

Richmond County Schools

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Richmond County Board of Education Meeting January 10, 2012

HAMLET – The Richmond County Board of Education met at 7:00 p.m. on January 10, 2012 in the Richmond County Schools’ Central Office in Hamlet. All members were present.

SCHOOL REPORT – MINERAL SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wendy Jordan, principal of Mineral Springs Elementary School and staff members presented a school report on the progress of student achievement at the school. Amy Terry, 1st grade teacher; Charlene Callicutt, 4th grade teacher; Kate Smith, Assistant Principal, and Lora Kelley, 5th grade teacher, were among the presents. Jordan shared with the board two themes that guided the work of teachers and staff at the school: sense of urgency and higher expectations.

Amy Terry spoke to raising expectations of each of her student, but also of her work as a teacher. She told Board members that teachers at Mineral Springs knew they had to teach every minute of every day.

Charlene Callicutt described how she challenged herself to raise the level of questioning that she addressed to her students during instruction.

Kate Smith, shared the school’s plan for professional development, called “3-D, PD”, which has three areas of focus: “data-driven, differentiation, and “dang good questions.” The school has formed K-5 data teams, come together and create a six week assessment for third through fifth grade students. This assessment provides even more data to help guide their instruction. Teachers are also focusing on what good small group instruction looks like and focused on implement higher order thinking questions into their lessons. Teachers at the school had a Saturday staff development session in the fall with Cheryl Fuller, a consultant on the NC Teacher Evaluation Instrument. Mineral Springs also has DPI coaches who are working directly with Jordan and Smith.

Lora Kelley ended the presentation with an acronym that the staff is using to guide their work this year. REAP stands for rigor, expectations, able, and planning. Mineral Springs Elementary School exceeded high growth during the 2010-11 school year, and Jordan and her staff expect to continue the momentum this year as well.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Jack Walker of Dixon Hughes and Goodman, presented the Audit Report for the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2011. The company performed both a financial and compliance audit, and issued three opinion letters to the Board. For the report on internal control, the firm had no findings; for major federal programs, compliance and internal control, the firm has no findings; and for the report on major state programs, compliance and internal control, the firm found no findings. Walker also informed the Board that the firm there confronted no difficulties while conducting the audit the audit.
- Mr. Robert Graves, spoke to the Board about Read Across America. Read Across American was initiated in 1980 by the National Educators Association on March 2, Dr. Suess’s birthday, to celebrate reading among school age children. The day is designed to get students excited about reading. Graves will travel to schools as requested as “Cat in the Hat” to read to students on Read Across America day.
- Dr. Jeff Maples, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. introduced the Communities In Schools staff to the Board members. John Kirkpatrick is the Executive Director of the program. Tyrone Barnes is the site coordinator for Monroe Avenue Elementary School, Allison Gorden is the site coordinator for Fairview Heights Elementary School, and Mary Kate Lambeth is the site coordinator for Hamlet Middle School. Communities In Schools is the nation’s leading drop-out prevention organization. The coordinators began working with students on January 9, and Kirkpatrick is excited to have the program in Richmond County. He appealed to the Board and the general public about the need for volunteers and support for the program. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Kirkpatrick directly at 704-334-7854.

