

Randolph County Board of Education
Work Session Minutes
November 19, 2018

The Randolph County Board of Education met for a work session on Monday, November 19, 2018 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: Gary Cook (Chairman), Tracy Boyles (Vice-Chair), Brian Biggs, Fred Burgess, Sharon P. Farlow, Matthew Lambeth, Dr. Gainey, Leadership Team members, and Legislators Pat Hurley and Jerry Tillman.

The work session started at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Gainey presented an overview of the meeting. The Superintendent distributed the following list of the “Randolph County School System Budget Concerns for Legislators for the Spring/Summer 2019 Legislative Session for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.” The Board members, Leadership Team, and Legislators Pat Hurley and Jerry Tillman discussed and reviewed the following information:

- 1) **Textbook Funding**---During the 2016-2017 school year, our school system received an increase of \$214,196 (from \$520,702 during the 2015-2016 school year to \$734,898 during the 2016-2017 school year) in this area. This increased funding, combined with carryover money from previous school years, was used to cover our Spring 2017 adoption of Social Studies textbooks and Health textbooks. Our school system’s level of textbook funding was \$734,854 for the 2017-2018 school year. During the Spring of 2018, our school system did not do a textbook adoption; instead, part of our textbook funding for the 2017-2018 school year (\$397,707) was used for textbook replacements in multiple subject areas as needed. Our school system’s level of textbook funding was reduced during the 2018-2019 school year to the amount of \$646,722. This money, as well as carryover textbook funds from previous school years, will be used to cover a textbook adoption for Mathematics during the Spring of 2019. It is important to note that the cost of a textbook adoption for our school system ranges from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. As a result, additional funding in this area is needed.

- 2) **Technology Funding**---Our school system’s funding level for technology for the 2018-2019 school year is \$274,859 more than the amount allotted for the 2017-2018 school year. However, it is important to note that our school system received \$339,216 less in technology funding for the 2017-2018 school year in comparison to the funding level in that area for the 2016-2017 school year. The reduction came after our receipt of an increase in funding of \$328,046 for the 2016-2017 school year in comparison to the 2015-2016 school year. Overall, our school system needs more consistency, as well as an increase in the level of funding, in this area of funding to be able to plan more effectively with regard to digital resources, especially with the state’s use of online testing at all levels of school.

- 3) **Special Education Funding**---For the 2018-2019 school year, our school system received an increase of \$226,003 (from \$9,011,459 during the 2017-2018 school year to \$9,237,462 during the 2018-2019 school year) in this area. However, over the past few years, our school system’s non-personnel expenses in Special Education have decreased (from \$680,971 during the 2012-2013 school year to \$123,241 during the 2017-2018 school year) due to the continued increase in personnel costs on an annual basis to provide the required services for students. More specifically, our contract personnel costs have increased from \$517,989 during the 2012-2013 school year to \$646,824 during the 2017-2018 school year. Also, personnel costs for individuals who are employees of our school system have increased from \$7,071,933 during the 2012-2013 school year to \$8,241,394 during the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, during the 2018-2019 school year, our school system funds 13 Special Education teacher positions with non-Special Education teacher positions to meet the needs of our students. This use of non-Special Education teacher positions in this area has been an occurrence for several consecutive years in our school system. Overall,

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additional funding is needed in this area to meet the needs of our students and avoid a negative impact on other areas of our budget.

- 4) **Transportation Funding**---While the level of state funding for transportation increased by \$417,980 for the 2017-2018 school year in comparison to the 2013-2014 school year for our school system, the level of local funding needed to cover our transportation costs has increased during that time period as well. More specifically, the school system's amount of local money used on transportation increased by \$422,702 for the 2017-2018 school year in comparison to the 2013-2014 school year. In fact, our school system's costs for contract transportation increased by \$444,105 for the 2017-2018 school year in comparison to the 2013-2014 school year. Additional funding is needed in this area, especially due to the continued increase in the cost of contract transportation on an annual basis.

- 5) **Career-Technical Education (CTE) Teacher Positions**---This area of the curriculum has grown tremendously during the past few years in terms of the level of student interest. As a result, the expansion of existing programs, as well as the implementation of new specialty programs, are needed to meet the needs and interests of our students. However, our school system has lost 7.5 teacher positions in Career-Technical Education during the 2017-2018 school year and the 2018-2019 school year combined. An increase in the allotment of teacher positions is needed to support our efforts to expand our CTE programs in a manner consistent with our students' interests.

- 6) **mCLASS: Reading 3D Diagnostic Instrument**---The teachers in grades K-3 have worked hard to improve our school system's use of this instrument and the data associated with it since the start of the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, teachers are working hard to help staff members new to their schools use the instrument. Our school system does not want to lose the ground gained with regard to the use of this instrument due to the implementation of a new reading diagnostic instrument. Thus, the continued use of this instrument in future school years is our preference.

After review and discussion, Chairman Cook thanked everyone for their time to discuss these important issues for our school system.

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.

The work session ended at 6:05 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Secretary