

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
September 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Present: Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair and Ms. Vicki Alston, Vice Chair. Board Members: Ms. Paula Rakestraw, Mr. Brent Huss, Mr. Doug Isley, Ms. Vickie McKinney and Mr. Bob Wyatt. 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; Dr. Ken Scott, Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Annie Ellis, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Nick Herman, Board Attorney and Ms. Renee Everhart, Board Assistant were present.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. McMichael called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board members stated their names. Seven members were present at roll call. Mr. Huss was on the call-in number for the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. McMichael announced the September Work Session is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

Ms. McMichael announced the next regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Bishop William Phillips from Fountain of Youth Church, Madison, N.C. gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Mr. Bob Wyatt led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Isley moved that the Board amend the agenda, removing action item 7.4 Capital Funding Package for RCS Facilities to the September Work Session; also, removing action item 7.6 Attendance Incentive for Teachers to the September Work Session. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / BOARD COMMENTS

Public Comments:

1. Miguel Clark
2. Mary Ryan
3. Tru Young
4. Ron Price
5. Jennifer Vyhnanek
6. Kelly Janey

Board Comments:

Ms. Rakestraw commented that Covid has taken the focus from education. Ms. Rakestraw commented a policy committee should review the HB324 that the Board will not promote those concepts.

Mr. Isley stated the Board is following the toolkit guidelines provided. The Board is not dictating but is doing what is required by Raleigh. He stated virtual learning is offered for fourth thru eighth grades. He stated the staff sets the curriculum, not the Board.

Ms. Alston stated she attended the Reidsville dedication and memorial at the Fire Department. She stated the Teacher of the Year for District 1 is Mr. William Bradshaw from Reidsville High School.

Ms. McMichael thanked the County Commissioners for the Workforce Development Program. She stated she has confirmed the school district does have a position on the EDC but no one had been appointed or contacted to fill the position by the EDC.

CONSENT ITEMS

Presented consent items for Board consideration:

1. Approval Consent Items – Consent Personnel: Additions to the Substitutes List for: child nutrition, bus driver, bus monitors, teacher substitutes, Head Start Program substitutes and SACC early childhood substitutes list for 2021-2022.
2. Approval Consent Item – Gifts, Grants and Donations – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 1-A)
3. Approval Consent Item – Adoption of Board Policies – Dr. Cindy Corcoran (Attachment 2-A)
4. Approval Consent Item – Board of Education Meeting Minutes for approval:
 - August 9, 2021 – Open Session Board Meeting Minutes
 - August 30, 2021– Open Session Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - August 31, 2021 – Open Session Joint Meeting with Commissioners Meeting Minutes

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

Bus Driver Substitute List:

None

Bus Monitor Substitute List:

None

Child Nutrition Substitute List:

None

SACC/Early Childhood Center Substitute List:

Hannah James

Terry York

Substitute Teacher List:

Courtney Benton

Casey Crawford

Audrey Lovelace

Substitute Head Start Teacher List:

Dayunta Lane

Christian Sutton

ACTION ITEMS

Approval – North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) Raleigh Dingman Award Nominee:

Ms. McMichael stated a nomination is needed from the Board for the NCSBA Annual Raleigh Dingman Award for the upcoming Annual Conference in November.

Action: Ms. McKinney moved that the Board nominate Mr. Bob Wyatt for the NCSBA Raleigh Dingman Awards. Ms. Alston. seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – NCSBA Annual Conference Voting Delegate Appointees (Need 4 Delegates and 1 Alternate from the Board):

Ms. McMichael stated four voting delegates are needed from the Board to attend the NCSBA Annual Conference November 11-13, 2021 in Greensboro.

Action: Ms. McKinney moved that the Board name the four voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference as; Ms. Rakestraw, Mr. Isley, Mr., Wyatt and Ms. McMichael. Ms. Alston will act as an alternate delegate. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – RFQ to Secure a Design-Build Contractor for HVAC and Related Improvements:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding face mask policy. Dr. Shotwell stated per Session Law 2021/130Senate Bill 654, Part X requires the Board to take action with a vote for face mask requirements from Option I or Option 2. (Attachment 4-A).

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board continue with Option 2 that masks are required for students and staff while indoors. Ms. Rakestraw seconded the motion. The vote was 4/3. The motion passed. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted opposed to the motion.

