

Rockingham County Board of Education
Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
Emergency Board Meeting
Thursday, July 16, 2020

5:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM
Board Meeting – Virtual Meeting Via Zoom for the Board
The public is viewing via Live Stream

Notice to the Public: The Administrative Offices are closed. The public may view the Board Meeting by a live stream at either of the 2 links listed below.

<https://www.twitch.tv/rockinghamupdatemobile>

or

<https://www.rceno.com/RCENO/rockingham-county-board-of-education-meeting-live-stream/>

Present: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Chairperson and Mr. Bob Wyatt, Vice Chair. Board Members: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Ms. Vickie McKinney, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley and Ms. Amanda Bell. Administrative staff: Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent; 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. Ms. Bell joined the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next regular board meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Monday, August 10, 2020 at Central Office in the downstairs Boardroom/Virtual Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – Approval of Plan B – Implementation for Traditional Rockingham County Schools:

Approval – Approval of Dillard Academy Plan C – Implementation:

Ms. Rakestraw read the background stating on July 14, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper issued a statement the state is moving forward with recommending the implementation of Plan B (blended face-to-face remote) for reopening of schools. Ms. Rakestraw stated the Governor granted that public school districts the option to implement Plan C (full remote learning).

Board Comments:

Mr. Isley thanked the community for their input.

Mr. Huss stated he prefers a four-week approach with a remote start.

Mr. Wyatt asked what would Plan B look like for students and teachers. Dr. Shotwell stated the schedule would consist of A Days, with half of students coming into the school for instruction. Wednesdays would be closed for cleaning of the schools. The B Days, would allow the other half of students to come into the schools for instruction, with Saturday used as a cleaning day. Dr. Shotwell stated flexibility would be key for the families with situations. Dr. Shotwell stated virtual classes would be provided completely online for those students choosing to not enter the building. Dr. Shotwell stated 1500 students have signed up for virtual learning.

Ms. Bell stated she would feel better if we could push out the start of school, starting with a remote start. She would like to see how other districts do that brought their students back into the building. She stated some teachers are not feeling safe to bring in all students under Plan B.

Ms. McMichael asked if the Governor is making an August 10th announcement. How will athletics be affected? Dr. Shotwell answered regarding athletics, there will be no contact workouts, but conditioning will be allowed. The NCHSAA moved the season start to September 1st. Dr. Shotwell stated Superintendents are waiting to hear from the Governor on August 10th for an announcement of staying in Phase 2 or moving back to Phase 1.

Dr. Shotwell stated student's virtual classes will be online with a form of a class schedule, other students having class via the internet, and other students will have a packet for class work which they pick up at school.

Ms. McMichael asked what will happen to teachers that are in the high risk category. Dr. Stephanie Ellis referred to the Families First Act (FMCRA) with Mr. Craig administering the plan and how it would work for that group. Mr. Jonathan Craig answered the Federal Leave under the FMCRA Act is 10 days of pay, then approved leave if the employee has time available and can use it for FMLA.

Ms. McMichael asked about deferring the \$30 fee charged for Chromebooks. Dr. Shotwell stated the schools can use the Principal's Fund to cover the fee for disadvantaged students with a financial hardship.

Mr. Isley asked if the district goes back virtual, what can parents do on days they need daycare for their children. Dr. Corcoran stated RCS Childcare sites are open at 7 locations. She stated the school district is bound to the social distancing regulation and how many slots are available with consideration of rooms to house the students.

Ms. McMichael stated daycare for South End Elementary students will need to be flexible. Ms. Bell asked is the district should try to find out how many parents need daycare. Dr. Corcoran stated the district is preparing to send a parent survey to determine the needs for student daycare per school location.

Ms. Bell asked how do we get our students on a schedule and handle the at-risk students. Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Charles Perkins plan to structure the day and take attendance in PowerSchool and/or Virtual Learning format. Teams will be needed to make contact with those students not in class. Zoom will be available by phone to get instruction to students. Dr. Perkins stated each teacher will have 300 student slots in their zoom account for student participation. Dr. Stephanie Ellis stated a team of specialist will be working with each administrator to check on and identify students and take referrals from teachers of at-risk students. She stated that March thru June the district had 1600 students with special needs of contact. She stated last year 515 students were identified for counseling and safety plans. There will be plans for regular check-in for those students the district has identified as having needs for counseling. Teachers working on zoom will be monitoring students also for social/emotional check-ins in order to get the students the help they need.

Mr. Isley asked where is the district with addressing social distancing on buses. Dr. Ellis stated the district is required 1 student per seat (with siblings allowed to sit together) allowing for 24 students per bus.

Ms. McMichael asked if teachers can start the day on time with only 24 students arriving per bus. Mr. Duane Hensley stated transportation is current compiling a list of A Day students and B Day students based on the riders from last year. The routes will be made from that information. He stated the bus routes were developed for Dillard Academy and the regular school schedule worked out for those needing bus transportation.

Mr. Wyatt asked how long it would take to develop the bus routes. Mr. Hensley stated the process is labor intensive and will take several weeks.

Ms. McMichael asked if the Governor said school districts will be held harmless. Dr. Shotwell stated that has not been made clear at this time.

Mr. Wyatt asked Dr. Shotwell what do the principals say they want for the return to school. Dr. Shotwell stated the principals want to start back on Plan C, with 5 additional weeks of remote start, to implement Plan B in September. Dillard Academy is currently remote and would like 5 additional weeks, with 9 weeks total remote.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve to open the traditional schools on Plan C for five weeks and include Dillard Academy for five weeks additional remote (for a total of 9 weeks for Dillard Academy) making remote learning for all schools through September 18, 2020 as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 6/1. Ms. McMichael voted opposed.

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

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent

August 10, 2020