

Richmond County Schools

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Richmond County Board of Education Meeting February 7, 2012

HAMLET – The Richmond County Board of Education met at 7:00 p.m. on February 7, 2012 at the Richmond County Schools' Central Office in Hamlet. Ed Ormsby was absent.

SCHOOL REPORT – RICHMOND COUNTY TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL

Susan Brigman, Principal of Richmond County Transitional School presented a school report to the Board Members. Cherie Young, CTE Teacher, at the school presented on PBIS (Positive Behavior and Intervention Support). As a team, teacher met and developed a matrix for the school that focuses on expectations and rules for each area of the school. Each student was provided with a copy of the matrix at the beginning of the school year. Now, students receive incentives for good behavior. Implementing the PBIS program has increased enthusiasm among students, and the staff has noted positive gains in attendance, behavior and grades. Brigman shared that only 30 percent of students have missed more than 10 days of school, down from 75 percent last year, Fifty percent of students have missed less than five days of school.

Brigman also explained that she implemented a new academic schedule, in which her students now enroll in one core class for 30 days, paired with a 90 minute elective course. Under this model, students focus on one subject area at a time. Brigman and her staff conducted a student survey to get feedback on the new schedule. Ninety-five percent of the students feel the new schedule is working for them as a learner. Brigman shared that she believes as a result of the changes, and the gains that students have made so far, the school is on track to make high growth this year, and meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets.

NEW COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS – MATHEMATICS PRESENTATION

Dr. Michael Perry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Debbie Wrenn, K-12 Curriculum Director, presented on Common Core Mathematics Standards to the Board members. Each grade span includes a set of content standards along with eight standards for Mathematical practice that cross grade levels. The new standards are in full implementation in grades K-2 in Richmond County Schools. Teachers in grades 3-12 are in the process of unpacking the new standards, determining what classroom instruction will look like. The Standards specify what students must be taught to be college and career ready. Standards no longer listed by course, but by conceptual categories. Currently, the High School mathematics in RCS has students following the sequence of taking Algebra I, followed by Geometry, and Algebra II. Other districts in the state had already transitioned to an integrated approach, under which students took the following math course sequence of Integrated Math I, Integrated math II, and Integrated math III.

Under the new standards, Richmond County Schools will offer the following sequence to students in high school math, Common Core Math I, Common Core Math II, Common Core Math III.

All students will be assessed in the first year high school math course, i.e. Common Core Math I. The second and third courses in the sequence will prepare student for ACT, and national SBAC assessment in the 11th grade. Again, the Common Core math standards will be fully implemented during 12-13 school year. The district has developed a sequencing model that addresses what each student will take beginning with students who are currently in the sixth grade. This information will need to be shared with students and parents so that they understand the transition to Common Core.

The Common Core is designed students learn better because subjects are not taught in isolation. Each sequence builds on the previous instruction. The goal is to see more students to get further along in mathematics, and take higher level math courses to prepare them for college and careers.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Jami Graham, Professional Development Director, presented the RCS Spelling Bee Winner, Nicholas Vincett, 8th grader at Rohanen Middle School, to the Board. Vincett won the Spelling Bee held at the Cole Auditorium on January 27, and will compete in the Regional Spelling Bee sponsored by the Charlotte Observer.
- Pam Easterling presented concerns about the Uniform Policy. Easterling discussed revisions to the Board policy which were previously approved by the Board during their June 2011 meeting. Easterling expressed her concern about allowing students to wear flip-flops to school. She presented to the Board her recommendation that flip-flops be prohibited by the policy, Dr. Irene Aiken agreed that flip-flops need to be removed. After discussion, several Board members suggested referring the recommendation to the standing uniform committee made up of principals, a board member, and parents, to have them present a recommendation to the board on the change. Joe Richardson made the motion recommending issue back to the uniform committee, Irene Aiken seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Steve Lear, Testing and Accountability Director, presented a report on EOC Testing, which he explained will not be official report until finalized by the state department of public instruction. The report also only provides the unofficial results for students who tested during the fall semester. Four EOC tests were eliminated by the state, another factor influencing the results, Biology is also transitioning to a different grade level, so the number of students tested in that subject was affected as well. Lear shared comparison between scores for the past three years from the fall semesters. The assessments that were eliminated were subjects that RCS students generally tested well in, such as Algebra II. At the end of the year, when all students have tested, it will be difficult for the high schools to achieve at the same level they did last year, given the subjects that were eliminated. It will be difficult to compare next year's results with this year's results.
- Dr. Robert Beck, Associate Superintendent, presented the 2012-13 RCS and Richmond Early College calendars for a thirty day study. The RCS calendar proposes starting school on August 27, and ending school on June 10. The Richmond Early College Calendar proposes students begin school on August 7 with school ending on May 22. Unless the General Assembly modifies the calendar law these dates will likely stand. The Calendars will be posted on the website for the public's view, along with the opportunity to submit feedback. The Board will hear any further recommendations, and take action on the calendars during the March Board meeting.
- Dr. Beck presented a field trip for Richmond Senior High School for the board's approval.
- Dr. Norris, Superintendent, presented awards to Irene Aiken and Bruce Stanback, Ed Ormsby with certificates from the North Carolina School Boards Association for completion of requirements.
- Dr. Norris also reported on the required Staff Development Day on January 23. He saluted the RCS instructional staff, principals, teachers for their work to provide training for teachers. It was a great day, very pleased with how they worked.
- Dr. Norris shared that Richmond Senior High School was the winner of the Emerging Issues Forum. The school's representatives attended the forum on February 6 and 7 and were announced as the winners during the forum. Norris thanked everyone who participated in the voting for support the high school.
- Dr. Norris also reminded the Board members to remember to sign up for the National School board association conference.
- Dr. Beck presented Nineteen Board policies for the Board's Approval 1610/7800 - Professional and Staff Development, 3101- Dual Enrollment, 3110 - Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction, 3300 - School Calendar and Time for Learning, 3410 - Testing and Assessment Program, 3430 - School Improvement Plan, 3470/4305 - Alternative Learning Programs/Schools, 3530 - Citizenship and Character Education, 4050 - Children and Military Families, 4100 - Age Requirements for Initial Entry, 4152 - Unsafe School Choice Transfer, 4155 - Assignment to Classes, 4335 - Criminal Behavior, 7240 - Drug-Free/Alcohol Free Workplace, 7620 - Payroll Deductions, 7810 - Evaluation of Licensed Employees, 7815 - Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees, 7820 - Personnel Files and 7930 Professional Employees: Demotion and Dismissal. Joe Richardson, made the motion to approve, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Dr, Beck also presented four policies for 30 day study to be approved at the next Board meeting, to include: 7130 – Licensure 7130, 7335 - Employee Use of Social Media, 7810 - Evaluation of Licensed Employees, 7811 - Plans for Growth and Improvement of License Employees.

