

Randolph County Board of Education
Work Session Minutes
November 20, 2017

The Randolph County Board of Education met for a work session on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Central Services Board Room, located at the 2222-C South Fayetteville Street Office in Asheboro. The following were present: Board Members Gary Cook (Chairman), Emily T. Coltrane (Vice-Chair), Tracy Boyles, Fred Burgess, and Sharon P. Farlow, Superintendent Stephen Gainey, and Leadership Team members.

The work session started at 4:35 p.m. Dr. Gainey presented an overview of the meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction

1. Career- and College-Ready Graduates (CCRG) Legislation

Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent, and Kim Johnson, Director 9-12 Instruction, shared that the CCRG legislation requires all students graduating in the Class of 2019 and beyond to obtain proficiency in the areas of English/Reading and Math as determined by a student's ACT score and overall unweighted grade point average (GPA). Students who do not meet the ACT benchmark, which is yet to be determined, and have an unweighted GPA below 2.80 will be required to complete remedial coursework in the content area(s) (English/Reading, Math, or both content areas) in which they are not proficient during their senior year. This is a work in progress. The state plans to finalize all details regarding CCRG by March 2018. Ms. Johnson shared that the Randolph County School System and Randolph Community College are working together to plan for implementation of this required initiative during the 2018-2019 school year. High schools have currently identified students in the eleventh grade who might be affected by this legislation based on the school system's current information regarding ACT and GPA benchmarks. A letter of notification was sent home in all junior report cards on November 14, 2017. Students and parents will be updated as details are finalized in March.

2. Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone designation for high schools

Catherine Berry shared of her excitement regarding this piece of information. Due to our relationship with the college board, they reached out to us regarding some opportunities. Kim Johnson shared that Southwestern Randolph High School and Trinity High School have submitted applications to the College Board to be considered for a "Capstone High School" designation. We are expecting notification in late December or early January. Several other Randolph County School System high schools also are considering adding this exciting Advanced Placement option during the 2019-2020 school year. This will be an opportunity to equip our students with skills that are interwoven into AP courses. The program will be comprised on two additional AP semester courses offered first to 10th grade followed by a year-long research program. This program offers students a unique opportunity to distinguish themselves to colleges and universities.

3. University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) partnership with Southwestern Randolph High School

Catherine Berry and Kim Johnson shared that recently an invitation was initiated to the school system to partner with other local school systems. Southwestern Randolph High School has been selected to participate in a "Science of Healthful Living" wellness grant in partnership with UNCG.

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SWRHS will be a part of a 20-school cohort that will collaborate with UNC-G regarding the integration of technology and Kinesiology into our existing Healthful Living curriculum. The total value of the grant awarded to UNCG is \$250,000.00. This grant will provide both print and technology resources for our health and physical education teachers to use with their 9th grade Healthful Living classes. The partnership is slated to begin during the Spring 2018 semester.

4. Future Teachers of North Carolina iTEACH Pilot

Catherine Berry ask Nancy Cross, Director of Career & Technical Education and Innovative School Design, to present. Ms. Cross shared of her excitement regarding this program for students. The new piece with this program is the opportunity to earn university credit while in the program. Senate Bill 598 (Future Teachers of North Carolina) is one strategy developed to address the teacher shortage across North Carolina. On October 16, 2017, school systems were invited to apply to participate in iTEACH, the instructional component of “Future Teachers of North Carolina.” The Randolph County School System was selected to be a partner in the first year of this exciting program. Trinity High School also was selected as the location of iTEACH. Students will take a one-block course, Teaching as a Profession I, during the Fall 2018 semester. This course will articulate to any North Carolina public university as EDU 216 (Foundations of Education). During the Spring 2019 semester, students will engage in a two-block course, Teaching as a Profession II, which will articulate to any North Carolina public university as EDU 221 (Children with Exceptionalities). Upon the successful completion of the program, students will have three Career and Technical Education credits and six hours of university level credit.

5. Technology access for students

Nan York, Executive Director of Media and Technology, shared as part of the Randolph County School System 2017-2020 Digital Learning Plan, one of the district’s strategies is to encourage organizations and other businesses in the area to offer free internet access. The Media & Technology Department is researching internet access beyond the school day for students. The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) offers the *Lifeline Program*. This program provides a monthly benefit (\$9.25) to reduce or eliminate the cost of connectivity services (phone or internet) for qualified households. Information will be provided to parents on the website and through fliers. Also, some internet service providers offer additional assistance programs for qualifying households. Ms. York shared that the Media and Technology staff will continue to work with school staff to provide ongoing information for students and families.

Operations

1. “Here Comes the Bus” application

Marty Trotter, Assistant Superintendent, shared information regarding “Here Comes the Bus” application, powered by Synovia Solutions. This is a free app that consist of bus tracking and/or student tracking, increase safety for students, improve communication with parents, decrease bus-related call volume.

Superintendent’s Office

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

Dr. Gainey reviewed the list of events and referenced that all dates were set for the end of the year including graduation dates which were released back in September.

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The work session ended at 6:00 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary