

RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

Monday, December 19, 2016

Minutes

The Randolph County Board of Education met for a work session on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Central Services Boardroom, located at the 2222 South Fayetteville Street Office in Asheboro. The following board members were present at the work session: Gary Cook (Vice Chair), Brian Biggs, Tracy Boyles, Fred Burgess, Emily T. Coltrane, and Matthew Lambeth. Also present, Dr. Stephen Gainey, Superintendent and Leadership Team members.

The work session started at 4:30 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction

1) Update on new initiatives at Southeastern Randolph Middle School

Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent, and Nancy Cross, Director of Career & Technical Education and Innovative School Design, presented an update on new initiatives at Southeastern Randolph Middle School. Ms. Berry shared how there has been expanded conversations with the district administrative team and the staff at Southeastern Randolph Middle as well as research for approximately a year looking at areas of key support for Southeastern Randolph Middle. Information was shared regarding several initiatives focused on increasing student and community engagement, adjusting course offerings to align with high school programs and work force demands. Another important area of support presented is the development of a summer enrichment opportunity. The summer enrichment program would give 6th and 7th grade students a summer experience with team-building events, transition activities, student learning choice, and project-based learning. The program would be offered over four weeks, Monday-Thursday, using a similar structure each week. "Agriculture Monday" would be designed around neighboring Eastern Randolph High School's award-winning agriculture program. "Business Tuesday" would focus on the development of campus engagement and technology tools. "Health Science Wednesday" would allow many avenues to access and explore the health science fields. "Community Engagement Thursday" would offer students the unique opportunity to delve deeper in the area of their choice (agriculture, business, or health science). The program would include sessions at Southeastern Randolph Middle School as well as designated community locations. Ms. Cross shared how "Summer Enrichment Redefines My Success!" has the potential of transitioning students to 6th and 7th grade at Southeastern Randolph Middle School through a positive summer experience preparing students for a successful academic school year. There was discussion from the board regarding how the families would be notified of the program as well as concerns expressed regarding transportation. Ms. Berry and Ms. Cross shared how the committee is divided into three parts and there would be meetings with 5th grade parents at the elementary feeder schools and the 6th grade parents at Southeastern Randolph Middle. Dr. Gainey reviewed potential cost and shared that the team is currently looking at sponsors and a funding source. Follow up information will be presented to the board in January.

2) School redesign proposal for Uwharrie Middle

The superintendent started the discussion by sharing the main concern is making the most of a facility. This is an area that staff has been watching for a couple of years. Dr. Gainey shared that on day 10 there were 333 students at Uwharrie Middle and the school's capacity is 600 plus students.

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Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent, shared how a design team was created to explore options for creating a school of choice within our school system. Due to Uwharrie Middle School experiencing declining enrollment, and through careful study, focus groups within central services along with the Uwharrie Middle School principal discussed ways to attract students. Nancy Cross along with the team proposed to grow Uwharrie Middle School into a 6-12 school to retain and strengthen the Southwest region.

Nancy Cross, Director of Career & Technical Education and Innovative School Design, shared the design team proposes to grow Uwharrie Middle School into a six-twelve school with a three-pronged focus: a “school of public service,” a “school of technology and design,” and a “school of leadership and communication.” The proposal includes a potential before and after school enhancement opportunity, the school system’s first 1:1 technology initiative, and creative use of existing space to include non-traditional furnishings and additional technology in designated areas of the school. The school would grow one grade level each year with a maximum high school enrollment of 75 additional students per grade. There also would be the option for some increased middle school enrollment, based on availability of space. The students would study core classes through their respective career cluster. There also would be opportunities for extra-curricular involvement based upon student interest. The enrollment for this school will be comprised of students living in the Southwestern attendance region. District transportation will be provided for students in the Southwestern attendance region. Parents of transfer students from outside of the Southwestern attendance region would be responsible for their own transportation. Areas of discussion included staffing, cost, and athletics.

Superintendent’s Office

1) Overview of upcoming Board of Education and staff events/issues

Dr. Gainey shared there were no changes to the list of events. He plans to bring more specific dates in January for the budget calendar.

The work session ended at 6:00 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary