

The Randolph Southern School Corporation Board of School Trustees met for the regular meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023 in the Superintendent's Office Board Room. The following members were present:

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

#### I. OCT 2023

Eric Retter called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

#### II. OCT 2023

Heather Good made a motion to approve the agenda. Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### III. OCT 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the September 11, 2023 regular meeting Minutes, 2024 Budget Public Hearing Minutes and September 20, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### V. OCT 2023

Pat Tillson moved to approve the September 22, 2023 payroll voucher in the amount of \$154,856.39, the October 6, 2023 payroll voucher in the amount of \$150,435.01, the APV's numbered 3175 through 3327 in the amount of \$370,061.28, the September 30, 2023 Cash Balance Education Fund in the amount of \$647,307.61 and the September 30, 2023 Operations Fund in the amount of \$364,844.17. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.A.43 OCT 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the following budget adoption:

##### Resolution of 2024 Budget Adoptions

- a. 2024 Budget Hearing for Operations Fund:  
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.

The Notice to Taxpayers for the 2023-2024 Budget Notice, CPF and Bus Replacements plans were posted on the Indiana Gateway and school corporation website on August 25, 2023. Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.A.44 OCT 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the Resolution to adopt CPF and School Bus Replacement Plans as presented. Pat Tillson seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.A.45 OCT 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Master Contract between the Randolph Southern Classroom Teachers Association and the Randolph Southern Board of School Trustees as presented effective August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

A public hearing was held in compliance with I.C. § 20-29-6-1(b) on August 14, 2023. Electronic participation from the both parties and the public was not permitted; and 2. A public meeting in compliance with I.C. § 20-29-6-19 was held on September 20, 2023, to discuss the tentative agreement and electronic participation from the governing body and the public was not permitted.

The school corporation will contribute a total of \$104,000.00 to the base salary increase to be divided among twenty-six (26) Highly Effective (HE) and Effective (E) teachers that taught at Randolph Southern School Corporation in 2022-23 and remained at Randolph Southern School Corporation for the 2023-24 school year. The school corporation will also contribute \$3,030.83 proportionally divided between nine (9) teachers using the stipend scale. The nine (9) teachers did not receive a true 7% raise utilizing the Compensation Model. Therefore, the proportional stipend amount allocated to the nine (9) teachers will provide a 7% compensation package based upon each respective teacher's current salary. A new pay calendar will be distributed to each teacher illustrating his/her payroll amount for the 2023-24 school year. The school corporation will increase the first-year teacher salary from \$40,000 to \$43,000. This will be an additional cost of \$15,000 not including TRF, FICA/MED, and 401A contributions.

RSSC will increase the H.S.A contribution from \$2,500 to \$2,650.00 for teachers that have elected to take health insurance plan 1 or plan 2 for the 2023-2024 school year. The school corporation contributions for health insurance remained the same from 2022-23 to 2023-24.

RSSC will increase the longevity stipend from \$2,500 to \$3,500.

RSSC agreed to the following extra-curricular additions and modifications:

- Increase all ECA positions in the master contract by \$50.00 and increase all hourly rates by \$3.00 for items such as curriculum writing, after-school detention, summer school instructor, homebound, etc.
- Add two Game Club Sponsors at each building (4 total) for \$400 per person.

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

#### VI.A.46 OCT 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve the resolution to purchase the property located at 310 North Franklin Street, Lynn, IN 47355. The house and land are located immediately adjacent to the school corporation property and will be utilized for school related activities such as physical education, cross country, and track. The school corporation must obtain two appraisals and may make an offer up to the average of two appraisals. It may also offer less than the two appraisals. Dr. Bowsman stated that the school corporation will be looking to rezone the land for utilization of school activities and selling the house with the new consolidated house and lot. Eric Retter stated, "We need to make sure that we are clear on the laws in the event we decide to sell the property in the future." Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.B.10 OCT 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the following Personnel items as presented:

1. Terri Ballenger as an Elementary Paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year at a rate of \$14.00 per hour for 7 hours per day.
2. Natalie Crist as the Elementary Social Worker starting \$31.87 for 7.5 hours per day and 182 days.

