

RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Work Session

Monday, August 17, 2015

Minutes

The Randolph County Board of Education met for a work session on Monday, August 17, 2015 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: Board Chair, Todd Cutler, Vice Chair, Gary Cook, Tracy Boyles, Emily T. Coltrane, Brian Biggs, and Fred Burgess. Also present were Superintendent Stephen Gainey and the Leadership Team.

The work session started at 4:30 pm.

Curriculum & Instruction Division

1) AdvancED update

Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented an update on the AdvancED process. Ms. Berry shared that the Randolph County School System (RCSS) is currently accredited by AdvancED and is currently moving towards the re-accreditation process. On August 5, the central services staff and school administrators recently received additional training from the Director of AdvancED of North Carolina. Teams across the district will be writing written responses as part of the internal review process. There have been stakeholder meetings scheduled and communicated to the participants. Ms. Berry shared that one major change for the external review is the requirement that all evidences be prepared in a digital format. Every principal has expressed interest in using the Eleot instructional walkthrough tool developed by AdvancED. Principals received access to the training and tool on August 10. The external review on-site visit for RCSS is scheduled for March 13-16, 2016. The AdvancED team will visit a variety of schools on the different levels. There will be quarterly data reviews presented to the Randolph County Board of Education in October, January, March, and May.

2) High School SAT and ACT achievement and participation comparisons

Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented a report summarizing the historical data of the most recent SAT and ACT administrations. The data included a comparison of the last five years of SAT testing, 2010-2014. Ms. Berry shared that data from 2015 is not yet available. In 2014, the average grand total for RCSS was 1402; eight percentage points lower than the previous year. The SAT scores for North Carolina increased by four percentage points (1483). RCSS participation rate decreased by 5.7 percentage points in 2014 in comparison to the previous year, and North Carolina's participation rate increased by two percentage points. A possible reason for the decrease in participation rates for SAT tests is the fact that the ACT was administered in eleventh grade at no cost to students. In 2015, the average composite total for RCSS was 17.8; .1 points higher than the previous year (17.7). ACT composite scores for North Carolina remained exactly the same (18.5). In 2015, RCSS had a composite score of 17.8 as compared to the state composite score of 18.5. As of 2015, Randolph Early College, Trinity High, and Wheatmore High increased their composite score to match or exceed the state average.

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3) Update on Analysis of Student Work (ASW)

Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented to the board an update on the ASW. A waiver for the ASW was submitted last year for the 2014-2015 school year with the understanding that it was for one year only and that all districts would be required to participate in ASW beginning with the 2015-2016 school year or develop an alternative plan to ASW. Given the pending legislation, Ms. Berry shared the intent is to survey RCSS teachers who may be impacted by ASW during the week of August 17-25 and follow the same process as last year to determine their preference for participation in ASW or continue with school wide data as the basis for Standard 6. Based on the teacher responses, information will be presented to the Board of Education at the 9/21/15 board meeting.

Operations Division

1) Update on progress of the “9-Year Facility Upgrade/Repair Plan”

Marty Trotter, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, presented an update by reviewing the projects in year 1 with the percentage of completion. There were great strides made in year one with the additional \$250,000 received by the county commissioners. With the additional \$500,000 received by the county commissioners for the 2015-2016 school year the progress for the facility upgrades will continue. Some of the areas mentioned are as follows: ERHS visiting side bleachers are 65% complete, replacement doors at Randleman Elementary are 40% complete, cooking lab at Randleman High are 36% complete, and the roof replacement at Seagrove Elementary is complete.

Finance & Budget Division

1) Budget update

Todd Lowe, Finance Officer, presented information requested from board members at last month’s board meeting. Mr. Lowe reviewed comparisons of the state allotment history from 2009-2015. Some of the items noted are as follows: Teacher assistants \$6.6 in 2009 to \$4.1 in 2014, staff development funding is no longer received, ESL is down, textbook funding is down and there has not been an adoption in several years, matching increases in insurance and the matching retirement rates have gone up without extra allotments to assist with these increases.

2) Continuation budget

Mr. Lowe shared that RCSS is currently working with the 2014-2015 level of funding for the 2015-2016 school year.

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Superintendent's Office

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

Dr. Gainey presented a Board Work Session/Board Meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2015-2016 year. The superintendent also shared the first day for students is August 24, NCSBA District 5 meeting is September 23 at Lexington City School System, and the 46th Annual NCSBA Conference will be November 16-18 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

The work session ended at 6:07 pm.

Board Chair

Board Secretary