

Richmond Consolidated School - School Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 10, 2020 3:00PM

Approved

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

Absent: Mary Shook

Guests: Karen Fierst, Beth Smith, Natalie Gingras, Neal Pilson, Rachel Kanz, Ina Wilhelm, Sharon Renfrew, Cristina Ledfest.

1. Call to order 3:00pm

DW announced the meeting is being recorded per MGL Ch30sec20(f) requirements, and that the meeting was posted and being held according to current Open Meeting Law requirements.

Meeting was held by conference call due to the COVID-19 issue.

[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/249272293>, Phone: (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 249-272-293

2. Purpose was to convene the SC for extra discussion of school needs, priorities. A School Committee Self-Assessment – an opportunity to look inwardly, not to look outward at options. Even an opportunity for orientating a new committee member,

Consultant Karen Fierst covered her presentation [attached below]. Specifics of the RAAC process or any consideration of any next steps on Superintendency was not the primary purpose of this meeting. This is an important process independent of whether it is stipulated in RAAC process

Four aspects listed, step back to look at Educational Impacts and Administrative/Operational Impacts.

Discussion on listed discussion points.

Peter added that an areas of addition work in growth proficiency in math, partially in upper grades. Arts at RCS is developmentally sophisticated and should continue. Issues around who has access to participate and who doesn't. We should maintain excellence and look at ways of "doubling" participation.

Adeline offered that we need more proficiency in technology. Peter said progress has been made with new technology teacher.

Jill: echoed what has been said. Need to focus on whole child, continue to investigating programs that are fun and engaging and centered. Fortunate we can be flexible and have autonomy in how we teach to the standards, allow good lesson and cross teaching among grades. We have a very strong PTA that adds to experience in and out of the school. Agree Ronna in technology has really helped, especially where distance learning is to be enhanced. Also have Roger Kohler who is very fluent in technology. Whole child is the focus, including wellness.

Dewey asked if there are others that want to comment. Cristina appreciated the quick responsiveness of Peter, Jill and others to help sort out important aspects.

Neal said that he thought we were here to discuss aspects of a merger, and what the relevance of this discussion is. Karen restated that when looking at a governance transition (whatever it may be) it is important to have a shared understanding of what is important, where strength and weaknesses are, what needs to be accomplished. The other discuss is a back burner in this meeting.

Jill has found weekly collaboration with other administrators at BHRSD is so critical with the current world uncertainties. Even where Peter himself has been very helpful and responsible, it would be very difficult without that collaboration.

Adeline raised the difficulty of being just a three person committee and that there can't be any discussion with another committee member meeting discussion (a quorum). Dewey added that there has been some thinking

about expanding SC to five members. This would require a town bylaws adjustment. He says there are other community member that would be ore willing to step up if on a 5 member assuming it would be less intense on a member and more ability to collaborate (note, there are still restrictions for SC communication of a non-quorum outside of posted meeting if a collection of communications lead to deliberation of a quorum). This topic will be discussed more in future.

All agree how having a good structure of collaboration is key.

Karen asked is there are other aspects that are stabilizing:

DW: setting up a governance structure that is not a year by year, or every few years. Every time there is an organizational change causes disruption (more than changes of any individual). Availability of Superintendents in any model remains an issue

Peter suggested these four areas to think about:

How we share info to community/

How parents are connected, we are not connected with all parents like we should be

Support from Attorney is very valuable

Relationship of Amy and Natalie and relationship with the town to efficiently. Nice the communication and collaboration is relatively good, far better than what is was a few years ago.

Ia brought up grant writing and how important that is, and how collaboration is so important.

Adeline added how community relations and input is valuable. We are working hard to listen and gather input to help make decisions.

Rachel added how she recently collaborated with BH 8th grade and how valuable that is.

Jill mentioned how teachers are masters of collaborations and there is a lot now but need to look for more ways to open up more opportunities. Ina: Curriculum continuity grade to grade is important

Karen asked if there are there areas to dig deeper on?

DW: any new relationships take time to development and operate effectively.

Neal: is there a compelling reason to step in to the RAAC process?

There was discussion about the RAAC process and how overwhelming it appears.

Ina said there is so much going on and needs attention, it would be good to simply and get things of Peter and Jill plate.

Neal highlighted that the school situation is secure and we have heard from realtors association that Richmond education is perceived positively, and they are hearing concerns about changes to the school.

Need to understand the complexities of various options (any partial regionalization, Shared service with various entities).

Next step is to hear from the MARS (Mass Assoc of Regional School) folks to understand the process.

No decision however the group thought this was a very healthy discussion.

3. Public Comments: no further input received
4. Other unforeseen items: none
5. Adjournment 4:55 motion DW, 2nd AE All in favor

Submitted by DW

Recommendations for next steps:

- Richmond School Committee, in conjunction with key persons connected to the school, participate in a self-assessment/self-reflection exercise to generate a current needs assessment and priority list to inform this work. This is critical to center your priorities on the school, the students and the faculty and staff. It is also useful to do when orienting a new committee member.
- Richmond School Committee determine what financial information is needed pre-RAAC process to determine entry to the process and what financial information is determined through the RAAC process.
- Richmond School Committee reflect on what stakeholder information has been obtained and determine if further facilitated stakeholder conversations are warranted to facilitate the decision making process.

Educational Impacts

- Shared Services
- High School Options – Choice/Tuition Agreements
- Educational opportunities and outcomes

Administrative/Operational Impacts

- Distribution of administrative responsibilities
- Operations roles in transition

Terms of Arrangement

- Short and Long Term Commitments
- Governance

Financial Impacts

- Predicted costs to taxpayers
- Feasible models

Educational Impacts

- Shared Services
- High School Options – Choice/Tuition Agreements
- Educational opportunities and outcomes

Administrative/Operational Impacts

- Distribution of administrative responsibilities
- Operations roles in transition

Discussion Points:

What aspect(s) of district performance is Richmond excelling in?

What aspect(s) of district performance is on an improvement trajectory?

What are the aspirations for Richmond at the time?

What are the risks facing Richmond at the time?

Where do we want to focus more attention in this process?

**Administrative/
Operational Impacts**

Corresponding District Review Standards

- **Human Resources and Professional Development**
 - Infrastructure
 - Recruitment, Hiring, and Assignment
 - Supervision, Evaluation, and Educator Development
 - Recognition, Leadership Development, and Advancement
- **Leadership and Governance**
 - School Committee
 - District and School Leadership
 - School Improvement Planning
 - Budget Development
- **Financial & Asset Management**
 - Budget Documentation and Reporting
 - Adequate Budget
 - Financial Tracking, Forecasting, Controls, and Audits
 - Capital Planning and Facility Maintenance

Educational Impacts

Corresponding District Review Standards

- **Curriculum and Instruction**

- Curriculum Selection and Use
- Classroom Instruction
- Student Access to Coursework

- **Assessment**

- Data Collection System
- Data Use
- Sharing Results

- **Student Support**

- Safe and Supportive School Climate and Culture
- Tiered Systems of Support
- Family and Community Engagement and Partnerships

Other Related Standards:

- *School Improvement Planning (Leadership & Governance)*
- *Supervision, Evaluation, and Educator Development (HR & PD)*
- *Recognition, Leadership Development, and Advancement (HR & PD)*

External Driving Forces

- Budget Limitations
- Community Support (Votes)

- Covid-19 Pandemic Response
 - Massachusetts DESE Procedures for Reopening
 - Economic Volatility
- If HS regionalization - Community Support (votes)

Critical Uncertainties

Submitted D. Wyatt