



Business Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Monday, March 22, 2021

6:00 p.m. – Comporium Conference Center @ Central Office

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Rock Hill School District Three Board of Trustees met this date at 6:00 p.m. with members present as follows: *James Burns, Patrice Cherry, Windy Cole, Mildred Douglas, Brent Faulkenberry, Helena Miller, and Robin Owens and Superintendent Dr. Bill Cook.*

Chairman Helena Miller called the meeting to order and led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Miller read the following statement: *“The Board agenda and attachments for the Board’s regular meeting this evening were posted on the District’s website on Thursday, March 18, 2021. The email notification to the media, sent on March 20, referenced the prior March 8 meeting date and agenda, but that was corrected in an email to the media this morning.”*

A motion was made by James Brown, seconded by Windy Cole, to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved as presented, 7-0.

II. Recognitions – Winter Sports Accolades

A. Rock Hill High School

Coach Kenny Orr was recognized for being named the Region 4-5A Girls Basketball Coach of the Year after guiding the Bearcats to a 20-3 record and an appearance in the Upper State Championship Game.

Multi-sport student-athlete Jada Jones was recognized for earning All-State honors.

Athletic Director Bill Warren was recognized for being named the Region 4-5A Athletic Director of the Year.

B. Northwestern High Schools

Coach John Bramlett was recognized for being named the Region 4-5A Boys Basketball Coach of the Year.

Senior guard AJ Thompson was recognized for being named to the All-State team.

Senior wrestler Kaleem Heard was recognized for winning a state championship and being named the 5A Wrestler of the Year. Junior wrestler Isaac McLellan was also recognized for winning an individual state title.

C. South Pointe High Schools

Head boys' basketball coach Melvin Watson was recognized for guiding the Stallions to the program's first-ever state championship in basketball. Coach Watson was named Region 3-4A Coach of the Year.

Quan Peterson was recognized for earning a sport on the All-State team after the school's state championship earlier this month.

Wrestling Coach Eddie Cook was recognized for his Region 3-4A Coach of the Year selection.

The Stallions wrestling program placed two on the North-South All-Star team – Nygel Moore and Pearson Boarder.

Najah Lane, a junior on the Stallions girls' basketball team, was named to the Class 4A Girls All-State Team.

Trinity Adams was recognized for her selection to the NC/SC All-Star game.

III. Citizen Participation – None

IV. Consent Action Agenda

On a motion by Windy Cole, seconded by Mildred Douglas, the following topics on the consent action agenda were unanimously approved, 7-0: the minutes of the March 8 business meeting; and, the personnel recommendations as submitted by the administration.

V. Communications – None

VI. Presentations

A. 2021-2022 General Fund Budget Update

Chief of Business Services, Mrs. Terri Smith, provided a FY 2021-2022 General Fund Budget Update.

B. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds Update

Mrs. Smith also provided, as information, an overview of the district's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds grant.

C. Student Achievement Data Presentation

Chief of Academics and Accountability, Dr. John Jones, and members of the RHS' Research Office, Instructional and Accountability Department, and Student Services Department presented as information a Mid-Year Grade, Academic Growth Analysis & Student Attendance Update.

VII. Report of the Superintendent

A. Superintendent's Announcements

Superintendent Cook made the following announcements:

- On Monday, March 22, the Be Pro Be Proud 18-wheeler truck stopped at ATC for on-board student tours from 9am-3pm. ATC is one of only two high school programs in the

state that was accepted for a Be Pro Be Proud Stop, which is an initiative led by the Associated Industries of South Carolina and is designed to bring a new generation of pride, progress, and professionals to the state's skilled workforce.

- The district will be closed April 5-9 for Spring Break. Tomorrow, March 23, district administration will send an advisory to all employees and families with a warning about international travel. The CDC continues to state that travel increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.
- The School Board will next meet on Monday, April 12, 2021. The meeting will be streamed on our website and available for viewing on-demand immediately following the broadcast. We invite our community to watch meetings and interact with the district during our live Facebook broadcasts.

