

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Central Administrative Offices
511 Harrington Highway
Eden, NC 27288
October 11, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. McMichael announced the October Work Session is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 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, November 8, 2021 at the Central Administrative Offices, 511 Harrington Highway, Eden, NC.

MOMENT OF PRAYER

Reverend Peter Dodge from Reidsville Alliance Church in Reidsville, N.C. gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Huss moved that the Board amend the agenda, moving Closed Session to be item 5.3. Mr. Isley seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Mr. Isley moved that the Board amend the agenda, to table consent item 6.4 – Adoption of Board Policy. Ms. Rakestraw seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / BOARD COMMENTS

Public Comments:

1. Mary Ryan
2. Diane Parnell
3. Ron Price
4. Bobby Stanley
5. Rachel Hayes
6. Caitlyn Hayes

Board Comments:

Mr. Wyatt stated the County Commissioners met recently at Stoneville and he appreciates the good working relations between the Commissioners and the Board of Education. Mr. Wyatt shared information on the School of Math and Science, stating 11th and 12th grade students should consider application to the school. Mr. Wyatt stated we are seeing the decline of Covid and thanked all employees of the school district for their work.

Ms. Alston stated the workshop help by Dr. Stephanie Ellis was excellent. Ms. Alston stated NCDPI named Rockingham County Schools as a model for other districts during their district site-visit today.

Ms. Rakestraw thanked Western Rockingham Middle School for their work on the outdoor classroom-learning environment. She thanked the students that spoke during public comments.

Mr. Huss thanked the County Commissioners and City Manager for all their work. He stated he was sick a few weeks ago and thanked Dr. Sonja Parks, Dr. Cindy Corcoran, Dr. Charles Perkins and Dr. Stephanie Ellis for their support during his illness. He stated he is thankful to live in Rockingham County.

Mr. Isley stated the Board is appreciative of Mr. Huss and that he is an asset to the Board of Education. He stated it is important to him that the public have the time and freedom to speak at board meetings. Mr. Isley stated the Board appreciates Dr. Stephanie Ellis and congratulated her on her site visit with NCDPI naming Rockingham County Schools a model district.

Ms. McKinney thanked Dr. Stephanie Ellis and her team for their work and being recognized by NCDPI. She stated Dr. Ellis is a real asset to Rockingham County Schools.

Ms. McMichael congratulated Dr. Rodney Shotwell for being named the Bob McRae 2021 Superintendent of the Year by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. She congratulated Mr. Russell Vernon for being named the Rockingham County Schools Principal of the Year. She congratulated Ms. Tameka Goods for being named the Rockingham County Schools Assistant Principal of the Year. Ms. McMichael stated there is a Gentlemen’s Club that provides mentoring on etiquette and social skills. If anyone is interested, she will be glad to share the information with them. Ms. McMichael thanked student Caitlyn Hayes for speaking on vandalism in our schools during public comments.

The Board took a ten 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)(2) (5) to maintain confidentiality and attorney client privilege, discuss matters related to facilities and property and personnel 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 Mr. Wyatt. The vote was 7/0.

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Employments:

—Administration

—Licensed

Ashgar Googerdy

Effective 10/4/21

—Classified

Stephen Pickard

Effective 10/4/21

Jillian Pruitt

Effective 10/4/21

Stephanie Wright

Effective 10/25/21

TERMINATIONS:

—**Licensed**

—**Classified**

TRANSFERS:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Victoria Cross

Effective 10/18/21

—**Classified**

Michael Fox

Effective 10/18/21

Jill Jackson

Effective 9/27/21

Vickie Nelson

Effective 9/28/21

Leroy Snipes

Effective 9/7/21

Resignations:

—**Administration**

—**Licensed**

Kelly Ingram

Effective 10/29/21

Jennifer Dolschenko

Effective 11/4/21

—**Classified**

Retirements:

—**Administrative**

—**Licensed**

Susan Carter

Effective 11/1/21

—**Classified**

Leave Requests:

None

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved to accept the personnel report as presented, seconded by Ms. Alston.

The vote was 5/2. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted opposed.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved to approve the settlement agreement in Trex Properties versus Rockingham County Schools No. 3:21-CV-458, U.S. District Court, Western District, North Carolina and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement. Ms.

