PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

Board of Education Meeting – Hargrave

Summary of Minutes

January 12 2021

The Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County convened in a regularly scheduled meeting on January 12, 2021 – 6:00 P.M. – Central Office – Virtual Meeting.

Craig Lowry, Chairman

Mike Smith, Vice Chairman

Henry Brewer

Dr. Linda Emanuel

Brenda Fairley-Ferebee

William Gentry

Vonta Leach

Randy Lawson

Terry Locklear

John Simmons

Dwayne Smith

Also in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson; Dr. Robert Locklear, Karen Brooks-Floyd, Melissa R. Thompson and Jennifer Freeman, Assistant Superintendents; Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, and Attorney Grady Hunt.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Craig Lowry

2. **Invocation:** Randy Lawson

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Craig Lowry

4. **Approval of Minutes – Open Session**

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Quickie’s Manufacturing Recognition**

Mr. Craig Lowry, Board Chairman presented a plaque from the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education to Ms. Jimmie-Lyn Lewis and Mr. Howard Rainey representatives from Quickie Manufacturing Corporation for their donation of cleaning supplies to our teachers and staff at schools throughout the district. This kind act shows how invested our community is in our school system. Your generous act will ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. Again, we thank you for your kindness and support.

**2. Curriculum Highlights**

* **Plasma Games Pilot Program – Public Schools of Robeson Count**
* **STEM Equity and Community Innovation Grant “1-2-3 Full STEAM Ahead**

**Science and Robotics Grants**

**Dr. Robert Locklear, Assistant Superintendent presented the Curriculum Highlights which included:**

**Plasma Games-**Sci-Ops is a skills-based educational game that teaches students Chemistry and Physical Science concepts through a turn-based strategy game (like chess). Integrating multiple modes of instruction (videos, simulations, text and story-driven content) within a cohesive and immersive learning experience, and infused with real-world context and technologies, the game connects learning to in-demand STEM careers and education pathways. Players are motivated to develop mental models of core concepts, learn essential terminology, and understand critical formulae. Players then make use of this knowledge through high-level decision making (e.g., balancing tradeoffs in equipment upgrades and taking strategic action in-game) in an engaging format that promotes self-paced learning.

This grant was awarded on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Office of Science, Technology & Innovation and is valued at $156,000.00 through the Plasma Games Pilot Program. As authorized by North Carolina Session Law 2020-80, $2.5 million dollars was appropriated for the implementation of the Plasma Games Pilot Program, which is intended to promote access to innovative digital and personalized learning solutions for middle and high school science students that bridge the gap between chemistry and physical science classes and career and technical education career pathways.

**FIRST Robotics-**FIRST ® is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future. A vital part of our strategic intent is to serve an inclusive and diverse audience, reflecting the population of the communities we serve—and even going beyond through targeted, new community outreach. FIRST understands the broader societal context of economic, educational, and social factors historically leading to disproportionate access and outcomes. Leveraging cross-sector and industry collaborations, FIRST is actively engaged in developing strategies that remove barriers and ensure greater access to FIRST programs so that all youth can participate.

This grant amount of $29,928.00 will be funded by Disney as part of the FIRST STEM Equity Community Innovation Grant.  The Robeson County Educators Supporting STEM Coalition’s 1-2-3- Full STEAM Ahead Initiative will engage over 200 Pre-K and Kindergarten, 432 second grade, 150 seventh grade, and 150 high school students in the Public Schools of Robeson County through the FIRST Program during the 2021-2022 school year. By engaging students through the FIRST Discovery, FIRST LEGO League Jr., First LEGO League, and FIRST Tech Challenge class/school packs as part of the regular school day in several elementary, middle and high schools across the district, this pilot program will bring an engaging and exciting STEM opportunity. It will also increase our representation in the FIRST Robotics at our high school level by establishing teams at additional high schools as well as supporting our Early College Robotics team. Reaching students from the Lumbee Tribe as well as African American and Hispanic students we will begin to build a robust pipeline of STEM-ready students for future FIRST teams, and a generation of students inspired to pursue their interests in STEM in general. Our continuation program, the 1-2-3-Full STEAM Ahead Initiative will provide a continuation of robotics by bringing FIRST programs to students from Pre-K through high school throughout the district. We know that once success is proven, other funding opportunities will arise to expand and continue the program.