B. Return to School Plan

Earlier today, March 22, our middle and high school students returned to campus for 5-day in-person learning. We are appreciative to all staff involved for helping us to reach today's milestone. Further, we are grateful for our students, teachers, and families for working together to adhere to guidelines and mitigation efforts over the past year that have led to the reduction of COVID-19 spread in our community. Providing a safe and healthy educational environment for our students and staff remains the district's top priority, and we will continue to monitor the situation in our community and make any adjustments needed. While we are seeing positive changes occurring now, we will have plans in place should the situation in our area worsen and the need to return to a hybrid or remote learning model arise.

C. COVID Update with Q&A

Employee Vaccinations

We recognize and understand the fears of many of our teachers who have pressed for vaccinations to be a requirement for a full in-person return. Over the past two weeks, district leadership has been able to implement its vaccination plan in partnership with the City of Rock Hill Community Clinic and Good Pharmacy. To date, more than 1,500 employees who were interested in receiving the COVID vaccine have been able to receive at least the first dose. Over the next two weeks, many of our team member will be fully vaccinated.

Rapid COVID Testing in Schools

Rock Hill Schools continues to offer rapid COVID-19 testing to student and staff. At this time, it is not known if the rapid tests are effective in identifying new strains of the virus. However, we do believe this mitigation strategy continues to be an effective tool for our school nurses to identify students and staff who are affected. The testing helps to isolate individuals more quickly and prevent on-campus spread. As of today, nurses have administered more than 500 BinaxNOW rapid tests for students and staff.

District Dashboard & Staff/Family Notifications

The school and district reporting processes have evolved since first being developed in September 2020. The daily processes have been fine-tuned and made as efficient as possible for nurses and other staff involved in reporting and notifying impacted individuals or groups. Following the update to the dashboard each day, Mr. Frost and Mrs. Kirell provide notifications to school principals who then distribute, as and when

appropriate, to school staff and/or families of student in affected classrooms, teams, or other school-based organizations.

Managing Staff Absences

Administration monitors our substitute teacher system to provide a complete picture of our ability to continue offering in-person learning. The data is used, along with discussion with school administrators and Chief of Human Resources to determine if changes are made to a class, a grade level, a team, a school, or the district. Approved by the Board of Trustees in December our staff continues to be able to use “COVID days” when in isolation or quarantine. This benefit provides assurance to staff in that they can be absent from work without punishment of financial penalty when they are not able to attend or otherwise perform their duties due to COVID.

VIII. Other and Future Business

The board discussed other and future business.

IX. Executive Session

A motion was made by James Burns, seconded by Robin Owens, to adjourn open session and enter executive session for the following:

- **Personnel Matter:** *Contract Recommendations*
- **Personnel Matter:** *Breach of Contract*
- **Contractual Matter:** *Property*

This motion was unanimously approved, 7-0.

A motion was made by Brent Faulkenberry, seconded by Windy Cole, to adjourn executive session and reconvene open session. This motion was unanimously approved, 7-0.

X. Action as Required from Executive Session

A motion was made by Windy Cole, seconded by James Burns, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations regarding the re-employment of professional certified teachers and administrators for the 2021-2022 school year, as set forth in the employment recommendations list. The motion passed, 6-0, with Ms. Cherry abstaining.

A motion was made by Mildred Douglas, seconded by Robin Owens, to grant the request of a professional employee to be released from the employee’s contract with the District and that we direct the administration to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding the employee’s breach of contract. The motion was unanimously passed, 7-0.

A motion was made by Robin Owens, seconded by Windy Cole, to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Waiver of First Refusal Option and return it to the YMCA’s legal counsel because the District does not intend to purchase the referenced property from the YMCA. The motion passed 5-2 with Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Cole, Ms. Cherry, Mr. Burns and Mrs. Douglas voting in favor of the motion, and Mr. Faulkenberry and Mrs. Miller voting against the motion.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Brent Faulkenberry, seconded by Robin Owens the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn the meeting.

Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Chairman

Submitted by:
Chris Gammons
Executive Administrative Assistant to Superintendent
and Board of Trustees