

RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

Monday, February 17, 2014

Minutes

The Randolph County Board of Education met for a work session on Monday, February 17, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Services Board Room. Board Members in attendance were as follows: Emily Coltrane-Board Chair, Todd Cutler-Vice Chair, Tracy Boyles, Gary Cook, Matthew Lambeth, Tommy McDonald and Gary Mason. Also present were Superintendent, Stephen Gainey, and the Leadership Team.

The work session began at 4:00 p.m. Superintendent, Stephen Gainey requested to move his line item on the agenda to the beginning of the work session.

The Superintendent presented the following overview of important Board of Education and staff events as follows:

- 1) System-wide meeting of advisory councils---February or March
- 2) Presentation of 2014-2015 capital outlay needs to County Commissioners---March 10 at 6:00 p.m. (County Courthouse)
- 3) 2014-2015 budget proposal review with Board of Education---March 24 (work session)
- 4) 2014-2015 budget proposal presented to Board of Education for approval---April 21
- 5) Copies of 2014-2015 budget proposal presented to county staff---April 22
- 6) Presentation of 2014-2015 budget proposal to County Commissioners---May
- 7) Establishment/recognition of "Community Partners"
- 8) Board Work Session/Meeting Schedule for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year:
 - a) March 24 (at Trinity High)
 - b) April 21
 - c) May 19
 - d) June 2
 - e) June 16

Note: The start time for each Board Work Session is 4:00 p.m. Also, the start time for each Board Meeting is 6:30 p.m. Each meeting, with the exception of March 24, will be held at the school system's Fayetteville Street Office. The March 24 meetings will be held at Trinity High.

- 9) RCSS Employee Recognition Night---May 19 at 5:30 p.m. (Board of Education Room)
- 10) Teacher of the Year Banquet---May 21 at 6:30 p.m. (Pinewood Country Club)

The Superintendent discussed two groups, Randolph Teacher Leaders and the Parent Advisory Group. Each principal was requested to submit a teacher name along with a parent name. The teacher group will meet every other month to discuss specific topics. The parent group will meet every other month opposite of the teacher group.

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The Superintendent expressed concerns as an academic leader regarding the days missed in the second semester for inclement weather. At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the calendar had 94 hours above the state requirements. He stated in the last ten years RCSS has missed a total of 28 days and in the last two years RCSS has not had to cancel any days for inclement weather. Board members discussed the possible options for making up 2/14/14. The different options reviewed and discussed were to absorb the day (four complete days have already absorbed), add one hour to five school days, or use the first day of spring break, 4/14/14. In discussion, the board expressed concerns of the time students have missed in second semester. There were concerns with extending the school day due to students who work jobs after school. Some board members felt that 2/14/14 should be absorbed due to the extra instructional hours in the calendar. Other members discussed the cleanest, most educationally sound option, would be to use the first day of spring break, 4/14/14. Following discussion, the final consensus of the board would be to use Monday, 4/14/14 as a make-up day for 2/14/14.

The Superintendent then turned the work session over to Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Curriculum & Instruction Division

- Big6 research model

Ms. Berry stated that RCSS currently has the Big6 research model. The tech team, along with educators has had a hand in the Big6 and Super3. The Big6 and Super3 have been adopted as Randolph County School's district-wide research model. It was adopted in the spring of the 2011-2012 School year. Implementation began in August 2012 for the 2012-2013 school year. The Big6 is a six-stage model for information in problem-solving and decision-making. The Big6 approach helps students learn essential information and technology skills necessary for success. The Big6 provides students with a tried and true method to answer a question, complete an assignment, or create a unique product. The Super3 is the adapted version of the Big6 for younger students as well as for those students who might be initially overwhelmed by the full Big6 framework. Like the Big6, Super3 emphasizes a problem solving process, practical skills for students to implement and use, with meaningful and relevant learning.

- LEP Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)

Catherine Berry thanked Kim Johnson for her work. Ms. Berry stated we have to hit a certain percentage in a subgroup. RCSS missed it by one percentage point. In March, RCSS will submit a formal plan to the Department of Public Instruction. Our folks have worked to identify. It was stated that student attendance is an important part. During the 2012-2013 school year, our LEP students failed to meet one of the three measures-AMAO 3-AYP of LEP subgroups. The NC State Board approved these performances in January 2014 and requires that school districts do the following: All LEAs that did not meet an AMAO (AMAO 1, AMAO 2, or AMAO 3) are required by Title III to inform all parents of LEP students no later than 30 days after, provide DPI with the parent

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notification letter that is sent to parents, and complete a Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan by March 3, 2014.

Ms. Berry stated this is not an uncommon situation, and feels a valid attempt has been made.

- **Graduation Project update**
Catherine Berry reviewed updates, progress and information pertaining to Graduation Project requirements as a district requirement for graduation. She shared that focus groups have been developed at the school and district level to review and gather information to bring to the board in March or April for review as a system.
- **“Read to Achieve” changes**
Catherine Berry stated a formal request would be presented at the Board of Education meeting following the work session, for the board’s approval regarding permission to use alternate assessments to satisfy requirements of the Read to Achieve Legislation. Per recent State Board of Education action, a request must go through local Boards of Education. The alternate assessments requested will include a “benchmark assessment” created through ClassScape/School Net with “end-of-grade” and “Reading 3D.” The ClassScape/School Net benchmark assessment and “Reading 3D” are valid and reliable assessments of reading comprehension.

Operations Division

- **Parent portal for PowerSchool**
Marty Trotter, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated the parent portal for PowerSchool gives parents/students real time information including attendance, grades, and school bulletins. March 1, 2014 is the target date for the parent portal. RCSS is currently working on the verification process for the parents. This process is verified by being notarized and including a photo ID. Upon completion of this information, a login and password will be given to the parent. Staff will keep information updated by entering grades/assignments on a weekly basis. Currently, a video is being created and will be placed on-line to give parents assistance. Tim Moody, Public Information Officer, added that documents are ready and currently in the hands of the board attorney for review. He stated the parent portal page is ready to go live once everything is approved and finalized. Board members expressed concerns for those parents who might not have a computer to be able to access parent portal. It was suggested that assistance be made available to parents on specified nights at each of the school sites.
- **EMS site at Wheatmore High**
Marty Trotter, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that RCSS was approached by the Emergency Services of Randolph County in regards to locating an EMS site on the property of Wheatmore High School campus. Mr. Trotter stated Wheatmore High School does have additional property located near the barn. The request would consist of one acre closest to the student/staff drive. The EMS site would include its own entrance from

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Finch Farm Road, with a garage bay, modular living quarters, and chain link fence around the facility. This information was presented to the board as information in order to make the board aware. Once EMS has reviewed everything, they will follow up to let RCSS know of their intentions. The Superintendent stated this is a great opportunity to be partners with EMS.

The work session ended at 5:50 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary