

The Randolph Southern School Corporation Board of School Trustees held the 2024 Budget Public Hearing on Monday, September 11, 2023 in the Superintendent's Office Board Room.

Board Members Present were:

Eric Retter, President
Patricia Tillson, Vice President
Don Pruitt, Secretary
Heather Good, Member
Crystle Austin, Member

I. SEP 2024 Budget Public Hearing

The Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:35 PM by Dr. Bowsman.

II. BUDGET HEARING

Superintendent Dr. Donnie Bowsman reviewed the 2024 Budget.

The 2024 Budget was posted on the Indiana Gateway and school corporation website on August 25, 2023.

The CPF and Bus Replacement Plans and Notice to taxpayers were posted to the Indiana Gateway and school corporation website on August 25, 2023.

- A. 2024 Budget Hearing for Operations:
Budget Estimate \$2,056,219.00.
- B. 2024 Budget Hearing for Education Fund:
Budget Estimate \$3,871,804.00.
- C. 2024 Budget Hearing for Debt Service Fund
Budget Estimate \$647,220.00.
- D. 2024 Budget Hearing for Rainy Day Fund
Budget Estimate \$400,000.00.
- E. Close budget hearing

Dr. Bowsman discussed that the budget for each respective fund. The Education Fund budget is based on the ADM count of 460 students which estimated in March of 2023. Currently, the school corporation is above this estimated number. The tax rate should be slightly lower this year due to the elimination of unreimbursed textbook rental. The

assessed valuation will increase by 3% to 4% and will generate a little more revenue. We are still operating on a deficit if we provide a 7% increase for all staff members. However, our cash balance is high and will soak up most of the losses. These projections are all based upon ADM. Additionally, we have the windmill funds and rainy day funds to cover anything in the immediate future. The school corporation does not anticipate a tax anticipation warrant due to our large cash balances. We are in excellent financial shape. RSSC is looking into purchasing a new minibus. We are also looking at many projects such as an pavilion area for the tennis courts, lockers for the band instruments, new elementary desks, artificial surface to replace the mulch on the elementary playground. Mr. Allen stated that the ground absorbs the mulch and the new fence will make it hard to get a truck in that area to bring new mulch into this area.

III. Adjournment

Don Pruitt moved to adjourn the Budget Public Hearing meeting at 6:42 PM.
Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

Donald L. Pruitt

Heather M. Good

Patricia Jellison

Crystle Austin

Eric B...

Persons Present: Daniel Allen, Donnie Bowsman, Amanda Bragg, Chris Robinson, Diane Meyer and Marla Threewitt's.

The regular meeting of the Randolph Southern School Corporation Board of School Trustees was called to order at 6:42 PM on Monday, September 11, 2023 in the Superintendent's Office Board Room by President, Eric Retter. The following members were present:

Eric Retter, President
Patricia Tillson, Vice President
Don Pruitt, Secretary
Heather Good, Member
Crystle Austin, Member

II. SEP 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Agenda. Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

III. SEP 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

IV. SEP 2023

Marla Threewitt's and Randolph County Solar Eclipse Committee Presentation. Marla discussed the solar eclipse is to occur on April 8, 2024 around 3:00 "ish" PM. The eclipse is set to last around four (4) minutes. Randolph County is the prime spot to be able to view the eclipse. This is an opportunity to make school funding by possibly renting out parking spots for spectators to observe the eclipse. Most area schools are closing that day or at the very least releasing at noon. Marla also reported that she had heard that schools would be given that day off without having to make it up but she was going to check further into that information.

Dr. Bowsman discussed that he would check with the IDOE and if they allow the school corporation to close without an eLearning day that would be great, if not an eLearning day could be utilized. Dr. Bowsman added that he would gather more information from the IDOE, share with the Board of School Trustees, and make a decision on how to proceed with this matter.