3. Kyle Good for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coaching position for the 2023-24 school year per the Master Contract.
4. The resignation of Jerrica Govin as HS English Teacher effective October 6, 2023.
5. Increase Madison Miller's teaching contract from \$43,500 to \$45,000 to align with her previous years of teacher experience in Illinois.
6. FMLA request for Melissa Mosier.
7. Garrett Murray for the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Coaching position for the 2023-24 school year per the Master Contract.
8. Genevieve Murray as the Jr.-Sr. High School English Teacher at a salary of \$48,500 for 183 days. Salary will be prorated for the remainder of school days left in the school year. Mrs. Murray will need to obtain an Emergency Permit and enroll into a Transition to Teaching program. Mrs. Murray has a Master's Degree in Social Work and 8 years of experience at the elementary school.
9. Carlee Rismiller as a Volunteer Assistant JH Girls Basketball Coach for the 2023-24 school year.

Dr. Bowsman and Mr. Allen made notation of the doctor's note for the FMLA request on number 6 stated a return date for the employee is October 29, 2023. The Board of School Trustees approved the request with the return date as stated on the doctor's note. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.C.9 OCT 2023

Heather Good made a motion to approve the following fundraisers:

1. RS Cheer's request to sell clothing and accessories on the website. Anticipated income is \$500.00. Contact person is Shay Burger.
2. Prom Committee's request to have a fundraiser by placing flamingos in yards around the community and have them pay to remove them. Anticipated income is \$1,000.00. Contact person is Laura McReynolds.

Pat Tillson seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.D.6. OCT 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to approve Shianna Fry's request to hold the Community Trunk or Treat at the Extended Learning Center on October 31, 2023 from 6:00 PM to

8:00 PM. Heather Good asked, "Is this on Halloween night or the town of Lynn's Trick or Treat night?" Mr. Allen stated that this event would be held on Halloween night and has been confirmed that it does not interfere with practices. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.F.5 OCT 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the Randolph Southern Elementary and Randolph Southern Jr./Sr. High School 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan. Mr. Allen discussed the plans. Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.J.3 OCT 2023

Pat Tillson made a motion to approve the following donations:

1. Tim Flaugh, father of Josie Flaugh, donated an industrial snow cone maker to the sixth-grade class to help raise money for 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp.
2. Hines Landscaping made a \$500.00 donation to help pay for PE shirts. Mr. Allen added that Lynn Vet Clinic also donated \$500.00 for a total of \$1,000.00 from the Hines.

Don Pruitt seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

#### VI.K.1 OCT 2023

Crystle Austin made a motion to approve moving the eLearning day on February 16, 2024 to April 8, 2024 due to the solar eclipse. The eclipse is expected to occur around dismissal time and administration is concerned for student safety on buses and the amount of tourist traffic anticipated by county officials. Dr. Bowsman asked the Board what events they would like to see on this day. "Do we want to charge for parking? Do we want to allow RV's? Do we want to allow visitors to spend the night in the parking lot? If we allow these events to occur, will we will need to pay for trash service, restrooms, and security? Eric Retter asked, "Have we heard what other area schools are doing? We would need to probably follow suit. I feel like we could be asking for trouble opening it up to the public but with that being said you don't want to pass up easy money." Heather Good stated, "The website is publishing what others are doing. We definitely would need to set parameters." Pat Tillson commented, "It worries me. People that are not from here and are driving long distances to get here could care less about our school." Don Pruitt commented, "I would agree that we check with the other schools and see what they are doing." Dr. Bowsman stated that we would definitely need to have security and parameters. He added he would check with other schools and bring it back to the November meeting. Pat Tillson commented, "We have too nice of a facility to let people trash it." Mr. Allen discussed

that the Lynn Lions Club has discussed hosting camping, food trucks and activities. Heather Good seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

VII.10 OCT 2023

Superintendent, Dr. Bowsman reported on the following items:

1. Dr. Bowsman reported the NWEA Testing 2023-24 Reimbursement will be for \$6,285.20.
2. Dr. Bowsman discussed the expenditure requirement for full time teacher salaries and benefits. The Indiana Legislature modified the requirement for at least 62% of the Education Fund expenditures be earmarked toward teacher salaries and benefits. Central Office anticipates meeting this new threshold.
3. Dr. Bowsman reported the IDOE informed the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents that school corporations will not be granted a waiver day on April 8, 2024 due to the eclipse and be required to attend via traditional, virtually or eLearning.
4. Dr. Bowsman discussed the Free-Reduced and Paid lunch percentages.

