

The Randolph Southern School Corporation Board of School Trustees met for the regular meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021 in the Superintendent's Office Board Room. The following members were present:

Mike Miller, President
Jan Caudle, Vice President
Thomas McFarland, Secretary
Eric Retter, Member
Don Pruitt, Member, Absent

Mike Miller called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

II. APR 2021

Tom McFarland made a motion to approve the March 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Eric Retter seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

III. APR 2021

Jan Caudle made a motion to add New Business Item VI.B.7, Addendum to add Retirement letter for Lou Ann Terhaar, to the agenda. Eric Retter seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

IV. APR 2021

V. APR 2021

Tom McFarland moved to approve the Accounts Payable vouchers 188-301 in the amount of \$1,152,268.32.

March 31, 2021 cash balance Education Fund \$454,408.03. Jan Caudle seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.8 APR 2021

Eric Retter made a motion to approve the Excessive Funds Transfer List proposal. Superintendent Donnie Bowsman read aloud the letter to the IDOE, and Fiscal Qualitative Indicators Committee, explaining the school corporation's plan to reduce the funds transferred from the Education account to the Operations account for fiscal year 2021 and beyond.

See below:

DATE: 4-12-21

TO: Indiana Department of Education
Fiscal Qualitative Indicators Committee

FROM: Randolph Southern School Corporation Board of School Trustees
Mr. Donnie Bowsman, Superintendent
Mrs. Melissa Kosisko, Corporation Treasurer

SUBJECT: Excessive Education Fund Transfer List

Randolph Southern School Corporation (RSSC) received notice from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) on February 26, 2021 that the school corporation had transferred more than fifteen percent of the total Education fund revenue in calendar year 2020. Per I.C. 20-40-2-9, the school corporation must perform the following tasks:

1. Publicly acknowledge receipt of the notice at the next school board meeting.
 - a. Superintendent Bowsman presented the letter to the school board at its monthly meeting held on March 8, 2020. Mr. Bowsman reviewed the required duties of the school corporation leadership in relation to I.C. 20-40-2-9.
 - b. The board made a motion and voted to approve receipt of the Excessive Education fund Transfer List notice.
2. The notice was approved and placed in the official minutes of the RSSC Board of School Trustees on April 12, 2020.
3. Within thirty days, publish the IDOE notice and any relevant individuals reports prepared by the IDOE on the school corporation internet site.
 - a. The Superintendent instructed the Technology Director to place the notice on the corporation website under the Board tab and Publications. The notice was published on March 8, 2020 and can be found at

<http://www.rssc.k12.in.us/board/publications/560-excessive-education-fund-transfer-list/file>

4. The school corporation has ninety days from the date of the notice to prepare and submit documentation to explain:
 1. How and why the school corporation failed to meet the education fund transfer target percentage.
 2. Steps the school corporation is planning or actively taking to budget and spend during the next calendar year to meet the transfer target percentage for the next calendar year.

This plan includes a How and Why statement and Action Plan in accordance with IC 20-40-2-9. See Below:

HOW & WHY:

First, prior to 2018 school corporations were mandated to pay the salary and benefits of the superintendent, central office staff, director of operations, janitors, board members, school resource officer, and groundskeeper from the General fund (now Education fund). Further, cleaning supplies, attorney fees, promotional expenses, mileage, professional development, and most utility costs were mandated to be paid out of the General fund (now Education fund). These expenditures accounted for approximately 19.7% of the total General fund/Education fund budget. Schools were not permitted to pay these expenses from the Capital Projects fund, Transportation fund, and School Bus Replacement fund. Moreover, only specific expenditures identified in Indiana Code or by the Indiana Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual were permitted to be paid from these tax levy funds. With the passage of I.C. 20-40-18-1 and the creation of the Operations fund in 2018, school corporations were provided more flexibility to utilize funds pay expenditures. However, I.C. 20-40-2-9 placed a limit of 15% transfer of funds from the General/Education fund to the Operations fund. This new regulation essentially shifted the burden of paying some of those expenditures from the General/Education fund to the Operations fund and local taxpayer. Specifically, in the case of RSSC, 4.7% of the expenses had no revenue stream. Per I.C. 20-46-8-1, a school corporation may only raise a certain amount of maximum tax levy in the Operations fund based upon Assessed Valuation (AV) of homes, farms, and businesses. Therefore, with no additional revenue streams the school corporation would be forced to make cuts in staffing, building repairs, supplies, equipment, or conduct a referendum, or infuse funds from other accounts. The large cash balance in the Rainy Day fund is a result of operating efficiently through strategically planning projects, cooperative agreements, conducting a well-organized maintenance program, and only purchasing equipment and buses as needed.