- Dr. Michael 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, and Parent and Community Partnerships. Dr. Perry asked that Board members look over the plan for a 30 day study. Board members will look to approve at February Board meeting.
- Dr. Norris, Superintendent, shared information regarding the Emerging Issues Forum Contest, which Richmond Senior High School students in Jennifer Byrd's class submitted a video in, and were named one of five finalists in the High School division. Prior to the event, the video will be put on the website, and Dr. Norris will share that information with Board members. As a result of being a contest finalist, the school has already received \$1,000. Several students and will attend the forum in Raleigh, and will be demonstrating how to use advanced technology to event attendees.
- Dr. Norris also shared that Richmond County Schools received a grant through the North Carolina New Schools Project to identify and replicate strategies that have made the early college high schools across the state successful. Using funds from the grant, RCS will begin work at Richmond County Ninth Grade Academy and Leak Street High School.
- Dr. Norris also shared with Board members about a reception at Mineral Springs Elementary School on December 7. Were during which he and other staff presented school improvement bonuses to teachers and teacher assistants. There were 118 schools in North Carolina that fell into this category of school improvement. Mineral Springs was one of only 17 of those schools that made high growth, and exceeded high growth.
- Dr, Norris also shared a thank-you letter from Jo Ann Norris, Executive Director of the North Carolina forum to the Board in appreciation for passing the resolution to support the reinstatement of the Teaching Fellows. Richmond County was the first Board to pass such a resolution and several others have now taken similar action.
- Dr. Norris also presented the Board with a letter from Dr. Dale McInnis, President of Richmond Community College, expressing thanks to RCS for the collaboration with Career and College Promise. Sixty-five students are taking advantage of the program this semester at Richmond Senior High School. The Career and College promise gives all high school juniors and seniors the same opportunity to earn college credit before they graduate from high school. Students can earn up to 30 hours of college credit in the program.
- Dr. Robert Beck, Associate Superintendent presented Board Policy 4353 Long Term Suspension, 365 Day Suspension, and Expulsion with revisions for approval. Joe Richardson made the motion to approve, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Dr. Beck also presented Board Policy 4370 Student Disciplinary Hearing Procedures to the Board for approval. Ed Ormsby made the motion to approve, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Dr. Beck also presented Auditorium AC Bids for Ellerbe Middle School. The low bid was presented by Steel Heating of Lancaster, SC. Tom McInnis, Joe Richardson seconded the motion. Tom McInnis asked Terry Miller, Maintenance Director about the type of license required for the project. Class 1-H2 license is required. Bruce Stanback asked about why the companies that received invitations failed to submit bids. Miller stated that some companies do not wish to pay fees needed to make site visits. The motion passed. Tom McInnis asked when the work would be done. Miller predicted it should be complete prior to the 2012-13 school year. The project is below budget.
- Dr. Beck also presented the bids for chiller at Ellerbe Middle School. McQuay International of Charlotte submitted the low bid. Joe Richardson moved to accept the bid, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The project is below budget.
- George Crump, Board attorney, presented a report to the Board on fines and forfeitures, with regard to the North Carolina constitution, and several landmark court cases. The proceeds from fines and forfeitures for violation of penal laws collected within a county are to be used for the upkeep of public schools.

- Irene Aiken made the motion to go into closed session, Ed Ormsby seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Following executive session, Dr. Beck presented a bid for the East Rockingham Elementary School erosion control. His recommendation was that the Board reject the bid submitted by Anson Contractors out of Wadesboro. Bruce Stanback made the motion to reject the bid, Tom McClinnis seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Dr. Beck also presented a bid for the LJ Bell Elementary School Roofing Project. The low bid was submitted by Lafave Construction of Landis. Tom McClinnis made the motion to approve, Joe Richardson seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Joe Richardson asked the Board to consider rescinding the motion passed at a previous meeting to require Richmond County Schools to invite a minimum of 10 bidders for all capital projects and moved that Richmond County Schools follow the North Carolina General Statute as required for bids, so as to not exclude local contractors. Bruce Stanback seconded the motion. Tom McClinnis re-read the original motion which required ten bidders, in and around Richmond County. Following the reading of the original motion, chairman Wiley Mabe asked the Board for a vote on the new motion as presented by Richardson. Pam Easterling, Dr. Irene Aiken, Tom McClinnis and Ed Ormsby voted against the new motion, Joe Richardson and Bruce Stanback voted in favor of the motion. With a vote of 4-2, the motion failed.
- Dr. Beck also presented Field Trips for Ellerbe Middle School, Hamlet Middle School, Rockingham Middle School, Richmond Senior High School. Bruce Stanback, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Dr. Jeff Maples, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the Personnel Report to the Board for approval. Joe Richardson made the motion to approved Ed Ormsby seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Ed Ormsby made the motion to extend Dr. Norris' Superintendent contract for an two additional years, in accordance with state salary schedule, through June 30, 2015, Dr. Irene Aiken seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- Dr. Norris asked if anyone needed Martin Luther King Celebration Luncheon tickets for January 16, 2012 and Sidney Grove Church of Deliverance Agape Center. He will be the speaker for the event.
- Dr. Norris also asked the Board to consider scheduling a retreat for March. Board members will look at their calendars to schedule this event.