027, the career development planning process and MajorClarity, and plans to introduce MajorClarity at the elementary level.

The presentation also included early-stage planning for CTE and STEM collaboration at the high school level in support of the district's strategic plan, the purchase of Paxton/Patterson modules for Ashley Chapel Educational Center and Cordova Middle School, upcoming guest speakers and field trips, and important CTE dates for the school year.

2025-2026 Richmond County Schools Accountability Results
Jennifer Taylor, Director of Testing and Accountability, presented the 2025–2026 Richmond County Schools Accountability Results to the Board. She started by highlighting several key achievements:

- Richmond County Schools' overall performance composite across all students, subjects, and grade levels reached a five-year high.
- The district's four-year cohort graduation rate increased to 90%, its highest rate in ten years.
- English Learner (EL) progress increased to 39%, representing a three-point gain from the previous year in the number of students meeting progress goals and exiting the language learner program.
- Nine schools met or exceeded expected growth, four schools exited state low-performing status, and Richmond County Schools exited low-performing district status.

A comprehensive overview of grade-level proficiency showed increases in 12 of 18 assessment indicators, while proficiency decreased in five indicators and remained unchanged in one. Eighth-grade science and fifth-grade science each achieved 57% proficiency. The district reported an overall upward trend in student achievement across content areas, with high school performance showing the greatest gains over the previous year.

In high school performance data, Math III proficiency reached 57%, while English II proficiency was 47%, Math I was 40%, and Biology was 43%. The district's four-year cohort graduation rate increased from 79% in 2024 to 84% in 2025 and 90% in 2026. Richmond Senior High School's graduation rate reached 91%, while Richmond Early College maintained a graduation rate above 95%. Ashley Chapel Educational Center's reported graduation rate was 51%, based on three years of data for each reporting year.

Jennifer Taylor also reviewed the district's targeted areas for improvement, which included graduation rates, English Learner progress, and district low-performing status. The district's improvement efforts included monthly Principal Professional Learning Communities focused on effective instructional practices, school administrative team data support sessions and EVAAS professional development, curriculum-specific professional development in reading, math, and science, beginning- and middle-of-year individual professional development plan discussions with district leadership, and coaching or mentoring support for all principals.

Low Performing Schools Plan
Kate Smith presented the 2026–2027 Low-Performing Schools Plan and requested Board approval. She explained that although Richmond County Schools have exited low-performing district status, the district is still required to provide support for its low-performing schools. She outlined several strategies to support these schools, including routine classroom walkthroughs and Professional Learning Community (PLC) support from executive leadership and content-specific directors. The frequency of these visits will vary based on each school's needs and teacher capacity.

Additional support will include scheduled content-planning sessions led by content directors and experienced teacher leaders, with an emphasis on beginning teachers and teachers who are the only ones teaching a particular grade level or subject in their school. Work sessions will also be provided for principals to collaborate with directors on literacy and mathematics data analysis. Three EVOS meetings will be held to review student growth and achievement projections, with particular attention to low-performing schools. In addition, members of the executive leadership team will mentor, and support assigned principals through monthly or twice-monthly meetings.

Kate Smith requested Board approval for the 2026-2027 Low Performing Schools Plan. She explained that the plans were required to be approved by October 30.

On a motion by Jerry Ethridge, seconded by Scotty Baldwin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026-2027 Low Performing Schools Plan as presented.

Construction Updates
Steven King, Director of Maintenance, presented the following construction updates to the Board:

East Rockingham Elementary School	• New pre-K playground – Planning
LJ Bell Elementary School (Hawthorne Ave)	• Chiller sold, 4x mobile units sold/removed, boiler listed for sale, auditorium seats no bids • 2nd round of soil borings – Week of 10-12-26 • Demo – Late November
Richmond Senior High School	• Softball infield grading – Work to start end of this month • Baseball sound system – Planning • Football/stadium sound system – Planning • Graduation stage – Planning • Fire alarm system replacement – To be scheduled • Partial roof replacement – Engineering design in progress • Soccer practice field netting – Planning • New burglar alarm system – River Street installation 10-19-26
Safety Vestibules	• Architect selection – Planning

Siemens Service Contract
Steven King presented the Siemens Industry, Inc. Service One-Year Contract for HVAC operations and equipment controls services and requested Board approval. He explained that the system allows the district to remotely manage HVAC schedules and enables principals to adjust operating schedules as needed. The system typically reduces heating and cooling after 6:00 p.m. and resumes operation around 4:00 a.m. to ensure buildings are ready for use.

Steven King noted that the previous contract was for seven years, with an annual cost of $57,925. Due to the ongoing school closure study, which includes three of the eight schools covered by the contract, the district elected to enter into a one-year contract. The proposed contract amount is $60,513.00.

Ronald Tillman made a motion to approve the Siemens Service One-Year Contract as presented for $60,513.00. Scotty Baldwin seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the contract.

Moseley Additional Services Contract Amendment
Steven King presented an amendment to the Moseley contract to include additional services totaling $67,705.00. He explained that during previous projects, the district experienced issues with services that fell outside the contractor's or architect's scope of work. To address these concerns, the district requested that Moseley provide surveying, environmental services, auditing, design, and project management services. Steven King noted that these services would be required regardless and that having Moseley manage them would help streamline the process.

Chairman Satterfield asked whether the additional services would be paid for with grant funds. Steven King confirmed that the costs would be covered by grant funds.

Daryl Mason made a motion to approve the amendment to the Moseley contract to include the additional services totaling $67,705.00. Scotty Baldwin seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the Moseley contract.

Curriculum Contract
Dawn Jordan presented the Johnson Education Solutions, LLC contract for Board approval. She explained that they will partner with district leaders, principals, instructional teams, and teachers to build sustainable systems that improve teaching and learning in every participating school. Each coaching cycle includes planning, observation, coaching, and follow-up.
The Johnson Education Solutions, LLC contract is for the 26-27 school year in the amount of $96,900.00.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Jerry Ethridge, the board voted unanimously to approve the Johnson Education Solutions, LLC contract as presented.

Budget Resolutions
Dawn Jordan presented the following Budget Resolutions for board approval:

<u>Budget Resolution for the Fiscal Year: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027</u>

★ SECTION 1: State Public School Fund Appropriations

Instructional Programs	$52,970,380.84
System-Wide Support Services	$7,183,460.21

Ancillary Services	$0.00
Non-Programmed Charges	$45,000.00
Total Appropriation	$60,198,841.05

★ SECTION 2: State Public School Fund Revenues

Total Revenue	$60,198,841.05

★ SECTION 3: Local Current Expense Fund Appropriations

Instructional Programs	$4,157,713.22
System-Wide Support Services	$8,148,550.78
Ancillary Services	$9,000.00
Non-Programmed Charges	$175,000.00
Total Appropriation	$12,490,264.00

★ SECTION 4: Local Current Expense Fund Revenues

State Funds	$255,000.00
Federal Funds	$100,000.00
Local Funds	$11,335,264.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	$800,000.00
Total Revenue	$12,490,264.00

★ SECTION 5: Federal Grants Fund Appropriations

Instructional Programs	$4,900,441.48
System-Wide Support Services	$468,462.72
Ancillary Services	$0.00
Non-Programmed Charges	$146,476.78
Total Appropriation	$5,515,380.98

★ SECTION 6: Federal Grants Fund Revenues

Total Revenue	$5,515,380.98

★ SECTION 7: Capital Outlay Fund Appropriations

Operational Support Services	$990,848.00
Capital Outlay	$2,558,652.44
Total Appropriation	$3,549,500.44

★ SECTION 8: Capital Outlay Fund Revenues

State Funds	$1,120,500.44
Local Funds	$2,429,000.00
Bond Funds	$0.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	$0.00
Total Revenue	$3,549,500.44

★ SECTION 9: School Food Service Fund Appropriations

Nutrition Services	$5,764,826.96
Non-Programmed Charges	$195,000.00
Total Appropriation	$5,959,826.96

★ SECTION 10: School Food Service Fund Revenues

State Funds	$45,000.00
Federal Funds	$5,207,783.96

Local Funds	$507,043.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	$200,000.00
Total Revenue	$5,959,826.96