**3. Re-Entry Plan Update**

Dr. Freddie Williamson presented the Re-Entry Plan Update and said that The Public Schools of Robeson County received a donation of 144,400 facemasks from United Way as part of their America’s Mask Challenge.

Plans are for our buildings to be disinfected every two days.  We will continue the practice of disinfecting during the workday while staff is in the building.  We have ordered one sanitizing backpack sprayer per custodian at each school/building and a small pressure washer per school for cleaning bathrooms.  The target date for these items to be in place with training is February 1, 2021.

Face recognition, wrist temperature checked machines to verify temperatures have been delivered to schools.

**4. Student Health and Safety FAQ**

* **Vaccination Update**

Ms. Stephanie Locklear, Supervisor of Nursing present the Student Health and

Safety FAQ that the Board Members received in their packet for information along with the Vaccination Updates.

**5. Testing and Accountability Update**

* **EOC/CTE Exam Schedule**
* **Transportation**
* **Grading Expectation**

Mr. Bobby Locklear, Executive Director gave an update on Testing and Accountability.

He said that we would administer Fall Semester Exams and those would be our EOC and some of the state required CTE exams, January 25th through January 28th which would be Monday through Thursday for our students. The make-up schedule would be January 29th through February 19th. Also make-up students would have to make to an appointment in order to come on campus and take that test because most of them would have somewhere for the children to go and to assure an administrator to administer the test. Mr. Bobby Locklear, Executive Director mention that there had been some concerns about transportation routes. They have been shared with the high school principals and the bus drivers are expected to run those routes next week. Once the bus drivers run the route they will be able to give an estimated time when the bus would come by and pick up their students. Grading expectations would be if a student took an exam, their grade cannot be no lower than their two-week grade average.

**6. Policy Update – Section 1000**

Mr. William Gentry presented the policy revision for Section 1000 for approval. The Board set aside policy and approved the 1000 Section.

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Recommendation/Remote Learning**

Dr. Freddie Williamson, Superintendent made a motion to extend the remote learning for students including Pre-K-3 to February 16, 2021. The PSRC Board of Education will revisit this decision at the February 9, 2021 Board of Education Meeting. If students were to return to the classroom in mid-February, it would include grades Pre-K-12th grade on an A/B schedule. However, we want our stakeholders to remember that this is a fluid situation and could change in response to the COVID-19 METRICS in response to the COVID-19 metrics in Robeson County. Superintendent Williamson made a recommendation is that we provide teachers and teacher assistant the opportunity telework beginning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. They would must declare their intent to the building principals by January 15, 2021. We will require the Central Office along with building principals and assistant principals to work in the building along with the office staff. The Board approved the motion to extend the remote learning for all students through February 16, 2021. The PSRC Board of Education will revisit this decision at the February 9, 2021 during the Board of Education Meeting.

**B. Financial Report**

Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer presented the financial report for the month. The Board approved the financial report presented.

**C. Budget Amendments**

Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, presented budget amendments for approval.

The Board approved the budget amendments presented.

**CLOSED SESSION**

* Certified/Classified Personnel
* Legal Issues
* Closed Session Minutes

Public Comments

6. Motion that the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County go into closed session for the purposes of discussing certified and classified personnel (N.C. Gen. Stat.§143-318.11 (a) 1 (6), student transfers (N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402 and N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (a) (1)); and to consult with the attorney obtained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney/client privileges between the attorney and the Board of Education for the Public School Schools of Robeson County (N.C. Stat.143-318.11 (a) (1) (3). The Board approved the motion.

7. Motion to come out of closed session. The Board approved the motion.

8. Motion to approve personnel as presented. The Board approved the motion.

9. Motion to approve closed session minutes of December 8, 2020. The Board approved the motion.

10. Motion to adjourn. The Board approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Craig Lowry, Chairman

Superintendent Freddie Williamson, Secretary