

The Randolph Southern School Corporation Board of School Trustees met for the regular meeting on Monday, August 9, 2021 in the Superintendent's Office Board Room. The following members were present:

Jan Caudle, President
Don Pruitt, Vice President
Thomas McFarland, Secretary
Patricia Tillson, Member

Eric Retter, Member, was not present.

I. AUG 2021

Jan Caudle called to order the Collective Bargaining Public Hearing meeting at 7:33 PM.

II. AUG 2021

Dr. Bowsman announced that the public and teachers are invited to speak before the board regarding the collective bargaining public hearing. Dr. Bowsman explained that the Collective Bargaining negotiations will begin on September 15, 2021. No comments were made from anyone in attendance.

III. AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to adjourn the Collective Bargaining Public Hearing at 7:40 pm. Jan Caudle seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

I. AUG 2021

Jan Caudle called to order the Regular meeting at 7:42 pm.

II. AUG 2021

Tom McFarland made a motion to approve the July 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes and Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

V. AUG 2021

Tom McFarland moved to approve the Accounts Payable Vouchers July 9, 2021 through August 5, 2021 numbered 575 through 663 in the amount of \$ 859,327.34 as presented.

July 31, 2021 cash balance in the Education Fund \$ 501,052.18. July 31, 2021 cash balance in the Operations Fund \$ 690,297.18. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.32 AUG 2021

Dr. Bowsman introduced Mark Beebe and Terry Sargent with Lancer + Beebe Architect and Interior Design Firm to the Board and public. The architectural firm presented a powerpoint to illustrate the design of the proposed Extended Learning Center funded from ESSER III funds. Mr. Beebe and Mr. Sargent discussed the building design, reviewed potential costs, and answered questions posed by the board and Dr. Bowsman. The estimated cost to build the 6000 sq. ft. facility was \$880,000 including the architectural fees, furniture, goals, bleachers, gym floor, student desks, scoreboard, and pa system. Dr. Bowsman stated the purpose of the extended learning center was to provide summer and before and after school programs for students grades K-12. Dr. Bowsman stated that he hoped to coordinate with the YMCA to run the everyday operations for programming and service to the community. If they could not provide this service, the school corporation will hire staffing. The board asked if modifications could be made by adding a kitchenette, storage area on the second level, and if area could be added to the structure. Mr. Beebe said he would make modifications, but it could increase the cost of the facility. Mr. Beebe and Dr. Bowsman discussed surveying the sight, permits, and the bid process to start in October or November. Construction would begin in March of 2022 after a contractor is selected by the board. The bids must meet the budget guidelines of \$1,056,443.63.

VI.A.33 AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Memorandum Of Understanding Agreement with the Randolph County YMCA After School Kid's Club Program for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.34 AUG 2021

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the Secured School Safety Grant in the amount of \$25,194.00 for the salary of the School Resource Officer. This grant requires the School Corporation to match a total of \$6,298.50. Dr. Bowsman stated the school corporation may need to increase the hourly rate we are paying for the SRO position. Mr. Allen stated the surrounding businesses are paying \$20.00 per hour and security for the wind turbines and solar panels are paying \$50.00 per hour. Dr. Bowsman stated there were funds not used last year because the SRO's did not work some of our extra curricular events. Dr. Bowsman suggested we adjust this and make sure we are using them to their fullest capacity. Pat Tillson seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.35 AUG 2021

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the school corporation to adopt the Tax Refund Exchange Compliance System (TRECS) program for collecting textbook and lunch fees past due. The current system with turning over past due accounts to Atlas Collections is not working. Dr. Bowsman reported several former students that graduated owe several hundred dollars in overdue textbook rental. Tom McFarland asked if other schools in the county are using this program to collect outstanding debt. Dr. Bowsman explained that this is an approved program that is used by several schools. The school sends these individuals to collections after sending numerous letters from the high school office and also the corporation office. This program is set up through the state of Indiana and it does not charge the school corporation any fees. Tom McFarland seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.36 AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the changes in the Non-Certified Handbook as presented. Dr. Bowsman stated that an Extended Learning Center/Guidance Secretary was added, Key Employees are defined as working 8 hours per day for 260 days, 12-Month Employee Fringe Benefits added a Transportation Secretary/Administrative Assistant, and the health insurance contribution for Category II Employees was updated. Tom McFarland seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.37 AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) policy for the Randolph Southern School Corporation. The Grant was submitted to the IDOE on July 21, 2021 per IC 20-43-10-3.5. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.38 AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Non-Certified Salary Schedule for 2021-2022 as presented. Tom McFarland seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.B.8 AUG 2021

Tom McFarland made a motion to approve the following personnel items:

1. Chuck Alfrey as Jr./Sr. High School Band and Choir Director in the amount of \$56,100.00 for 183 days with benefits to follow the Master Contract. Mr. Alfrey has 33 plus years of teaching experience in Florida and Indiana and has his Master's Degree in Music from Ball State University.