Heather Good discussed that she was concerned with incoming traffic into our county and kids being on the buses at that time. Mrs. Good reported that there were billboards in New York stating that if people wanted to see the eclipse to visit Randolph County, Indiana. Mrs. Good also asked, "Can wifi handle an eLearning day on April 8th with all the extra incoming traffic?"

Marla discussed that Mr. Shaneyfelt, the Emergency Director advised that there would be no cell service, no GPS and wifi would not be able to hold up with the surge of people into the county.

Mrs. Good stated, " I am concerned, I do not want kids on the buses at that time."

Marla discussed that there were forms online that could be filled out to be addressed at the October 5th Meeting.

Eric Retter added, "This could get very interesting. People will travel to see it."

Dr. Bowsman discussed that activities and planning need to happen. We do not want kids on the bus. The school board meeting is also on that day. We will need to change that meeting.

Eric Retter commented, "We need to look at ways to capitalize."

Dr. Bowsman stated that we need to take into consideration renting out parking spaces may cause clean up of trash and having restrooms availability for visitors.

Dr. Bowsman thanked Marla for attending the meeting and bringing us this information.

Eric Retter commented, "I appreciate you coming and informing us."

Heather Good asked, "Would it be beneficial to have someone from RSSC attend the meetings?"

Marla discussed that the meetings will be the last Wednesday of the month at 4:30 PM at the Randolph County Inn and Suites Meeting Room. You can also visit the website at <https://www.randolphcounty2024eclipse.com>. Janet Caudle is also a part of the committee so she can keep the school corporation updated.

Chris Robinson and Diane Meyer shared a slideshow and made a presentation of how the fifth grade benefited from the National Rural School Collaborative Grant for the 2022-23 school year. The National SIG Project awarded only three (3) rural schools in the United States and RSE was one of them. This was a very rewarding experience for the students and also paid to enroll the 5th grade in animal science in 4H where they completed projects. One student, Isaiah Berger, even won a gold merit which is the highest award at the state fair for his project. Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Meyer also discussed their interest in participating in this program again for the 2023-24 school year.

V. SEP 2023

Heather Good moved to approve the August 22, 2023 payroll voucher in the amount of \$145,142.88, September 7, 2023 payroll voucher in the amount of \$162,119.58, APV's numbered 3129 through 3230 in the amount of \$350,746.61, August 31, 2023 Cash Balance Education Fund in the amount of \$656,713.34 and August 31, 2023 Operations Fund in the amount of \$472,423.31. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.A.42 SEP 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the following Business Items:

Approval for the school corporation to utilize the recently approved Small Rural School Achievement Program Grant of \$41,239.00 towards classroom size reduction for 1st Grade teacher salary. The Grant was increased by \$1,072.00 from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024.

Approval of the Title I Grant for \$117,241.68 as presented. The Grant decreased by \$1,011.32. Funds will pay for partial salary and benefits of counselors the elementary and high school and partial paraprofessional salary and benefits.

Approval of the Title II (\$18,336.03) & IV (\$10,000.02) Grant for \$28,341.05 as presented. The grants decreased by \$405.54. Funds will be used to pay for AP Stipends and one (1) section of AP Biology, and one (1) section of AP Calculus salary and benefits.

Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.B.9. SEP 2023

Heather Good made a motion to approve the following personnel items as presented:

1. Shianna Fry as JH Cheer Coach for the 2023-24 school year per the Master Contract.
2. Shianna Fry as FFA Advisor for the 2023-24 school year per the Master Contract.
3. The resignation of Brad Jessup as JV Boys Basketball Coach effective August 22, 2023. Mr. Jessup would like to stay on as a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 school year.
4. Kristi Moistner as a full-time bus driver at the rate of \$23.93 per hour.

Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.C.8 SEP 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the following fundraisers:

1. Jr./Sr. Class Trip's request to sell suckers during volleyball games. Contact person is Tammy Clements.
2. Wrestling's request to hold the 2nd Annual Golf Scramble on October 1, 2023 at the Winchester Golf Club. Contact person is Katey Bebout.
3. Elementary Library's request hold a book fair from September 25th through September 29th. Contact person is Suzanne Robinson.
4. Girls' Basketball request to sell t-shirts from August 2023 to February 2024. Contact person is Jordan Austin.

Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.D.5. SEP 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Merchants Bank of Indiana to hold their 100th Year Celebration on September 15, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the HS Cafeteria. Contact person is Scott Evans or Denise Watson. Heather Good asked, "Are we charging a fee?" Dr. Bowsman discussed that we have the right to assess charging a fee on a case by case basis and we were not going to in this case because they were just having refreshments and would clean up after themselves. Mr. Allen added that the custodians would also still be in the building until 11:00 PM. Mrs. Good discussed that she was not opposing the request she just wanted people to know it is an option. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.F.4. SEP 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Randolph Southern School Corporation and Ivy Tech Community College (Richmond) for students to earn dual credit in Physics I. The course will be taught by Katie Uppfalt at the Jr.-Sr. High School. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VI.J.6 SEP 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the following donations:

1. Silver Towne Farms made a \$2,000.00 donation to be to be divided among the following accounts:

\$500-Varsity Boys Basketball
\$500-Varsity Girls Basketball
\$500-Boys Tennis
\$500-Co-Ed Track

2. Charlene Kock donated \$200 to Katie Bond's classroom.

Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VII.9. SEP 2023

Superintendent, Dr. Bowsman reported on the following items:

1. Affordable Care Act minimum employer contribution rate not to exceed 8.29% per the IRS. This decrease is an increase to the amount the school corporation will need to contribute toward plans.
2. Title II Grant Funding:
RSSC received \$18,336.03 for 2023-24, which is a decrease of \$245.37.

Title IV Funding:
RSSC received 10,005.02 for 2023-24, which is a decrease of \$159.17.
Funds will be utilized to help pay for AP incentive classes and AP courses.
3. The Emergency Safety Plan was reviewed on September 6, 2023.
Dr. Bowsman submitted the 2023 Safe Schools and Emergency Preparedness Planning Certification to the IDOE on September 6, 2023.
4. Dr. Bowsman presented the Teacher Administrators Evaluation Report 2022-2023.
5. Dr. Bowsman discussed the Maintenance Report. Bus 11 had a coolant system service and coolant pump replacement. Planning for the new bus route is underway and is set to start on Monday, September 18th. The baseball diamond bleachers have been removed and the new pads installed. The new bleachers are here and ready to be assembled. We are working on the new camera system. The Student Activity Center is very near completion. Signage and just a couple items are left to complete. We are going to install a fence around the HVAC unit. Installing a baffling system from the ceiling of the Student Activity Center. Door 1 at the high school entrance had new closers and continuous

hinges replaced. The electronic access system was updated and in need of some software maintenance. The track pavilion is in the planning stages.

6. Negotiations are scheduled to begin on September 15, 2023. Pre-negotiations began on August 31, 2023. The team anticipates the contract to be settled and the school corporation will need to hold an additional school board meeting on September 20, 2023 to pass a tentative agreement. Public notice must be given at least 48 business hours in advance. The CTA could ratify the contract on September 26, 2023 (72 hours after the board meeting). The final contract would be approved on October 16, 2023 with potential pay increases to be paid out on October 22, 2023.
7. ADM Count was presented. Dr. Bowsman added that our student numbers are looking good. Count day is October 2, 2023. The key component is keeping the students we have and hopefully adding to that number.

Dr. Bowsman discussed that if someone from the school corporation could not make it to the solar eclipse meeting, he would ask Jan Caudle to keep us updated. Dr. Bowsman asked, "Do we need law enforcement if we decide to let people park in the parking lot?"

All Board of School Trustee members said yes.