Approval – Capital Funding Package for RCS Facilities:

This item was moved to the September Work Session.,

Approval – Review Face Masks Policy per Session Law Requirement:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell. Dr. Shotwell stated per Session Law 2021-130/Senate Bill 654, Part X the board is required to take action with a vote regarding Option I or Option 2 on the face masks policy for students and staff (Attachment 4-A).

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board continue with Option 2 to require facemasks for all students and staff as listed in Option 2. Ms. Rakestraw seconded the motion. The vote was 4/3. The motion passed. Mr. Huss, Mr. Isley and Ms. McMichael voted opposed.

Attendance Incentive for Teachers:

This item was moved to the September Work Session.,

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Requests for Funds for Installation of Mobile Two-Way Radio Communications Systems for RCS School Transportation Department:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks and Mr. Cris Cox. Dr. Parks and Mr. Cox presented a plan to implement installation of Mobile Two-Way Radio Communication System for RCS School Transportation Department. They stated the real time communication system is needed for the school bus drivers. They stated the district would partner with Rodney Cates, Director of Emergency Services to access their facilities, equipment and hardware. This would allow the school system significant savings by allowing access to the County's 911 tower and antennas. The purchase for equipment would be prices on state contracting pricing levels.

Operations and Logistics Report:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for the Operations Department Report. Dr. Parks presented a powerpoint with the Operations and Logistics Report s as listed.

- Western Tennis Courts update
- Morehead Media Center
- McMichael Media Center Renovations
- Roof Replacements Update
- WRMS 6th Grade Building Roof
- Reidsville High School Crow’s Nest
- Six New Replacement Buses added to the RCS Fleet
- Student Bus Ridership Week – September 13-17, 2021
- Now Hiring School Bus Drivers
- Moo Brew – Iced Coffee being offered at the high schools
- Now Hiring School Nutrition Workers

Approval – RCS Cares About Your Safety – COVID-19 Updates:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Stephanie Ellis for comments regarding the RCS Cares About Your Safety - Back to School Safety Updates. Dr. Ellis presented a powerpoint covering items as listed.

- RCS Guide to the Safe Return to Learn is on the RCS website at www.rock.k12.nc.us
- Current Public Health Guidance
- NCDHHS Quarantine Requirements
- Covid – 19 Flow Chart for Students Wearing Masks
- Covid – 19 Flow Chart for Students and Staff Not Wearing Masks
- RCS Covid-19 Case Count Report
- Covid-19 Testing Options for Families

T-Mobile Project:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Kacey Sensenich for the report on T-Mobile Project. Ms. Sensenich reported the T-Mobile Project is \$10.7 million aimed at delivering internet connectivity to millions of underserved student households at no cost to them. There will be an offer of low-cost data options, including unlimited data. Students will receive a free hotspot and unlimited high-speed data. The students will keep the device until graduation or leaving the county. The cost to the school district will be at no cost. RCS will use Federal ESSER funds.

Board Chair Announcements:

There were no announcements.

The Board took a 10-minute break.

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)(5) (6) to maintain confidentiality and attorney client privilege, discuss personnel and property matters according to state law. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

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

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—Administration

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

Patricia Bray
Effective 9/20/21
Timothy Mabe
Effective 8/30/21
Joyce Thomas
Effective 9/20/21
Jennifer Vaughan
Effective 9/20/21

TERMINATIONS:

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

TRANSFERS:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Donna Henley
Effective 9/7/21

—**Classified**

Mercedes Cox
Effective 9/20/21
Sidney Daniels
Effective 9/13/21
Christine Duncan
Effective 9/8/21
Tara Edwards
Effective 9/13/21
Abigail Epling
Effective 9/13/21
Dewey Smith
Effective 9/30/21
Nikki Anderson
Effective 8/30/21
Michael Black
Effective 8/23/21
Hannah Bullins
Effective 8/23/21
Jill Pearman
Effective 9/7/21

Resignations:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

Kayla Biggs
Effective 9/17/21
Dionza Bolden
Effective 9/23/21
Caroline Leach
Effective 8/19/21
Margaret McCann
Effective 9/17/21
Barbara Williams
Effective 9/17/21

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Frieda Strickland
Effective 9/1/21
Wardie Hunnings
Effective 11/1/21

—**Classified**
Connie Strader
Effective 10/1/21
Leave Requests:
None

Action: Mr. Isley moved to accept the personnel and addendum report as presented, seconded by Ms. Rakestraw.
The vote was 7/0.

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

Minutes read and approved:

Ms. Kimberly McMichael, Board Chair
Rockingham County Board of Education

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

October 11, 2021