2. Anna Cross as Cafeteria High School cashier at \$10.47 per hour for 2.5 hours per day.
3. Bonnie Dunn as non-certified Category II High School Paraprofessional at \$10.16 per hour for 7 hours per day.
4. Candee Hartman resignation as bus driver.
5. Lisa Keesling as volunteer assistant high school cross-country coach for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. Vanessa Morrison as non-certified Category II Mini Bus Driver at \$16.92 per hour for 4 hours per day. The rate will increase to \$19.36 once she receives her yellow CDL card.
7. John Thornburg as non-certified Category II High School Paraprofessional at \$10.16 per hour for 7 hours per day.
8. April Thurston resignation as Elementary Secretary.

Dr. Bowsman reported that Mr. Alfrey is moving here from Sarasota, Florida. He is originally from New Castle. Mr. Mangus added that he is already working on a winter band called, "WINS". It will give the high school a head start to our marching band. They hold competitions in Dayton. Mr. Allen added that hiring Mr. Alfrey is going to make band great again. Tom McFarland asked how he will bring kids back in to band? Mr. Allen explained that Mr. Alfrey will be teaching Music to the 5th and 6th grade students. He will also have 6th grade band. Mr. Alfrey will have the band perform at many of the girls and boys varsity basketball games.

Dr. Bowsman is very pleased with all of the recent teachers that the school corporation has hired. He also feels that we are very blessed to have quality folks coming aboard.

Mr. Mangus also added that he is excited to bring Mr. Thornburg on to our staff. He has an English degree from Ball State and is working on his Master's in English. He feels that he has a great relationship with the kids and will help out tremendously.

Dr. Bowsman added that Candee Hartman has done a great job for us, she had the opportunity to take a position that was better for her and less stress on her legs. Melinda has stepped up into that position and has taken over her route. Vanessa Morrison is currently driving our preschool minibus and is training to get her CDL certificate to start driving a route. Dr. Bowsman mentioned that it is possible that we may need to add another preschool bus driver for an additional preschool class.

Pat Tillson stated that John Thornburg and Bonnie Dunn have been substitutes for us and do a great job. Now we will have to find more substitutes.

Don Pruitt seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

VI.C.6 AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Financial report from the Girls Basketball Shoot-out. Anticipated income: \$4,000.00. Actual income: \$100.00. Contact person: Jerimy Stephan. Dr. Bowsman asked Mr. Mangus if these numbers were correct? Mr. Mangus said there were four teams that backed out of the tournament within two hours of the start. Mr. Mangus felt that the anticipated income was over estimated. Mr. Mangus also had some suggestions for Mr. Stephan's tournament for next year. One example would be for teams to prepay. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.G.4 AUG 2021

Tom McFarland made a motion to approve the second reading of the following NEOLA board policy updates:

0112, 0164.4, 0164.5, 0164.6, 0167.1, 1220, 1422, 1422.02, 1623, 1662, 2240, 2260, 2260.01, 2266, 3120, 3122, 3122.02, 3123, 3362, 4120, 4122, 4122.02, 4123, 4362, 4425, 4430, 5111, 5410, 5517, 6250, 7440.01, 7450, 7455, 7530.02, 8500, 8510, 8606
5895 Deleted

Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VII.A.8 AUG 2021

Dr. Bowsman reported the Educator Evaluation Plan has been submitted to the IDOE on July 21, 2021.

Dr. Bowsman provided a Budget update. The Public Hearing will be held at the September board meeting. Dr. Bowsman anticipates the tax rate going up slightly because the school corporation will be advertising the max levy tax rate to offset the Excessive Fund expenditures in the Education Fund for 2020-21.

Dr. Bowsman thanked the Maintenance and Transportation Department for all of the hard work that was completed over the summer on the building and buses.

Dr. Bowsman reported the RS Cafeteria served 3,125 meals in June and 2,615 meals in July for a total of 5,740 meals for the summer.

Dr. Bowsman discussed the maintenance report. Several projects are ongoing.

Dr. Bowsman reported the IDOE has not provided allocations for Title II or Title IV. The Title I, III, and NESP grants are waiting to be processed by the IDOE.

Dr. Bowsman is projecting 486 for the ADM count.