VIII. A.9 SEP 2023

K-12 Principal, Daniel Allen, reported on the following items:

1. Parent Teacher conferences are October 5th.
2. The School Carnival is October 20th from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. Dans Fish Fry will take the place of the Papa Johns pizza this year.
3. Congratulations to Jaxson Latello on going to Louisville, KY for the Youth Salute Program.
4. Congratulations to Bre Smith for making all county in golf.
5. RSSC is having a Batman Lifeskills Convocation on September 14th.
6. Challenge Days are September 21st. Reid is putting this event on for 8th graders from all county schools. This will be held in the high school gym.
7. Grand Canyon State University is providing breakfast for the RSE staff and lunch for the RSHS staff.

8. The School Improvement Plans are being reviewed in the elementary and high school.
9. We are going to have Jodi Berry make signs for students to put in their yards that are in the AP classes to encourage and support them.
10. We have no Varsity Wrestlers this year but we do have twelve (12) junior high wrestlers. We are building from the ground up. The feeder program is now up to 50 kids. We are going to upgrade the wrestling room. We have high hopes this program will turn around .
11. Attendance in the high school was awful and not well tracked in the past. We have put a system in place to keep track of who is absent. Mr. Little has done a nice job dealing with the tardies and detention.
12. Parent communication is good in the elementary but bad in the high school. Teachers are afraid to confront parents. We are encouraging them to reach out to parents early on about good things and build communication so when there are bad things the parents will take care of the situation.
13. We are reducing the number of study hall students and adding a Photography class with Mr. Stephan for sixth (6) period and an Art class with Mrs. Rice for first (1) period. We want to make it exciting for students like jewelry making or 3D projects.
14. We are going to start interviewing next Friday for 7th and 8th grade girls basketball coaching positions. We currently have seven (7) applicants.
15. We are encouraging the teachers to create relationships with the students. Acknowledge them in the hallways.
16. Digital Marketing Class has put out their very first Rebel News. It has been great to see how they are using technology. Very exciting. They definitely hit a homerun.
17. We had no entries in the Community Art Grant Foundation this year but we will look to add some in the future.
18. Vicki Vardaman gave RSSC a grant to paint a mural on our wall somewhere in the school. Its called Rebel Roots. They are wanting to do something that shows Lynn and Spartanburg becoming Rebels. We are going to have to sit down and talk through the details. We had thought about possibly making a decorative piece down the annex wall. The artist will come here and work with

our students so they will be involved in the design. This will all be free of charge.

19. We held the Cross Country Invitational on September 9th and raised a little over \$2000. There were seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) schools that participated and over 400 runners. We had many compliments on how well ran it was. Mr. Little did very well hosting. We also wanted to thank parents, Jim Dotson and Andy Tillson for all they did and putting in so many hours. Several people came together. A lot of people want us to be successful, they just don't know what it takes.

IX. SEP 2023

Dr. Bowsman commented, "Mr. Allen do not sell yourself short. What he did and does takes a lot of work. People do not realize what it took to get this event ready. Congratulations to Mr. Allen, his wife and everyone that participated. What a great job."

Mr. Allen also commented, "I was very happy to see the HS staff here supporting our kids."

X. SEP 2023

There were no patron comments.

XI. SEP 2023

Don Pruitt commented, "We are in the right direction. Keep it up."

Pat Tillson commented, "Saturday's Cross Country event was outstanding. Thank you everyone."

Heather Good commented, "Everything is good."

Crystle Austin commented, "I agree. Everything is on the up and up. Good job everyone."

Eric Retter, "Appreciate all you all do. I agree with everything everyone else said. All you do does not go un noticed."

XII. SEP 2023

Heather Good made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Eric Lott
Heather M. Good
Cristle Austin

Donald L. Pruitt
Patricia Nelson

Persons Attending: Donnie Bowsman, Daniel Allen, Amanda Bragg, Chris Robinson, Diane Meyer and Marla Threewitt's.
