RCC president recognized by Randolph County School System

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ASHEBORO — The Randolph County School System (RCSS) recognized Randolph Community College (RCC) President Dr. Robert Shackelford at the Randolph County Board of Education meeting Monday.

Shackelford was recognized for facilitating partnerships between RCC and RCSS resulting in key initiatives, such as Apprenticeship Randolph, Career and College Promise, Career Coaches, Career Technical Education incentive grant (Pathway Activities Coordinator), eduFACTOR subscription, Electrical Systems Technology learning lab relocation to Eastern Randolph High School, Golden LEAF Grant, Pathways to Prosperity and Reality Redesigned design competition. Shackelford was presented with a Friend of RCSS certificate signifying RCSS’ appreciation for his ongoing support of local schools, students and staff members.

Fittingly, the Apprenticeship Randolph’s inaugural class of 16 apprentices were also recognized at the board meeting. After recruitment efforts among all high school students across all public, private, charter and home schools throughout the county, all 16 apprentices were from RCSS.

“Those kids taking advantage of opportunities,” Superintendent Dr. Stephen Gainey said. “And that’s what I was proudest of — I can’t wait to see (the apprentices) 20 years from now.”

Action items on the agenda further highlighted the partnership between RCSS and RCC. The 2017-18 Articulation Agreement between RCSS and RCC renewal — and two new memorandums of understand (MOUs), including a 2017-18 MOU between RCC and RCSS for Career and College Promise Initiatives and a 2017-18 MOU for Catalyzing Career and Technical Education through Enhanced Career Pathways Incentive Grant — were unanimously approved.

The board also approved the superintendent’s 2017-18 budget, totaling $151,289,906.73. For the second consecutive year, the budget included 0.25 percent increases to teacher, director/supervisor, classified staff, principal and assistant principal supplements.

In other board business, Class of 2017 statistical information was reviewed, which revealed that 1,226 diplomas and six certificates were issued, more than 87 percent of graduates planned to further their education beyond high school,
and graduates were awarded $36,827,312 in scholarships, a 20 percent increase over the Class of 2016.

Gainey compared the scholarship figure to his first year in 2013, at which time graduates earned $25,357,546 in awards. “I want to say thank you to our counselors and our teachers, because something’s happening,” Gainey said. “(Scholarship award amounts) are rising.”

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Marty Trotter presented the board with a request for approval to negotiate a contract with Smith Sinnett Architecture, as recommended by a committee that reviewed proposals and interviewed firms, for the new middle school project in the Archdale-Trinity zone.

Trotter also explained to the board that originally, RCSS planned to save money by updating existing plans, which were last used in 1999. However, as the committee interviewed firms, they determined it would be more costly to bring RCSS’ existing plans up-to-date with current code than it would be to start the process with a more current prototype provided by an architectural firm.

The board gave the go-ahead for negotiations. Trotter plans to present a contract between RCSS and Smith Sinnett at the September board meeting for review and approval.

Summer reading camp results were reviewed, Gainey requested input from the board on how to use the $525,000 gift bestowed to RCSS by the estate of Ella B. Lowe, an update was given on the water and sewer project at New Market Elementary, and a request to name the Southwestern Randolph High School football/soccer field the Charlie Chapman Field after Chapman, who served as athletic director and coach at the school from 1985-1996.

Detailed information on Chapman’s accolades were given to the board, along with board policy 9300, which addresses naming facilities. The renaming of the field will be addressed as an action item at a future board meeting.

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Randolph County Schools
High School Graduate Survey
2016-17

WHERE ARE THEY NOW — Kim Johnson, director of 9-12 Instruction, presented Class of 2017 graduation statistical information to the Randolph County Board of Education.