

**ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Central Administrative Offices**  
**511 Harrington Highway**  
**Eden, NC 27288**  
**May 11, 2020**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Virtual Meeting Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

The public viewed the meeting via Live Stream on the links 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, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley and Ms. Amanda Bell. 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 Financial 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Rakestraw announced the next work session of the Board of Education is scheduled at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 28, 2020. This will be a virtual meeting with live stream for the public.

Ms. Rakestraw announced the regular board meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 8, 2020. This will be a virtual meeting with live stream for the public.

Ms. Rakestraw announced there is a Special Called Meeting of the Board of Education scheduled at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, 2020. This will be a virtual meeting with live stream for the public. This is for the purpose of finalizing year end budget amendments.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Board had a moment of silence, remembering Board Member Mr. Wayne Kirkman for his longstanding service to the Board of Education and sympathy to the family for their loss.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member Mr. Brent Huss led the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Ms. Connie Reynolds – Ms. Reynolds addressed the Board regarding the overcrowding at South End Elementary School. She is opposed to moving students to Reidsville Middle School. Ms. Reynolds is in favor of temporary/mod pods being placed at the school to house the extra needed classrooms and keeping all students on the same school campus.

## BOARD COMMENTS

1. Mr. Isley commended the staff and teachers to meet the challenges brought by COVID-19 and the virtual instruction. He thanked Dr. Stephanie Ellis on the updates she had provided to the Board.
2. Ms. McMichael thanked Dr. Stephanie Ellis for the updates on COVID-19 and the stay at home order, etc. Ms. McMichael thanked the teachers that quickly met the challenges to teach. She stated she wanted to let all the seniors know the Board Members are thinking of them.
3. Ms. Rakestraw stated she wanted to also thank all the staff that were working to get things done. She thanked the parents and students to make the learning work at home for students.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Rakestraw presented the consent agenda items for approval:

- Consent Approval – Board of Education meeting minutes for approval:
  - April 20, 2020 – Open Session Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Consent Approval – School Accident Insurance and Athletic Insurance Coverage – Ms. Annie Ellis
- Consent Approval – Budget Amendments – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 1-A)
- Consent Approval – Gifts, Grants and Donations – Dr. Rodney Shotwell
- Consent Approval – Time Change for May 28, 2020 Work Session – Dr. Rodney Shotwell

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the consent items as presented. Mr. Huss seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Approval – Proposed 2020-2021 Budget:

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding approval for the Proposed 2020-2021 Request Budget. Ms. Ellis presented the 2020-2021 Proposed Request Budget for board approval.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Mr. Huss for comments. Mr. Huss stated the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our country and our county. He stated he is concerned about the impact it will have on our local government and the tax revenue that will be decreased. He stated home schooling may increase which will determine more budget cuts are needed. He stated he does not think this is the time to propose raises in the proposed budget of: \$2000 for the Superintendent, pay increase for the Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendents and Central Office Directors. Mr. Huss stated he will not vote for the raise increases including the Chief Financial Officer and recommended that line item 2.6950.801.153 be reduced by 50%.

Dr. Shotwell stated those raise increases were budgeted with the state increase of 1-2% for the upcoming budget. Dr. Shotwell stated if the state does not allocate the raises they will not go into place for those non-certified employees anyway.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Bell for comments. Ms. Bell stated the classified step increase and the teacher supplement increase are line items in the proposed budget as well that should be placed on hold until the state budget can be determined.

Ms. Ellis stated the Board is required to take a Proposed Request Budget to the County Commissioners by May 15, 2020.

Dr. Shotwell stated the district can take the current Proposed Request Budget to the County Commissioners with the comments as stated by the Board.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Mr. Isley for comments. Mr. Isley stated there is over \$98,000 in bonuses for Central Office employees in the proposed budget. He stated he was concerned over that number prior to the COVID-19 budget. He stated he is in support of removing all the non-contractual bonuses from the budget. Mr. Isley later stated he wanted non-contractual bonuses removed from the budget and included in the motion made by Mr. Huss.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Mr. Wyatt for comments. Mr. Wyatt stated that when the Board presents the proposed budget to the County Commissioners, the line items discussed be taken out of the Proposed Request Budget.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Board Attorney Mr. Herman for comments. Mr. Herman stated the Board may have a state budget to approve in October. However, several things could happen between now and then. The Board can direct Ms. Ellis to remove line items and send the Proposed Request Budget to the County Commissioners.

Action: Mr. Huss moved that the Board approve the Proposed Request Budget for 2020-2021 with the exceptions as stated: \$2000 pay increase for the Superintendent, raise increase for the Human Resources Director, raise increases for the Assistant Superintendents combined, raise increase for the Chief Financial Officer, raise increases for the Central Office Directors and all central office raises, all non-contractual bonus payments; include the recommendation that line item 2.6950.801.153 be reduced by 50%. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 5/1. Ms. Bell voted opposed.

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Bell for comments. Ms. Bell made a motion.

Action: Ms. Bell moved that the Board approve the Proposed Request Budget for 2020-2021, removing the line items for the classified employee step increase and the supplemental increase for teachers. There was no second. The motion failed.

**Approval – Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Program (RSCELHSP) Selection Criteria 2020-2021:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Ms. Rhonda Jumper, Director of Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Program, presenting the Selection Criteria for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Jumper stated the Selection Criteria must weigh the prioritization of participants based on the following: family income, homelessness, foster care, migrant, student age, and special needs in which the child may be eligible for special education and related services as determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and, other relevant family or child risk factors. Additionally, Ms. Jumper stated the program must develop at the beginning of each enrollment year and maintain a waiting list during the year that ranks children according to the Rockingham County Head Start Program Selection Criteria.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Rockingham County Board of Education approve the Selection Criteria for the Rockingham County Schools Early Learning Head Start Program for the 2020-21 school year on May 11, 2020 as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0 in favor of the motion.

**Approval – 2019-2020 Head Start Non-Federal Waiver Request Approval:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran and Ms. Rhonda Jumper, Head Start Director, for comments regarding the 2019-2020 Head Start Non-Federal Waiver Request. Dr. Corcoran stated reasons for the Non-Federal Waiver Request were necessary. Dr. Corcoran noted that the school district had been notified that the one-time supplement that they requested in August of 2019 was approved on May 5, 2020. With the short notice, she also wanted their approval for the one-time supplement waiver request. She cited the following three reasons for the waiver request and one-time supplement:

1. Lack of community resources which may prevent Head Start from providing all of a portion of the non-federal contribution that may be required
2. Whether the Head Start agency is located in a community adversely affected by a major disaster (COVID-19)
3. Impact on community that would result if the Head Start agency ceased to carry out such a program

Dr. Corcoran stated the federal share required for the 2019-2020 grant cycle was \$420,508 and for the one-time supplement it was \$26,148.

Dr. Corcoran stated the projected non-federal share for the 2019-2020 grant cycle was \$200,000 and the 2019-2020 supplement was \$0.

Dr. Corcoran stated the projected non-federal share waiver requested for the 2019-2020 grant cycle was \$220,508 and for the one-time supplement \$26,138.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board approve the 2019-2020 Non-Federal Waiver Request for the 2019-2020 grant cycle and the 2019-2020 one-time supplement as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0 in favor of the motion.

**Approval – COLA Budget Justification:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran for comments regarding the COLA narrative and budget justification. Dr. Corcoran presented to the Board of Education the COLA amount of \$33,707 which included a 2% salary increase for the Head Start staff and fringe benefits. The amount remaining of \$9327 which they placed in the line item of vehicle fuel. Dr. Corcoran explained to the Board that with new grants there was the opportunity to apply for the waivers for the non-federal share.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board of Education approve the COLA Budget as presented with the non-federal share waiver. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0 in favor of the motion.

