

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Central Administrative Offices

511 Harrington Highway

Eden, NC 27288

June 8, 2020

6:00 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

(Via Zoom for Board Members and Live Streaming for Public View)

Present: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Board Chair and Mr. Bob Wyatt, Vice Chair. Board Members: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley, Ms. Vickie McKinney and Ms. Amanda Bell. Administrative staff: Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent; Dr. Charles Perkins, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Sonja Parks, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Logistics; Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services; Mr. Jonathan Craig, Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Board Attorney, Mr. Nick Herman and Ms. Renée Everhart, Board Assistant were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rakestraw called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Seven members were present. Ms. Rakestraw recognized Sheriff Sam Page and Ms. Virginia Hoover as public officials attending the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is no work session scheduled in June. There is a Special Called Board Meeting via zoom on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Central Administrative Offices at 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC. The Special Called Meeting is for the year-end budget amendments.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2020 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Board had a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Mr. Doug Isley led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board determined to amend the agenda to move consent items 6.1 and 6.2 to action items 7.7 and 7.8. Mr. Isley moved to approve the amended agenda. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion and the vote was 7/0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / BOARD COMMENTS

Public Comments:

1. Mr. Tyvon Smoot – Mr. Smoot addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Mr. Smoot stated Ms. Hyler is an exceptional person and helped him with bullying.
2. Ms. Christie Dalton – Ms. Dalton addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Dalton stated she has been a teacher for 23 years in RCS and Ms. Hyler is an exceptional person, her position cannot be done as a ½

position. Ms. Hyler maintains the RCS district website which is important for parents and the community.

3. Ms. Penny Capel – Ms. Capel addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Capel stated Ms. Hyler’s position served the students, parents and administrators and should not be cut.
4. Ms. Mary Beth Irving – Ms. Irving addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Irving stated she has known Ms. Hyler since 2003 at Douglass Elementary School and Ms. Hyler has been a long-term employee and served the school district well.
5. Ms. Linda Bass – Ms. Bass addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Bass stated a reduction in Ms. Hyler’s position is not a good idea. She stated her position is a 24-hour per day job, not a 4-hour a day position.
6. Ms. Cindy Wood (Cindy Farmer) – Ms. Farmer addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Farmer stated she is in support of Ms. Hyler and has worked and known her professionally for several years. Ms. Farmer stated Ms. Hyler has provided several stories to the news that has shined a great light on Rockingham County Schools.
7. Ms. Virginia Hoover – Ms. Hoover addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Hoover stated she is very concerned regarding the cutting of Ms. Hyler’s position. Her position is a highly rated position that serves the district 24-hours, not hourly for four hours.
8. Ms. Rochelle Tucker – Ms. Tucker addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Ms. Tucker stated the Public Information Officer is important and the position should not be cut.
9. Sheriff Sam Page – Sherriff Page addressed the Board stating the incident that occurred in Minnesota recently resulting in a death is so unfortunate. Also, Sheriff Page addressed the Board on behalf of Ms. Karen Hyler, Public Information Officer for Rockingham County Schools. Sheriff Page stated Ms. Hyler has worked closely with the Sheriff’s Department stating a very dangerous situation was handled well, with Ms. Hyler as the face of the school district. He stated she has a good partnership with the Sheriff’s Office and Rockingham Count Schools.

Board Comments:

Ms. Bell stated the recent death of Mr. George Floyd has caused social unrest. Ms. Bell congratulated the 2020 graduates.

Mr. Isley congratulated all the seniors and stated he attended all 4 of the graduation parades. He stated the parades were well planned for the graduates.

Ms. McMichael congratulated the 2020 senior class graduates. She also welcomed Ms. Vickie McKinney to the Board.

Mr. Huss thanked the County Commissioners for funding the school district. He stated he participated in the Rockingham County High graduation parade. Mr. Huss thanked Principal Mr. Cecil Kemp for a fantastic graduation parade.

Ms. Rakestraw congratulated the 2020 graduates. Ms. Rakestraw commented the principals and staff for the great job on the parades for the graduating seniors. She also thanked Sheriff Sam Page for his comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

Presented consent items for Board consideration:

1. Approval Consent Item - Additions to the Substitutes List for: child nutrition, bus driver, bus monitors, teacher substitutes and SACC early childhood substitutes list for 2020-2021.
2. Approval Consent Item - Board of Education Meeting Minutes for approval:
 - May 2, 2020 – Open Session Emergency Meeting Minutes
 - May 11, 2020 – Open Session Board Meeting Minutes

- May 28, 2020 – Open Session Work Session Meeting Minutes

3. Approval Consent Item – Gifts, Grants and Donations – Dr. Shotwell
4. Approval Consent Item – Adoption of Board Policies – Dr. Cindy Corcoran
5. Approval Consent Item – Errors and Omissions/General Liability Insurance – North Carolina School Board Trust / Fleet Insurance – Ms. Annie Ellis
6. Approval Consent Item – CCIP Federal Programs Application – Dr. Charles Perkins
7. Approval Consent Item – Career and Technical Education Plan (CTE) 2020-2021 – Dr. Ken Scott
8. Approval Consent Item – School Nutrition Micro Purchase Amount Request Increase – Ms. Erselle Young
9. Approval Consent Item – Behavioral Health and Exceptional Children’s Contracts for Services – Dr. Stephanie Ellis / Dr. Pam Watkins