- Pam Satterfield, Finance Officer, presented budget amendments for the Board's approval. Joe Richardson made the motion to approve, Bruce Stanback seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Pam Satterfield explained House Bill 720 which affects teachers pay in the upcoming school year. Teachers can no longer be paid for days they have not worked and the law also states that their first paycheck must be received by August 31, 2012. There is discussion that a technical corrections bill will be presented to the General Assembly in May to eliminate the language that mandates the August 31 paycheck. If this happens, all 10-month personnel will be moved to a middle of the month pay schedule. The first check would be received in the middle of September, but these employees would not receive an August paycheck. If the technical correction is not passed RCS will have to proceed with the current law. As a result of this change, RCS will no longer offer the 12-month payment option to 10-month employees. Employees should contact their local bank to explore options for summer cash accounts, and flexible payment options. Satterfield is traveling to all 17 schools to explain the changes, and share suggestions with staff. This only affects 10-month personnel.
- Sharon Johnson CTE Director, introduced Graham Fox, the new instructional management coordinator. Will be housed at the Richmond Senior High School. Instructional facilitator, one of his major responsibilities will be the elements assessment that is administered through CTE. Will be working with teachers at the middle schools and secondary schools. Fox comes from Montgomery County Schools.
- Dr. Perry presented the Strategic Plan for 2011-15 for Richmond County Schools. The Plan has seven areas, and describes how Richmond County Schools will move forward during the next four years. The seven areas of the plan are as follows: Effective Teaching and Leadership; Integrating Instructional Technology, Marketing RCS Success, Providing Instructional Assistance for Targeted Populations in the district. Improving individualized instruction. Empowering Teachers to Utilize Data, Parent and Community Partnerships. Dr. Perry recommended that the board approve the plan. Motion made by Bruce Stanback, seconded by Joe Richardson.
- Dr. Beck also presented a Field Trip for Richmond Senior High School. Bruce Stanback, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Following executive session, Dr. Norris requested the Board approve the bid for the new roof for LJ Bell Elementary School submitted by Lafave Construction of Landis, NC. Tom McInnis made the motion to approve, Pam Easterling seconded the motion, and motion passed.
- Dr. Norris recommended that the board approve a contract with Anson Contractors Inc. of Wadesboro, to work on an erosion plan designed for East Rockingham Elementary School. Irene Aiken made the motion to approve, Bruce Stanback seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- George Crump, Board attorney, presented a resolution for the Board with regard to new legislation passed by the General assembly in 2011, regarding the \$50 improper equipment fee. For every one of these fees collected in Richmond County, funds are currently being paid to the department of public safety. However, the state constitution holds that all fines and fees collected in the county are to be applied to the local school districts for their funds. The resolution authorizes the superintendent and the board attorney to pursue a lawsuit, that the new legislation is unconstitutional, and that the funds would be sent to local school systems. Joe Richardsdon made the motion to approve, Tom McInnis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Dr. Jeff Maples presented the Personnel report for approval. Bruce Stanback made the motion to approve, Joe Richardson seconded the motion and, the motion passed.
- Tom McInnis made the motion to adjourn, Joe Richardson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.