

Randolph schools approve offered budget

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The Randolph County Schools' proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year seeks \$1.43 million in local money, a 6.39% increase from what the school system received from Randolph County for the current school year.

The Randolph County Board of Education approved the budget proposal on Monday.

The budget calls for \$173,000 total in salary increases, \$114,000 for additional SROs and \$430,000 for a 1.5% supplemental increase for all classified employees.

Changes from last year to the proposed budget include a matching insurance increase, a matching retirement increase, a legislative salary increase, charter school payments, as well as energy, water, garbage and fuel increases.

Superintendent Stephen Gainey indicated the supplemental increase, which is perhaps the most talked-about item of the budget cycle, would buoy the positions of support workers throughout the system. Gainey said that since Jan. 9, when Gainey presented preliminary local budget requests to Randolph's school board and the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, continued dialogue has prompted an additional proposed change.

"I feel very good about this additional request; we have a lot of workforce needs in the classified employee group," Gainey said. "We are not unlike any other business. We are a business. We do have a strong business side; if you go into the building over there, one half of the building is HR and finance."

The proposed change would not apply to any certified staff, principals, assistant principals, directors, assistant directors or supervisors.

Employees who would be affected include clerical workers, general office assistants, treasurers data managers, administrative assistants, all central service clerical warehouse staff, delivery staff, custodians, maintenance staff, bus drivers, bus monitors, mechanics and all garage workers, teacher assistants, day care staff, school nutrition workers, crisis intervention workers, distance learner staff, ISS coordinators, intervention assistants, occupational assistants, occupational therapists, student advocates and technology technicians.

The commissioners are not scheduled to approve a final budget until June 19. The new fiscal year begins July 1.