

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
March 15, 2020
5:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY CALLED BOARD MEETING
For RCS COVID-19 Emergency Preparation and Response Plan

Present: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Chairperson and Mr. Bob Wyatt, Vice Chair. Board Members: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley and Ms. Amanda Bell. Board Member Mr. Wayne Kirkman was absent. Administrative staff: Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent; Dr. Sonja Parks, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Logistics; Dr. Charles Perkins, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Finance Officer; Mr. Jonathan Craig, Executive Director of Human Resources and Athletics; Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman and Ms. Renée Everhart, Board Clerk were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rakestraw called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Six board members were present at roll call. Board Member Mr. Wayne Kirkman was absent. The Board Attorney called in remotely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is a Special Budget/Work Session scheduled Monday, March 23, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular board meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Monday, April 20, 2020 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the Board of Education Public Hearing on the Request Budget for 2020-2021 is scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2020 during the regular board meeting. Ms. Annie Ellis will present the request budget and the public is welcome to comment. A sign-up sheet will be provided for those wanting to speak during the public hearing.

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is no Work Session scheduled in April. The Rockingham County Schools' spring break is April 6-10, 2020.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized and thanked Sheriff Sam Page for attending the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Board had a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. McMichael moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

CONSENT AGENDA

There are no consent items.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

RCS COVID-19 Emergency Preparation and Response Plan Discussion:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Stephanie Ellis for comments regarding the COVID-19 Emergency Preparation and Response Plan. Dr. Shotwell thanked everyone for coming in for an urgent meeting. Dr. Stephanie Ellis stated the school district has moved into "Protection Phase 3 – Level 3 now due to COVID-19 has been determined to be highly contagious and has impacted the ability to conduct school.

Governor Cooper's Executive Order for Closing of Schools:

Dr. Stephanie Ellis stated per Governor Roy Cooper's recommendation and Executive Order, Rockingham County Schools will close for a minimum of two weeks beginning Monday, March 16 through March 27, 2020. Dr. Ellis stated plans are that spring break will remain the same time of April 6-10 at this time. Dr. Ellis stated as of March 15, 2020 Rockingham County does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19. Dr. Shotwell stated Monday March 16th, schools will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Administrators assisting with access to the building. Parent may come to pick up student medications and personal belongings. Staff will also have building access from 10-3:00 p.m.

Discuss Possible Budget Impacts of COVID-19 Crisis:

Dr. Shotwell stated RCS food services program will be offered for breakfast and lunch for kids ages 18 and under. Beginning Monday, March 16th food service will be offered at Leaksville Spray, McMichael High and Moss Street Elementary. Meals will be distributed as "grab and go" meals. The "Need Food Line" number for call in for food is 336-627-2723. Adults may purchase a meal for a low cost of \$3.75.

Dr. Shotwell stated students will receive free educational resources during the two-week school closure. Beginning March 30 through April 3, teachers will be providing instruction with more information coming. Dr. Shotwell stated at this time the school district plans to reopen on April 13, 2020 unless the RCS district received specific guidance otherwise.

Dr. Ellis stated behavioral health and mental health services are available for children. Ms. Ellis stated if those services are needed during the closure, the Behavioral Mental Health Hotline is beginning March 18, 2020 through April 3, 2020 at 336-627-2615 with hours of operation 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Ms. Ellis stated the Day Treatment Crisis number is 336-520.0903 and Youth Haven Crisis number is 336-644-2367.

Dr. Ellis stated due to the Executive Order, Exceptional Children's Services will not be provided during the two-week closure.

The full presentation is attached to the minutes at Attachment 1-A.

Board Meeting March 23, 2020 – Discuss if this needs to be a Virtual Meeting due to Executive Order of Governor Cooper:

The board had discussion regarding the upcoming March 23 budget work session as a virtual format.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board approve the March 23, 2020 budget work session be a virtual meeting with Mr. Roy Sawyers providing live streaming, no public attending as discussed. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Budget Revisions and/or Allocations of Funds for Response to COVID-19:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding budget revisions and allocations of funds for response to COVID-19. Ms. Ellis stated funds which will be allocated for specific funds sources due to the COVID-19 crisis will be appropriated in PRC-39.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the budget allocations be appropriated as needed to the fund source PRC-39 for COVID-19 funds as presented. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

Approval – RCS COVID-19 Emergency and Response Plan/Protection Plan:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Stephanie Ellis for comments regarding the COVID-19 Emergency and Response Plan. Dr. Ellis presented the plan for board approval (Attachment 2-A). Dr. Ellis requested board approval.

Action: Ms. Bell moved that the Board approve the RCS COVID-19 Emergency Response and Protection Plan as presented. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

Approval – Calendar Revisions for 2019-2020 During COVID-19:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the 2019-2020 school calendar revisions needed during COVID-19. Dr. Shotwell requested the Board's approval for the 2019-2020 school calendars revisions as needed for the school closure required to comply with the Governors Executive Order, adjusting teacher work days throughout the calendar as needed and making April 13th a regular student day.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the 2019-2020 traditional school calendar and the John W. Dillard Academy calendar be revised for the school closure, April 13 as a regular student day, changing teacher workdays as presented. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

Approval – March 23, 2020 Board Meeting Location due to COVID-19 /Governor Cooper's Executive Order:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order. Dr. Shotwell stated according to Executive Order, no public would be able to attend in a group setting for the budget work session as previously planned. Dr. Shotwell stated limited staff would be present with the board.

Action: Mr. Isley moved that the Board the virtual format with limited staff attending the meeting, the public to view via live stream as presented. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Isley. The vote was 6/0.

Minutes read and approved:

Ms. Paula H. Rakestraw, Board Chair
Rockingham County Board of Education

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

April 20, 2020