★ SECTION 11: Other Local Current Expense Fund Appropriations

Instructional Programs	$2,824,152.07
System-Wide Support Services	$595,170.55
Ancillary Services	$0.00
Non-Programmed Charges	$0.00
Total Appropriation	$3,419,322.62

★ SECTION 12: Other Local Current Expense Fund Revenues

State Funds	$1,336,705.00
Federal Funds	$0.00
Local Funds	$150,000.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	$1,932,617.62
Total Revenue	$3,419,322.62

★ SECTION 13 – The superintendent is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund under the following restrictions:
- May transfer amounts between functions and objects of expenditures within a fund without limitations and without a report to the Board of Education.
- May not transfer any amounts between funds or purpose codes nor from any contingency appropriation within a fund without prior approval from the Board of Education.

★ SECTION 14 – The Richmond County Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to transfer funds in accordance with G.S. 115C-433 on June 30, 2026, to balance the budget to actual expenditures for the State, Local, Federal, Capital Outlay, Child Nutrition, Trust & Agency, and Local Special Revenue funds.

★ SECTION 15 – Copies of the Budget Resolution shall be immediately furnished to the superintendent and school finance officer for direction in carrying out their duties.

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

Policies for Review
Cameron Whitley presented the following policies for a 30-day review:

Policy Numbers/Regulation Code:
- Policy 2210 Duties of Officers
- Policy 2310 Public Participation at Board Meetings
- Policy 2340 Parliamentary Procedures
- Policy 3210 Objection to Instructional and Supplementary Materials
- Policy Code 1200 Governing Principle -- Student Success
- Policy 1300 Governing Principle -- Parental Involvement
- Policy 1400 Governing Principle -- School Initiatives
- Policy 1700 Governing Principle - Removal of Barriers
- Policy 1742-5060 Responding to Complaints
- Policy 2300 Board Meetings
- Policy 3200 Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials

Field Trips
Melvin Ingram shared the field trips.

- Monroe Avenue Elementary School – 1st Grade to McArthur Farms in Bennettsville, SC – October 21, 2026

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

Maintenance Department

- Single Wide Mobile Classroom (Trailer #136)
- Single Wide Mobile Classroom (Trailer #134)
- Single Wide Mobile Classroom (Trailer #133)

All 3 mobile classrooms are located at Mineral Springs School

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

Board Members' Comments
Chairman Satterfield

- Having a job in education is a 24/7 job.

Scotty Baldwin

- Had the opportunity to go out and see some of the CTE classes at RSHS and it's impressive

Ronald Tillman

- Attended the LEAD training in Fayetteville and listening to other people talk about their Board members made me realize how good we are as a Board.
- Visited the Bus Garage and it was eye-opening. They do a lot of good work and have a good team.
- Attended RSHS College Night as a parent/grandparent/Board member and was really impressed with the student, parent and athletic participation. I was in awe seeing the staff go above and beyond their traditional working day to make sure every child has an opportunity to be successful.

Jerry Ethridge

- Sitting on the NCSBA Board of Directors has made me realize how good our Board is.
- Thanked the Board for all members getting their 12 hours needed for the Bell Award.
- Ronald and I attended the LEAD training in Fayetteville.
- Have been visiting schools, football games and homecoming and there are so many positive things going on
- It's good to be able to say this is a good school system

Bobbie Sue Ormsby

- Thank you for thinking about me during the loss of my brother.
- Ed Foundation is doing a really good job.

Bess Shuler

- Thanks to everyone across the district - we are blessed to have some great people
- Thank you, Joyce McRae, for all the years of dedication she has given to RCS

Superintendent's Comments

- Started attending school staff meetings
- In the process of setting up community center visits
- Looking forward to spending time with the Board at the Fall Law conference

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Cory Satterfield citing NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1), (3), 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 7:00 p.m.

The board reconvened into open session at 8:26 p.m.

Personal

Dr. Joe Ferrell presented the personnel report and the addendum for Board approval.

On a motion by Ronald Tillman, seconded by Bobbie Sue Ormsby, 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 Jerry Etrhidge, Chairman Satterfield adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.