**Approval – Quality Improvement Budget Justification:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Cindy Corcoran for comments regarding the Quality Improvement Budget Justification. Dr. Corcoran presented to the Board of Education the Quality Improvement amount of \$55,000. Ms. Jumper, Head Start Director, discussed the needs for classrooms supplies for teachers in the area of Conscious Discipline for the amount of \$5015. Dr. Stephanie Ellis spoke to the Board regarding training in the area of Community Resilience Model Training and Extended Learning Contracts for the amount of \$38,805. Dr. Corcoran spoke regarding travel for the Leadership Team for the 2021 Southeastern Behavioral Health Conference for the amount of \$8,000. For the area of Family and Community Outreach, the amount of \$3,180 was presented. The grand total for the budget is \$55,000 with Dr. Corcoran asked the Board to approve the waiver of the Non-Federal Share with this budget.

Action: Ms. McMichael moved that the Board of Education approve the Quality Improvement Budget as presented with the non-federal share waiver. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0 in favor of the motion.

**Approval – North Carolina State Board of Education Board Proposal for Grading Students Needing Local Board of Education Approval:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for comments regarding the State Board of Education proposed grading for students. Dr. Perkins stated the Department of Public Instruction has provided guidance on how students should be graded and assessed due to the COVID-19 school closures. Dr. Perkins presented the one-page summary of the procedures approved and adopted by the State Board of Education (Attachment 2-A). Dr. Perkins stated March 13 will serve as a last day of school with no students receiving a failing grade. Dr. Perkins stated grades K-5 will not receive a final grade, with teachers providing a year-end written feedback for the student based on their learning this school year. Dr. Perkins stated grades 6-8 will receive a final course grade of PC19 (Pass) or WC19 (Withdraw), with teachers providing a year-end written feedback for students based on their learning this school year. Dr. Perkins stated WC19 does not mean the student failed the course. However, it does mean there is a lack of evidence the student mastered the course standards. The middle school students enrolled in high school courses will follow grading options as listed: students will receive course credit but the grade will not be counted in the GPA calculation. Dr. Perkins stated high school students in grades 9-11 and non-graduating seniors will choose how each final course grade will appear on their transcript for the currently enrolled courses, year-long and semester courses. Students will be contacted regarding their choice. Dr. Perkins stated if they cannot be reached, they can make a choice after the school buildings reopen.

High Schools Grades 9-11 Options:

Option 1:

- Report the numeric grade, their highest grade representing either their learning as of March 13 or as improved through the semester as remote learning continued
- Student will receive course credit
- The numeric grade and quality points for each course will be used to calculate GPA

Option 2:

- Report a PC19 or WC19
- Students opting out to receive a PC19 will receive course credit
- WC19 received no course credit but students could take advantage of future credit recovery or repeating a course for credit

Dr. Perkins stated student promotion will remain the decision of the school principal and staff. Dr. Perkins requested board approval for the adoption of the end-of-year grading and student promotion guidelines per the N.C. State Board of Education.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the adoption of the grading guidance for students adopted by the NC State Board of Education as presented. Ms. McMichael seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

**Approval – Interim Board Member Appointment for District 3 Seat – Term Expiring 2020:**

Ms. Rakestraw stated according to Board Policy 2020 the Board may nominate a person for the vacant board member seat in District 3. Ms. McMichael nominated Ms. Vickie McKinney. Board Attorney Nick Herman stated the Board does not have to take any action to replace the District 3 seat at this time. The Board determined to leave the seat vacant at this time.

**Approval – Rockingham Community College Board of Trustees Re-Appointment of Thomas R. Schoolfield:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding reappointment of Mr. Schoolfield to the RCC Board of Trustees. Dr. Shotwell stated the Board had received a recommendation for the reappointment of Mr. Thomas R. Schoolfield to the Rockingham Community College Board of Trustees for a new term beginning July 1, 2020 and expiring June 30, 2024.

Action: Mr. Huss moved that the Board approve the reappointment of Mr. Thomas (Tom) R. Schoolfield to the RCC Board of Trustees as presented. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0.

## REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

**RCS 2020 Graduation Update:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for a report on graduation. Dr. Perkins stated the survey results from each of the high school regarding the senior's choice of graduation was successful. Approximately 63% of the senior class participated in the survey. Dr. Perkins stated Reidsville High may need an additional week to determine what the seniors/parents want. Dr. Perkins stated Saturday, May 30 was determined as the date for the senior parade ceremonies with a rain date of May 31. The Board agreed to allow additional time for Reidsville High to determine their decision.