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the consent items as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Bus Driver Substitute List:

Christopher Anderson

Bus Monitor Substitute List:

None

Child Nutrition Substitute List:

None

SAC/Early Childhood Center Substitute List:

None

Substitute Teacher List:

Brooke Garrett

Substitute Head Start Teacher List:

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Interim Budget Resolution:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the Interim Budget Resolution. Ms. Ellis presented the Interim Budget Resolution for board approval (Attachment 1-A). Ms. Ellis stated the interim budget will provide expenditures for July 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020 until the final state budget is approved.

Action: Ms. Bell moved that the Board approve the Interim Budget Resolution as proposed. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Budget Amendments:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the budget amendments. Ms. Ellis presented the budget amendments as listed for board approval (Attachment 2-A).

- Budget Amendment 10 - State Public School Fund
- Budget Amendment 11 - Local Current Expense Fund
- Budget Amendment 12 – Federal Grant Fund
- Budget Amendment 13 – Capital Outlay
- Budget Amendment 14 – School Food Service Fund
- Budget Amendment 15 – Special Fund

- Budget Amendment 16 – Other Restricted Fund

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the budget amendments as presented. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – 2020-2021 Official Renewal Bids / Vendor Rollovers:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Erselle Young for comments regarding the 2020-2021 renewal bids and vendor rollovers for the Child Nutrition Department. Ms. Young presented the renewal bids and vendor rollovers for 2020-2021. Ms. Young requested board approval.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the 2020-2021 Child Nutrition renewal bids and vendor rollovers as presented. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – 2020-2021 Mobil Crisis Team Funding:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Stephanie Ellis and Dr. Cindy Corcoran for comments regarding the 2020-2021 Mobile Crisis Team funding for the Instructional Support Services team. Dr. Stephanie Ellis stated the additional five positions requested would take responsibility of threat assessments for the district, taking that work off school guidance counselors. Dr. Cindy Corcoran requested board approval for the five additional positions be funded for the Mobile Crisis Team. After discussion, the board determined to provide funding for six positions for the Mobile Crisis Team.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve funding for six positions for the 2020-2021 Mobile Crisis Team as presented. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – CARES Funding Act:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for comments regarding the CARES Funding Act. Dr. Perkins stated the funding is being offered by the federal government to assist with COVID-19. Dr. Perkins stated the funds are designed to support our school district needs based on COVID-19. Dr. Perkins requested board approval for the funding application for \$3,066,001 dollars to support our school district for COVID-19.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the CARES Funding Act Plan Application for COVID-19 as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Reallocation of Restricted Sales Tax:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the reallocation of restricted sales tax. Dr. Parks stated she is requesting the reallocation of \$100,000 for the purchase of mobile units to be placed at South End Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year due to overcrowding. Dr. Parks stated the remaining funds will be utilized for summer painting of the school prior to re-opening on August 17, 2020. Dr. Parks stated the funds that were previously approved to be allocated for the purchase of a use York chiller for Reidsville High School auditorium were not used due to the purchase did not take place, leaving the funds unused. Dr. Parks requested reallocation the funds as presented.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the reallocation of \$100,000 of restricted sales tax funds for the purchase of mobile units and summer painting as presented. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – South End Elementary School Mobile Unit Proposal:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the South End Elementary mobile units. Dr. Parks requested board approval to purchase three mobile units from Yadkin County Schools. She stated the units cost \$1500 each for a total of \$4500.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the purchase of three mobile units for South End Elementary School for a total of \$4500 as presented. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Land Use Study Proposal:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the 2020-2021 Integrated Planning for School and Community update and Land Use Study. Dr. Parks presented the timeline and agreements (Attachment 3-A). She stated the cost is \$14,500.00

Action: Ms. McKinney moved that the Board approve Land Use Study as presented. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Backpack Program Update:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran for an update on the Backpack Program. Dr. Corcoran presented an update including information as listed below (Attachment 4-A).

- Back Pack Programs make positive impacts on the health and well-being of children
- School Support – Principals reported 75% of our schools are still receiving back packs. Those schools that discontinued it noted students had received EBT cards or a Community Feeding site was utilized
- As late as May 26th, back packs were delivered to our students
- CARE CARDS – they are available to make a donation to the Back Pack Program
- How to help the Back Pack Program – donate items, food drives and local fundraisers
- CARE CARD – Businesses are encouraged to make donation via the Care Cards

Grounds Maintenance Service Bid Tabulation:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for a report regarding the Grounds Maintenance Services Bids. Dr. Parks presented tabulation of bids for the Grounds Maintenance Services stating the pre-bid meeting was held on May 18, 2020. The bids were opened on June 1, 2020. Dr. Parks stated the district currently has vendors handling the lawn maintenance at 28 locations for \$176,985.84. Based on the bids received, the district would contract with three vendors for a total amount of \$196,695.00 After discussion, the Board determined to take place this on the June 23, 2020 Special Called Meeting agenda.