Second, matters at RSSC have become more complicated because the school corporation has declined in enrollment from 2018 to 2021 by 75 students. Consequently, the less students mean less funding the Education fund. The school corporation has lost over \$450,000.00 in funding over the last 4 years. The school corporation has reduced staff through attrition, assigned personnel to multiple job duties, restructured health insurance, and reorganized federal grants to supplement and support students.

Third, the school corporation has operated extremely efficient over the last 10 years and provided an excellent education. There are 67 school corporations in 17 counties between RSSC to Marion County. This comparison includes 2 counties north and south of Randolph County. RSSC has the 10th lowest tax rate (\$0.8871) among all those school corporations. We just completed a PE/Locker Room Renovation, elementary roof replacement, and high school chiller replacement. The bond obtained for this project will be paid off in 2023. Additionally, the 2009 QSCB bond will be paid off in 2023. These two bonds equate to \$0.29 of the current tax rate or \$515,185 of levy. The payoff of these two bonds could open the door for an Operations fund referendum if student enrollment does not increase.

Fourth, the school corporation has been able to provide a base salary increase, or stipend, or health insurance increase, or health savings account increase every year since 2011. The school corporation has not had a Reduction in Force (RIF) since 2011. It has never placed a tax referendum on the ballot. The school corporation has not applied for a Common School Loan since 2011.

Last, RSSC is a small school corporation. It does not have a true Transportation Director. Rather, this position is split between the Maintenance Director, Central Office Secretary, and Deputy Treasurer. RSSC does not have a full-time mechanic. The Maintenance Director makes minor repairs while large repairs and inspections are subcontracted with a local garage. RSSC does not have a full-time Groundskeeper. This position is part-time. RSSC does not have a Curriculum Coordinator or an Assistant Superintendent like most school corporations. Duties such as grant writing and submission of federal/state reports are submitted by the Superintendent and Central Office staff. Staff professional development is coordinated by the Superintendent and Principals. These split duties are clearly a savings to the school corporation. However, it takes a toll on our staff. Quite frankly, we do more with less compared to fellow school corporations.

STEPS TO MEET EDUCATION FUND TRANSFER TARGET PERCENTAGE:

First, the maximum tax levy for the 2021 was \$1,144,357. The school corporation budget request was \$1,054,793 and under the max by -\$89,564.00. The school corporation will request the max levy in 2022 in order to decrease the transfer of funds from the Education account to Operations fund. The larger levy request will increase the tax rate by \$0.05 and reduce the -\$145,699.53 to -56,135.52. Further, the maximum levy growth quotient should provide additional funds to the Operations fund for 2022.

Second, RSSC has shifted student instructional related staff from the Operations fund to the Education fund for the 2021 school year. These changes align with the approved IDOE Chart of Accounts. For example, some instructional software utilized by teachers each day in the classroom was being paid from the Operations fund. Those expenditures are now being paid from the Education fund. Further, a special education paraprofessional riding the bus with a student was being paid from the Operations fund. This person is now being paid from the Special Education 611 federal grant. The 2020 Education fund budget was increased from \$2,916,851 and to \$2,966,935 in 2021. The 2021 Operations fund budget was decreased \$1,927,469 and to \$1,835,228 in 2021. The changes made from 2020 to 2021 will reduce the need to transfer \$92,241 to the Operations fund.

Third, RSSC has a healthy cash balance in the Rainy Day fund and the Windmill fund. The Board of School Trustees may direct the Superintendent to infuse funds into the Operations fund to ensure the school corporation does not exceed the 15% target transfer amount.

Fourth, RSSC may lease-to-own school buses in lieu of purchasing. This strategy would permit the school corporation to appropriate specific payments over time rather than making large purchases each year.

Fifth, RSSC may apply for the Common School Fund loan in order provide additional funds for advances in technology or construction.

Sixth, RSSC may be required to impose a RIF in the Education fund if enrollment continues to drop.

Last, RSSC may need to conduct referendum placing a question on the ballot to increase the tax rate for the Education fund. This would ensure a certain amount of revenue for a specific period of time.