**South End Elementary School Survey Results:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding South End Elementary School survey results. Dr. Parks stated principal Hunter Smothers is present to make comments. Mr. Smothers stated the staff had reached out to parents to make sure the survey was completed. Dr. Parks reviewed options as listed below.

Option 1 – Move the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to Reidsville Middle School – Survey results revealed 87% not in favor of this option

Option @ - Redistrict South End to Monroeton – 72% was not in favor of this option

Option 3 – Modular Units placed at South End – Survey results revealed 76% were in favor of this option Dr. Parks sated there were 258 survey responses from the community. Dr. Shotwell stated he will communicate with area Superintendents to locate 2 double-wide units to place at South End. Dr. Shotwell was directed to obtain the cost and availability of 2 double-wide units and a timeframe to have a land use study completed.

**Superintendent Evaluation Timeline:**

Ms. Rakestraw presented the timeline for the Superintendent’s evaluation as listed below.

July 13, 2020 - Board Meeting - Board Members will receive the Superintendent Evaluation packet for them to complete individually.

July 31, 2020 - Board Members return their completed Superintendent Evaluation packet to the Board Chair. The Board Chair and Vice Chair will review the submissions and prepare the summary for the Board Members.

August 10, 2020 - Board meeting - The Board will hold a Closed Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

**Superintendent’s Report / COVID 19 – Re-entry Plan:**

Ms. Rakestraw recognized Dr. Shotwell and Dr. Stephanie Ellis for a report on the COVID-19 Emergency Preparation and Response Plan. A powerpoint presentation was presented to cover areas listed below (Attachment 3-A).

- RCS COVID-19 Plan Phases
- Understanding the Crisis: COVID 19
- RCS COVID-19 Crisis Resources and Updates
- RCS COVID-19 Re-entry and Recovery Safety Framework
- Stay at Home Order in Effect thru at least May 8, 2020
- North Carolina Phase One, Phase Two and Phase Three Plans
- A Re-Entry Team is needed for RCS – RCS will work to match the district to the Governor’s phases as issued
- RCS wants to be thoughtful in approach for the safety of students, staff and families
- Re-Entry Work Groups Formed
- Staff survey will be given to all staff to get feedback

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

**OPEN SESSION**

Action: Mr. Isley moved to return to open session, seconded by Ms. Bell. The vote was 6/0.

**Personnel Report:**

**Employments**

—Administration

—Licensed

—Classified

**Transfers**

—Administrative

—Licensed

—Classified

**Retirements:**

—Administrative

—Licensed

Marti Hyatt  
Effective 7/1/20  
Beth Poplin  
Effective 7/1/20  
Jeffrey Roberts  
Effective 7/1/20  
Diane Thomas  
Effective 7/1/20  
Jan Wheless  
Effective 7/1/20

—**Classified**

Betty Dishmon  
Effective 7/1/20  
Debra Haskins  
Effective 6/1/20

**Resignations:**

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Jocelyn Anderson  
Effective 6/12/20  
Laura Meszaros  
Effective 6/12/20  
Deborah Motley  
Effective 6/12/20  
Sara Riggs  
Effective 6/12/20  
Kyrstyn Turner  
Effective 6/12/20  
Darnell Wilson  
Effective 6/12/20

—**Classified**

Justin Cunningham  
Effective 5/5/20  
Angela Hood  
Effective 6/12/20  
Jennifer Shelton  
Effective 6/12/20

**Terminations:**

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

**Leave Requests:**

None

Action: Mr. Isley moved to accept the **amended personnel report** as presented, seconded by Ms. Bell. The vote was 6/0.

Action: Ms. Bell moved to accept the **2020-2021 Probationary Teacher List** as presented, seconded by Mr. Huss. The vote was 6/0. (Attachment)

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

Minutes read and approved:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Rodney Shotwell  
Superintendent of Schools

June 8, 2020