COVID-19 and Re-Entry Planning:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Stephanie Ellis for a report on the COVID-19 Re-Entry Plan for the district. Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Ellis presented a powerpoint regarding the COVID-19 Re-Entry Plan update including the information listed below.

- Revised COVID-19 Plan Phases:
 - Phase 1 – Preparation
 - Phase 2 – Prevention
 - Phase 3 – Protection
 - Phase 4 – Recovery
- Re-Entry and Recovery Safety Framework:
 - RCS provides cleaning and protocols
 - RCS cares about staff wellness and well-being
 - RCS cares about student wellness and well-being
 - RCS provides re-entry strategies to help orient students and staff to school support recovery
- Re-Entry Work Groups are centered around communication:
 - Safety

- Social Emotional support for students and staff
- School operations
- Re-Entry Employee Considerations
- Re-Entry Learning Strategies
- Community Stakeholders
- Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
- Parent Engagement
- Re-Entry Employee Considerations
- Re-Entry Assumptions
 - RCS is working hard to be proactive
 - RCS listed and is planning around seven different assumptions
- Celebrations in RCS – in the midst of a crisis:
 - Over 839 RCS Graduates
 - Over 135,268 Child Nutrition meals served as of May 31st
 - RCS Day Treatment Program service student every day
 - Over 1600 contacts were made by the psychologist and behavioral health staff
 - Over 5000 laptops were provided to students
 - Hotspots for internet connectivity were provide to students
 - PPE Care Packages were given to essential employees returning back to work
 - 22 schools and all RCS buildings received training from school nurses for safety protocols
 - Over 700 received tech support from the help desk
- **Collaboration** with Health Department to create RCS Safety Protocols
- RCS Re-Entry Newsletter
- RCS Re-Entry Staff Survey – May 15-22, 2020
- RCS Student Survey – May 26-29, 2020
- Cares Funding Emergency Relief Funds
 - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds as provided by the CARES Act
 - Team worked on the narrative for the required applications for the funds
 - The district applied for funds for supports to cleaning, PPE equipment, instructional equipment, social, emotional and mental health recourses were provided
 - Resources for student with special needs
- Next Steps:
 - Survey parents
 - Survey and meet with parents and RCS staff in Focus Groups
 - Continued communication and sharing information
 - Prepare and be proactive for a variety of scenarios
 - Continue to work in Re-Entry Work Groups
 - Continue collaborating with the Health Department and Emergency Services

Superintendent’s Report:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell for the Superintendent’s Report.

Dr. Shotwell had a special message for the 2020 Graduates.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted Morehead High school graduation parade and ceremony.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted Reidsville High school graduation parade and ceremony.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted McMichael High school graduation parade and ceremony.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted Morehead High school graduation parade and ceremony.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted Rockingham County High school graduation parade.

Dr. Shotwell highlighted the Early College graduation parade/ceremony.

Dr. Shotwell played a video with a special message from Reidsville Middle School produced by RMS Music Teacher, Ms. Baker Larimore and the Reidsville Middle School students.

Board Chair Announcements:

Ms. Rakestraw announced the Central Office and all Departments start the 4/10-hour work schedule beginning Monday, June 15th.

CLOSED SESSION

Action: Mr. Isley moved to go into Closed Session to preserve the attorney client privilege pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (1) (6) to discuss personnel matters and property discussion according to state law to preserve the attorney client privilege. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Isley moved to return to open session, seconded by Ms. McMichael. The vote was 7/0.

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—Administration

—Licensed

Timothy Melvin

Effective 8/14/20

Aaron Soodek

Effective 8/14/20

Natalie Craven

Effective 8/10/20

Sarah Lord

Effective 8/10/20

Samantha O'Connor

Effective 8/10/20

—Classified

Terminations:

—Licensed

—Classified

Transfers:

—Administration

—Licensed

Rosalina Webster

Effective 6/15/20

—Classified

Ricky Hairston

Effective 5/27/20

Christopher Hand

Effective 6/15/20

Vanessa Pass

Effective 6/4/20

Resignations:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Mark Griffin

Effective 6/12/20

Lorraine Kelly

Effective 6/12/20

Megan Leonard

Effective 6/12/20

Jeffrey Neal

Effective 5/22/20

Elisabeth Ownbey

Effective 6/12/20

Megan Pickell

Effective 6/12/20

Gayle Breakley

Effective 6/12/20

—**Classified**

Lauren Brooks

Effective 6/12/20

Steven Cashion

Effective 6/5/20

Joseph Griffin

Effective 6/12/20

Shenitta Peterkin

Effective 6/12/20

Rachel Sprague

Effective 6/12/20

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Nona Craft

Effective 7/1/20

Karen Davis

Effective 7/1/20

Lisa Stadler

Effective 7/1/20

—**Classified**

Leave Requests:

None

Action: Mr. Isley moved to accept the **amended personnel report** as presented, seconded by Ms. McMichael.
The vote was 7/0.

Action: Mr. Isley moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McKinney. The vote was 7/0.

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

July 13, 2020