Elementary-59.5%	H.S.-56.5%
Corporation-58.3%	
5. Dr. Bowsman thanked Hines Landscaping for donating trees that were planted along the east side of the high school and time for installation.
6. The ISBA/IAPSS Annual Conference was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Bowsman, Pat Tillson, Heather Good, and Crystle Austin attended the 2-day conference at the Indianapolis Convention Center. The title of the conference was "The Role of Leadership in Supporting Personal and Professional Wellness for Students, Staff, and Community."
7. Dr. Bowsman discussed the summer lunch program administrative review conducted by the IDOE.
  - The staff strives to operate a program compliant with all federal regulations.
  - Sponsor monitor must be separate from day-to-day operations.
  - Reimbursement funds exceed program expenses. Excess funds must be reinvested into nutrition program. Example: purchasing whole meats in lieu of chopped meats and fresh fruits/vegetables.
8. Dr. Bowsman discussed the Maintenance Report. Bus #2 was involved in

an accident on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The bus is being evaluated by the underwriter for repair. The new bleachers at the baseball diamond are assembled and complete. The new track pavilion is in planning stages and will be breaking ground this month.

9. Dr. Bowsman reviewed the ADM Count.

#### VIII. A.10 OCT 2023

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

1. Fall Sports have come to an end.
2. Haileigh Allen and Ally Black qualified for the Cross Country Regional being held at the Plex next week in Fort Wayne. Cross Country has increased the size of the sectionals. Indiana is the only state that has a single class system. This system is drowning out the small schools. Mr. Allen discussed his fear is that this will kill the programs. They put in a lot of hard work and need to be rewarded.
3. Seventy (70) kids in grades K-5 attended Cross Country Camp. Mr. Allen stated that it is good to get the kids involved early when it is still fun. We don't want to charge a fee so we can get more kids involved and it is something they are excited about. All the kids get free shirts and popcicles. Mr. Allen also wanted to thank his wife Stephanie. Mr. Allen stated, "She is changing the culture in cross country. She does stretching in the beginning and that has carried over to other sports. We will have heathier kids because of it. We do not currently have underclassmen records so she is working to create things."
4. We have one (1) wrestler in the high school but we have twelve (12) in the middle school. This season will be a full rebuild from the bottom up. We just need to be patient and keep working and it will grow.
5. JV/V Girls Basketball held their first official practice and seventeen (17) girls attended.
6. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball are playing on Sundays at Jay County. The only participants in the league are Randolph Southern and Jay County.
7. Congratulations to Jaxon Latello on going to St. Louis for Youth Salute. We are excited to hear what all he has learned.
8. Discipline is an ongoing issue. We have decided to extend the day for students with bad behavior rather than suspension.

9. The School Fall Carnival will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The athletics will be serving Dan's All You Can Eat Fish and Chicken Fry from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
10. Girls Jamboree starts at noon on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
11. Bre Smith qualified for the Golf Regionals.
12. We are currently looking for a Boys JV Coach.
13. Cheer Update-Cheers and chants are improving and Mrs. Berger is changing the culture and raising expectations.

#### IX. OCT 2023

There were no faculty, staff, or student comments.

#### X. OCT 2023

There were no patron comments.

#### XI. OCT 2023

Crystle Austin commented, "It's been a long road but everything is looking good and we are all on the same page."

Heather Good commented, "I am very encouraged on the focus on learning that is happening and getting kids here and keeping them."

Pat Tillson commented, "I appreciated getting to attend the conference, it was very good and I enjoyed listening to other schools and their input. Congratulations to Jaxon, Bre, Haileigh and Ally. Thank you Mr. Allen, you raised the bar high and it is showing."

Don Pruitt commented, "We have taken big strides in the last two months. We are on the right track, especially with the discipline issues. Mr. Allen, you realized the issue and hit it on the head."

Eric Retter commented, "I agree with everyone. Keep going on the right track. Everyone is doing excellent."

#### XII. OCT 2023

Don Pruitt made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 PM. Crystle Austin seconded the motion and motion carried 5-0.

The next regular board meeting will be Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM, in the Superintendent's Office Board Room.

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*Eric Peters*  
*Heath M. Reed*  
*Crystle Austin*

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*Patricia Sillson*  
*Donald L. Pruitt*

Persons Attending: Daniel Allen, Dr. Donnie Bowsman and Amanda Bragg