Respectfully,



Mr. Donnie Bowsman, Superintendent

Superintendent Bowsman and Treasurer, Melissa Kosisko reviewed the Action Plan. Regarding the proposed plan, and a possible tax rate increase, Mike Miller stated "the taxpayers are getting a bargain at the current rate." The school district has been operating at an excellent tax rate for several years. Jan Caudle seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.9 APR 2021

Jan Caudle made a motion to approve the Title I amendment as presented. The school corporation received notice from the IDOE that the final allocation for FY2021 was reduced from \$138,895.22 to \$138,526.21. The -\$369.01 will be reduced in salary and benefits. Mr. Allen explained the reason for the decline in funds was a miscalculation by the IDOE in years past and have been adjusting the figures to payoff. This should be the final year of the adjusted allotment.

Eric Retter seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.10 APR 2021

Eric Retter made a motion to approve the High Ability Grant Amentment as presented. The school corporation received an additional \$675.00 for a total of \$20,953.08. The additional funds will be used for salary and benefits. Jan Caudle seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.A.11 APR 2021

Eric Retter made a motion to approve the resolution to transfer \$39,809.45 each month from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund effective March 24, 2021. This

reduction will permit the school corporation to obtain the target transfer amount of 15% per IC 20-40-2-9. The Operations account balance will be reduced and may need funds infused from Rainy Day or Windmill. Tom McFarland seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.B.4 APR 2021

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

1. Penny Ashbaugh for partial FMLA for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Ashbaugh will work with administration on any future leave requests for the remainder of the school year.
2. Colton Fisher as Volunteer Assistant Baseball coach for the 2020-2021 school year per Master Contract.
3. Marcella Nicholson retiring as 4th grade teacher at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Nicholson has taught at Randolph Southern Elementary School for 38 years.
4. Travis Stangland resignation as Boys Varsity Basketball coach.
5. Travis Stangland resignation as High School PE/Health teacher at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.
6. Randy Younger as Softball Varsity Assistant coach for the 2020-2021 school year per Master Contract.
7. Lou Ann Terhaar retiring as Kindergarten teacher at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Terhaar has taught at Randolph Southern Elementary School for 22 years.

Elementary Principal Daniel Allen, stated, "Marcella Nicholson and Lou Ann Terhaar will be greatly missed and have always given comfort and confidence to new kids and they will be extremely hard to replace."

Jan Caudle seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.C.4 APR 2021

Eric Retter made a motion to approve the following fund raising requests:

Prom Bingo reported funds raised from their Bingo fundraiser. Funds will be used for Prom decorations, DJ, venue rental. Anticipated income: \$800.00. Actual income: \$808.00. Contact Person: Randi Durbin.

Randolph Southern Lady Rebel Basketball will host a Girls Basketball Shootout on June 16, 2021. Funds will be used to purchase equipment and travel suits. Anticipated income: \$4,000.00. Contact Person: Jerimy Stephan.

Tom McFarland seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.D.3 APR 2021

Jan Caudle made a motion to approve the following facility use requests as presented:

Randolph Southern Lady Rebel Basketball program/Jerimy Stephan to use the Elementary and High School gyms, cafeterias, and annex for their Shootout tournament on June 16, 2021. Set up hours will be from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Tournament times will be from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Clean up will begin at the conclusion of the tournament.

Eric Retter seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

VI.F.2 APR 2021

Randolph Southern Elementary reported completing the annual Body Safety Curriculum through the Children's Advocacy Center of Randolph County.

VI.J.4 APR 2021

Jan Caudle made a motion to approve the \$250.00 donation to Varsity Baseball fund from Mark and Brenda Moody.

Eric Retter seconded the motion carried 4-0.

VII.A.4 APR 2021

Superintendent reported on the following items:

1. Superintendent Bowsman reported the Annual Performance Report was published on March 16, 2021 in the News Gazette.
2. Superintendent Bowsman reported the summer school cost estimates were submitted to the IDOE. RSE will have 15 students and RSHS will have 29 students. Elementary Principal, Daniel Allen, reported most of the kids are 3rd

& 4th grade students. High School Principal, Robert Mangus, will have his students enrolled in Plato for their summer school classes online.

