

**Richmond Consolidated School - School Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 8, 2020
6:00PM

Approved

Present: Adeline Ellis, Ina Wilhelm, Dewey Wyatt, Peter Dillon, Jill Pompei, Mary Shook

Guests: Cristine Lenfest, Michelle Smith, Rachel Kanz, Neal Pilson, Natalie Gingras, Challis Adams, Lauren Broussal, Mackenzie Greer, Melani Mielke, Brigid Naventi, Debra Alibozek, Jen Stover, Jesse Adams, Kimmie Leeco, Anna Smith, Makenzie Greer, six others.

1. Call to order: 6:02pm Roll call, all committee members in attendance.

DW noted it is being recorded, per MGLCH30A,Sec20f.

Meeting to be held by conference call due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

An Executive Order from the Governor of Massachusetts relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time.

In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended.

All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, as well as the limited, enumerated purposes for holding an executive session, remain in effect.

Connection: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/519224365>, By phone: +1 (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 519-224-365

DW requested item 11 being moved up after item 7. No objection.

2. Public Comments: Challis Adam has two students in the school, says thanks and appreciates having the school open as the kids need it. Makenzie Greer: two children at RCS doing well. Asked about school choice families being represented by the school committee. Not in reaction to any issue, has always appreciated the support of the Principal and Superintendent, just wondering what options are. DW explained the School Committee are to be Richmond resident. Dr Dillon added that any student/family is ours, we do not distinguish one way or another, all are RCS students. The PTA is another great way for any parent to be directly involved. Lauren Broussal: asked if there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting. DW said we will likely do that.

3. Review and approve minutes: 10/28/2020: Motion to approve as amended AE, seconded IW, all in favor, 11/10/2020: Motion to approve IW, seconded AE, all in favor. The 11/19/2020 will be reviewed and approved in next meeting as members didn't have a chance to review ahead of time.

4. Principal's Report:

The second video prepared to show what has changed within the school was shown (this is to be posted on the RCS website). Jill thanked Mrs. Zigmand for the help she provided on that. The School Committee expresses appreciation for that.

Jill went over the following:

December Update

Progress related to SIP

Goal 1: Continue to follow the health and safety guidelines to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students and staff

- November 18 staff meeting with Michael Perreault was well received

- JHSC meetings 1 or more times per week to review the data occur
- Staff Health and Well Being Survey Results showed more than 85% of the 36 folks who responded feel comfortable in school but a small percentage is concerned with covid in the county and question is families are following safety protocols outside of school
- We continue to review protocols with staff and students (ie. Monday Morning Video)
- Lenox Superintendent toured the building to see how we were able to get students back because he heard great things

Goal 2: Support the social emotional development of students

- Middle school does monthly challenges to boost morale and weekly check ins. The check ins allow them to gage students' wellbeing and find creative ways of supporting them
- CARES classes across grades as well as small group and 1:1 check ins with SAC allows for SEL support
- Teachers use our remote Wednesdays as small group check ins and for lunch bunch meetings
- Jen Daily's presentation for families on Dec. 2 was attended by 25+ parents/guardians and feedback was positive

Goal 3: Foster focus on digital literacy/ digital citizenship in the area of on-line learning

- Q and A for families will be scheduled in January
- Digital Citizenship Lessons with Mrs. Zigmand and carryover by staff
- Student presentation on cyber bullying
- CARES class focus on cyber bullying

Goal 4: Support student academic growth. Students will demonstrate growth in multiple academic disciplines.

- Teachers continue to plan robust lessons across grade levels and subject areas

Other News:

- REEF grants support all SIP goals- focus on reading, music, outdoors, subscriptions to support on line learning...
- Tammy Jervas served 222 grab and go breakfasts to benefit the fuel fund
- Grade 2 - made Thanksgiving cards for nursing homes
- Middle school- made holiday cards for nursing homes

DW expressed appreciation for the child-centered efforts from so many. DW was interested in the survey especially to understand what we can control and take steps to improve relative to feeling safe and comfortable. IW: appreciated how there is continuum through the goals, not static. AE: Asked about the survey results. Asked whether the six or so staff were working in the building or remotely. Jill said the survey was anonymous so can't determine that. She said all of the comments reviewed were positive so believed is more related to overall concern including beyond the school.

5. Superintendent's report

COVID evolving metrics and potential concerns: very appreciated of what the staff, students and families are doing. COVID is weighing very hard on people. We are now between several holidays so encouraging everyone to stay the course on all the best practices, minimizing gatherings and travel. The trends in Berkshire County are not good - while the numbers are skewed by the care facilities, the general population are also not great. We can stay the course for a while and it is important we keep kids in school as long as safely possible. Sometime in the near future we may see things that lead us to make different decisions. He will send out the various reports being used to understand COVID metrics. We are looking for any cases that are connected in any way to the school, thankfully none.

Donation of masks received today from Governor's office.

Budget process overview and draft timeline: Dr Dillon showed the budget process schedule (to be posted on website). Draft version of FY22 budget to be presented to School Committee, early Feb with Town Admin, then Budget Advisory Committee. Target mid-March for Budget Hearing School Committee vote. DW expressed the need to really focus on understanding future needs especially since teaching/learning is forever going to be different. Are there different aspects to consider and plan for?

6. Special Education Director's report: Mary submitted two more grants to the State (274 for special needs early childhood, \$5782, another early childhood \$1141). Reached out to PK and Adj Councilor

to order materials when the grants come through. IW appreciated the efforts to write grants in addition to everything else done.

7. BHRSD Tuition Agreement approval and BHRSD Special Education Tuition Agreement approval: the regular tuition agreement was approved by the SC in the 11/19 meeting. The SPED tuition agreement has been a separate contract from regular tuition. There is currently one student. IW asked about costs if a need is over what BHRSD offers. Dr Dillon said situations like this are on a case by case. Motion to approve the 5yr SPED Tuition Agreement 4% starting in July 31 at \$26K with BHRSD by IW, AE seconded, roll call all in favor.
8. Financial Report: DW sent a list of questions to Dr Dillon ahead of the meeting to understand the higher dollar items that are either very high or low based on % expenditure. The committee discussed status of several items. DW asked to keep on top of bussing costs given this year continues to require less than typical services. Also asked we continue to get financial report the week ahead of time to allow for more review and clarification on various points ahead of meeting. At this point in the year (~5/12), the overall expenditures are in good shape.
9. Vote to move to Executive Session: DW explained the committee will move to executive session, stated the purpose, and that the SC will return to public session after. AE motion, IW seconded, roll call, all in favor. 7:09pm. Purpose: Executive Session pursuant to MGL Ch30A, Sec21a to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with BHRSD. Holding this discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on negotiations. Return to Open Session: 7:30pm
10. Shared Superintendency contract approval: The BHRSD proposal has been updated exit condition, included time commitment for the administrative components include which was never there before. A contract is supplemented by annual performance contract. This is important process to insure Richmond needs are met. DW explained the School Committee is looking to bring some stability and continuity, especially with the covid challenges. IW said this extends the relationship that is already there, further clarifying expectation service to Richmond. IW made a motion to accept the Shared Service contract starting on July1, 2021, for 3yrs, \$60K with 4% per year. AE seconded. Roll call all in favor.
11. Other unforeseen items: None
DW allowed for public comment. Melanie Mielke has. Asked about the number of student attending in person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Jill: said about 130 students at any given time. Peter added further comment. She was glad to hear the numbers are not dropping given the increase in Covid numbers in the County.
12. Adjournment: Motion at 7:42pm DW 2nd IW, Roll Call: all in favor.

Submitted: dw