Rakestraw seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

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 2020-2021.
2. Approval Consent Item – Gifts, Grants and Donations – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 1-A)
3. Approval Consent Item – Purchase of Equipment, Materials and Supplies Exceeding \$75,000 (Board Policy 6430) – Ms. Annie Ellis (Attachment 2-A)
4. ~~Approval Consent Item – Adoption of Board Policy – Dr. Cindy Coreoran~~ – Item was removed on amended agenda.
5. Approval Consent Item - Board of Education Meeting Minutes for approval:
 - September 13, 2021 – Open Session Board Meeting Minutes
 - September 27, 2021 – Open Session Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - August 20, 2021 – Emergency Meeting Minutes

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the consent items, removing item 6.4 – Board Policy, as presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 5/2. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted opposed.

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 – Extended Interim Budget Resolution through November 30, 2021:

Ms. McMichael recognized Ms. Annie Ellis for comments regarding the interim budget resolution. Ms. Ellis presented the extended interim budget resolution through November 30, 2021 for board approval (Attachment 3-A). Ms. Ellis requested board approval for the interim budget resolution.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the interim budget resolution through November 30, 2021 as presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 5/2. Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted in opposition.

Approval – Employee Retention Bonus Plan:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the employee retention funding plan. Dr. Shotwell presented the employee retention funding plan for board consideration (Attachment 4-A). Dr. Shotwell stated the plan would include all employees of the school district that are permanent full-time or permanent part-time to receive a one-time retention payment of \$250 in his or her December 2021 paycheck. Dr. Shotwell stated the funding would be paid from the incentive funds of \$500,000 discussed at the September work session, pending approval from the Federal Programs Division of NCDPI.

Action: Ms. Alston moved that the Board approve the one-time payment to all district employees of \$250 in the December paycheck for the employee retention plan as presented. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion. The vote was 6/0. (Mr. Huss was not present on this vote.)

Approval – Request for Funds to Install Mobile Two-Way Radio Communications System for Rockingham County Schools Transportation Department:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the request for funds for two-way radio communication system. Dr. Parks presented a formal request for funding of the installation of a two-way radio communication system for the Transportation Department of the Rockingham County Schools Transportation Department for \$401,345.38 for the purchase and installation of new Motorola digital two-way radio communication system.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the request for funds for purchase and installation of the two-way radio system for \$401,345.38 as presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

Approval – Capital Funding Request for Restricted Sales Tax for RCS Facilities:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Sonja Parks for comments regarding the request for capital funding for restricted sales tax. Dr. Parks presented for board review and board approval \$3,267,000.00 from the Restricted Sales Tax Fund. Dr. Parks presented a prioritized listing of pressing capital needs for the district. (Attachment 5-A).

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board approve the request for \$3,267,000 from restricted sales tax fund for the use of capital projects as presented. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was 6/1. Mr. Isley voted opposed.

Approval – Review Face Masks Policy Per Session Law Requirement:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Shotwell for comments regarding the review of the face masks policy. Dr. Shotwell stated per Session Law 2021-130/Senate Bill 654, Part X, the school district is required to review and vote on the face mask policy. Dr. Shotwell stated Option I moves to make masks optional for indoors for students and staff. Dr. Shotwell stated Option 2 moves that face masks are required for students and staff while indoors. Dr. Shotwell requested board approval on Option I or Option 2 as stated.

Action: Mr. Wyatt moved that the Board adopt Option 2 that face masks are required for students and staff while indoors. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 4/3. Ms. McMichael, Mr. Isley and Mr. Huss voted opposed.

Approval – School Fees:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for comments regarding the school fees. Dr. Perkins presented the summary of student fees for the school district (Attachment 6-A). Dr. Perkins requested board approval of the student fees.

Action: Ms. Rakestraw moved that the Board approve the student fees as presented. Ms. Alston seconded the motion. The vote was 7/0.

REPORTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Improvement Plans:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for a report regarding the 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans. Dr. Perkins presented the 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans for board review. He stated the plans would be presented for board approval at the November Board Meeting.

Strategic Plan:

Ms. McMichael recognized Dr. Charles Perkins for an update on the Strategic Plan. Dr. Perkins presented the first draft of the RCS 2021-22 RCS Strategic Plan. He stated the committee has identified six indicators in the NC STAR platform to focus on in this cycle. Dr. Perkins stated all updates would be listed on the RCS Strategic Plan Website, provided at www.rock.k12.nc.us, found under About RCS section. Dr. Perkins stated subcommittees are finalizing portions of the plan. Dr. Perkins stated the final plan would be presented for board approval at the November board meeting.

Board Chair Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Action: Mr. Isley moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rakestraw. The vote was 7/0. (At 8:03 p.m.)

Minutes read and approved:

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

Dr. Rodney Shotwell
Superintendent of Schools

November 8, 2021