3. Superintendent Bowsman submitted Forecasted Data Students Counts for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 based on information obtained from enrollment projections, Sp. Ed., and CTE. Superintendent Bowsman submitted 471 as the estimate for the next two years.
4. Superintendent Bowsman reported the school corporation will receive \$470,396.46 in federal funds to be utilized for the following:

All CARES Act allowable activities (all ESSA program grants, IDEA, Perkins), plus:

Activities related to reducing virus transmission, reducing other health hazards.

Improving indoor air quality.

Addressing learning loss and accelerated learning (including special populations), administering high-quality assessments, improving engagement in distance education, evidence-based interventions to meet "comprehensive needs of students".

Superintendent Bowsman reported the school corporation will need to decide where to spend this money and whether it will be used for stipends, filters for air quality, paying a teacher's salary in lieu of a RIF, etc.

5. Superintendent Bowsman reported RSSC was overcharged \$11,918.54 by Symmetry (Natural Gas transporter) for the month of February during the cold spell. Symmetry delivered more gas than needed or requested by Ohio Valley Gas. The surplus gas was sold at \$12.986 per therm rather than a stop gap of \$3.00 per therm. RE, RC, and Northeastern were also overcharged. The Consortium and collective superintendents are working together to resolve this issue without litigation.
6. The monthly maintenance report was presented.

VIII. A.4 APR 2021

Elementary Principal reported on the following items:

1. Mr. Allen reported Paula Owens, corporation nurse, completed the Stop the Bleed Grant for \$1,000.00. This will allow any new hires to be trained to stop the bleed.

2. Mr. Allen reported there are 21 kids currently signed up for Kindergarten next year. We usually have approximately 24-25 students for the registration and would like to see it around 35.
3. Mr. Allen reported that IREAD starts tomorrow and they are also preparing for ILEARN practice. A couple of virtual students will need transportation to come to school for testing. Mr. Allen will work with the transportation department to work out those details.

The students who do not pass the IREAD will have to come to summer school. The IEP students will be exempted. The school will determine on an individual basis whether students who do not pass will be retained or will advance to the next grade level.

4. Mr. Allen reported 6th grade will travel to Camp Woodsmoke on May 13 & 14 and will be utilizing all of the cabins which will require more supervision.

VIII. B.3 APR 2021

Jr./Sr. High School Principal reported on the following items:

1. Mr. Mangus passed out information from Mrs. Fry from the soil test that was taken from the farm plot.
2. Mr. Mangus reported that Senior awards will be held on June 2. Graduation is still on pace for June 5. The senior class is small, there should not be any issues allowing at least 10 guests for each senior and still comply with social distancing guidelines.
3. Mr. Mangus reported Prom will be held on May 1st at the Randolph County Fairgrounds in Husted Hall. The Prom walk will be held at the school and will spread out the students so they shouldn't have to wear their masks. Mr. Bowsman asked if the Prom plan had been sent to Dr. Sowinski at the Health department? Mr. Mangus reported he will make sure to have the report sent.
4. Mr. Mangus reported two students will be awarded the MEC Star award. Each student will choose a teacher or staff member who has made a difference in their education. Jewelia Austin chose Laura McReynolds and Isiah Peters chose Mrs. Reed.
5. Mr. Mangus reported he has completed all of his long evaluations.

IX. APR 2021

There were no faculty, staff, or student comments.

X. APR 2021

There were no patron comments.

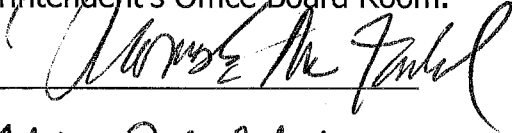


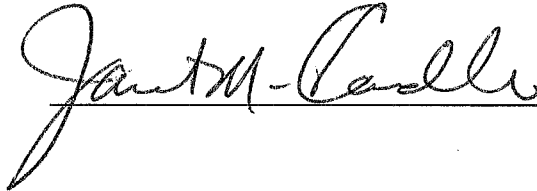

XI. APR 2021

Eric Retter asked if we will recognize the retirees during the next board meeting? Mr. Bowsman said we will recognize them during the board meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021.

XII. APR 2021

Eric Retter made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Tom McFarland seconded the motion and motion carried 4-0.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:30 PM, in the Superintendent's Office Board Room.

Persons Attending: Daniel Allen, Crystle Austin, Donnie Bowsman, Cindee Cowen, Melissa Kosisko, and Robert Mangus