Dr. Bowsman added that the first teacher day back went very well. All the teachers and staff were provided Subway and the theme for this school year was "Promotion and Family." All of the teachers and staff received a gift and there were 9 gift baskets given away as prizes. The gifts were provided by Edwards Jewelers of New Castle. A special thank you to Dr. Bowsman's wife Alice and her employees for donating the gifts and making up the gift give aways. Each employee filled out an entry. The entry was placed into a bowl. 9 names were drawn and the staff had to come to the front and participate in a Gift Bag Walk. Dr. Bowsman played the song, "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge. When the music stopped the person seated in the grey chair won a gift bag. Additionally, Dr. Bowsman discussed promoting the school corporation through various media outlets. He asked the staff to use an app on their phones to message how they could help promote the school corporation. Facebook was the number one reply. Dr. Bowsman also discussed the Randolph Southern Family. We welcome each student and staff member with open arms and leave no child behind.

VIII.A.8 AUG 2021

Mr. Allen reported on the following items:

The elementary school held its open house this evening. Mr. Allen reported that he met several new families, walked them around the building and took pictures of them in front of the welcome back signs.

Mr. Allen mentioned that Candee Hartman is going to be greatly missed. Mr. Allen stated that she has been a stable part of this school.

Mr. Allen reported that the preschool has been a blessing to us. GRIC has enough interested families to create an additional preschool class. Mr. Allen stated that he and Dr. Bowsman will be glad to work on making room for this to happen.

Mr. Allen said he is proud of how great the elementary school looks. Mr. Allen had a new family of six come in and compliment him on how great our facilities look.

Mr. Allen stated that this will be a challenging year because there are no mandates or executive orders and the responsibilities lie on the school corporation and county officials.

VIII.B.8 AUG 2021

Mr. Mangus reported on the following items:

Mr. Mangus stated that hiring staff has been challenging this summer and we have worked very hard to get great hires. He communicated with his staff this week and hopes they wrap their arms around the new teachers and help them to make this a great year.

Mr. Mangus stated this was the best day he has ever had in education. The activities Dr. Bowsman organized and orchestrated were very motivational. It is a great first day.

Mr. Mangus mentioned that the high school will work on having an open house next year.

IX.AUG 2021

Dr. Bowsman added that if our back to school plan needs to be changed tomorrow or a month from now due to an outbreak, we will do it. We will do what we need to do. We will support families if they choose or not choose to wear a mask.

Dr. Bowsman also added that he appreciates the Principal's with their help during the summer getting positions filled.

Dr. Bowsman said we are doing a lot of good things at RSSC and we need to spread the word. We are all about family and promotion.

X. AUG 2021

Jackie Ison stated that she attended last month's board meeting and thanked the board for being so welcoming. She mentioned that she does share a lot of our news on Facebook and will continue to do so. She also has encouraged other parents to attend the board meetings. Mrs. Ison also wanted to thank the custodians for helping her and her daughter when they came in to walk the halls to find her daughter's classrooms. The custodians were in the hallway and were so helpful. She mentioned that she will have a cousin's son that will be coming to Randolph Southern and it will be his first time in a public school and the custodians helped him as well. Mrs. Ison also said that Mrs. Pruitt saw them in the hallway and came out and introduced herself to her daughter. She also mentioned that the school looks great.

Mrs. Cowen mentioned that the entrance to the elementary with the welcome back signs looks fun and exciting for the kids.

XI. AUG 2021

Tom McFarland said the troops are ready.

Pat Tillson mentioned that she is always amazed at the energy that the principals and Dr. Bowsman shows and hopes that it rubs off on the teachers, staff and the kids. Pat Tillson added that this is the best school around and we need to advertise this. We need to give everyone a thumbs and a pat on the back as they are due.

Don Pruitt spoke up and said this is going to be a good year if we compare it to the video of the staff on Facebook.

Jan Caudle thanked everyone for coming.

Don Pruitt said to bring more people next month.

Jan Caudle mentioned the elementary entrance looks great.

Dr. Bowsman said they will work on the budget for next year to plan on working on the entrance for the high school.

Jan Caudle wanted to congratulate the students who marched with the Winchester band at the Indiana State Fair Band Day. They looked real good and placed third. She also thanked Winchester for allowing them to compete with them.

Pat Tillson added that hopefully Randolph Southern will be able to compete in band day on their own next year.

Pat Tillson mentioned that the principals and Dr. Bowsman have done a great job finding great people to fill the positions that needed to be filled.

XII. AUG 2021

Pat Tillson made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 PM. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:30 PM, in the Superintendent Board Room.

James M. Fahl
Janet M. Carter
Patricia Nelson

Donald L. Pruitt

Persons Attending: Daniel Allen, Crystle Austin, Mark Beebe, Donnie Bowsman, Cindee Cowen, Jackie Ison, Robert Mangus, Terry Sargent.