

Contract for Randolph's superintendent extended

BY DANIEL KENNEDY

RANDOLPH COUNTY — With a four-year contract extension that is the longest allowable by state law, the Randolph County Board of Education gave its superintendent a profound vote of confidence in September.

Gary Cook, chairman of the Randolph County Board of Education, announced the decision by the board at its September meeting to approve a lengthy commitment to Randolph County Schools Superintendent Stephen Gainey.

"Parents, staff and Randolph County residents all have avenues to have their

concerns heard by the superintendent," Cook said. "As a result of his performance in this most difficult year ... the board is extending Dr. Gainey's contract to the maximum time permitted by law through June 30, 2024."

Gainey has navigated the process of charting the course for students and teachers to continue educational operations during an unprecedented pandemic. This has often involved embracing non-traditional techniques to educate students while considering their

safety more than ever before.

Prior to the school board meeting, Cook said that the superintendent had his performance review for the 2019-2020 school year.

"The board reviewed the performance and praised Dr. Gainey for steering the schools through the difficult period from March to the end of the year," Cook said. "Dr. Gainey made thoughtful decisions in the best interest of students and teachers and kept the board informed as the pandemic created limited access to school facilities

and required educators to rethink how to educate children in Randolph County."

Among the reasons Cook listed for rewarding Gainey's efforts with a contract extension, the chairman pointed to school personnel training which broadened the leadership skills of elementary, middle and high school teachers throughout the area. Additional programs were created to foster an easier transition for staff and students into a realm dominated by remote learning.

Furthermore, he described Gainey's relationship with



Stephen Gainey

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the board as professional and courteous.

“Dr. Gainey continues to impress the board with his presence in the

school community and the community at large,” Cook said. “He represents Randolph County well.”

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