

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

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

**6:00PM**

Approved

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

**Guests:** Joy Mullen, Debra Alibozek, Neal Pilson, Anna Smith, Katie Bovard, Keiper, Michelle Smith, Errin Roney, Kathryn Wilson, Cristina Lenfest, Michelle Smith, Jessica Godfroy, Tim Walsh, Rachel Kanz, Natalie Gingras, Kimmie Leeco, Joy Mullen, Mary Daire, Mackenzie Greer, four others.

1. Call to order: 6:00pm

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 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. Web: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/986856149>, Phone: (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 986-856-149

2. Roll call to move to Executive Session: 6:03pm Motion AE, IW 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor

Purpose: to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for teacher contracts (because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect of the bargaining position of the School Committee, and to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-bargaining unit personnel, both pursuant to MGL c.39 § 23B (3)).

Returned 6:22pm

3. Approve Memorandum of Agreement with Richmond Educators Assoc: There has been good progress made but it is not complete. This is tabled until a future meeting.

4. Public comments:

NG: Thank the SC and Jill for time and effort.

JG: She got Jill's email about starting hybrid 10/5 and is looking at options for her child as the remote learning process was not successful last year, she doesn't have faith in remote learning. Important to get kids back in school, very disappointed, she went to RCS, had been on the reopening committee. Feels RCS is a small school could and is disappointed we are not opening, it should have been done better. We are letting the kids down, but know it is a very tough situation. . She said she was totally blindsided by the remote start plan.

TW: seconded previous parent. Ask what the criterion is for teachers to return to the school.

DW said that is a current focus to have metrics. PD negotiations on going.

MD: Agrees with previous comments, cannot put life on hold, so essential to get kids back in school.

5. Review and approval of minutes: 7/10/2020 motions to approve as amended IW , 2<sup>nd</sup> AE , all in favor.
6. Re-Opening Plans: Jill and Cristina met with Richmond Board of Health and Dr Perreault, Dir of Infectious Prevention and Control, walked through the building, and reviewed plans. He will meet with staff tomorrow to share evaluation. Prescreening survey for staff every day. Custodial crew has done a nice job getting the building ready. Many aspects have been addressed for safety. See notes below.

DW highlight how school committees are talking about guidance and requirements are inherently coming out late. Each locality has had to figure everything out separately.

Communication needs to be improved, even as details aren't fully understood or finalized.

From Principal Pompei - Building Readiness to Open:

Cristina and I had a meeting with B of H/ Michael Perreault BMC Director of Infection Prevention and Control on Tuesday. We shared our protocols and walked them through the building. Michael wrote an evaluation of our plan -gave us thumbs up for all the work we did- and he will speak tomorrow with staff about his evaluation and share best practices for staying healthy.

Today we sent a health screener, folks will arrive to a beautiful building thanks to our custodial crew. We spent today making sure teachers have extra masks and wipes in their rooms, that sanitizer dispensers are full, that signage is around the building, mailboxes have been moved to allow for social distancing... Staff will be in the building but will access our presentation via google meet from their classrooms.

Professional Dev:

Our Pro Dev plan is focused on CANVAS: Ronna, Roger, Gill and I have planned for time to present new info as well as time for teachers to build their CANVAS course.

Over the next 11 days we will spend time on safety measures and the usual first day PD topics

Family Updates:

A letter went home to families that explained our plan to reopen remotely on 9.14 with the intent to watch the metrics and move to a hybrid model. We will reach out to families via phone calls to identify which families will remain remote, who needs bussing, who needs device- we did get a tech grant that allowed us to purchase some new devices.

We will share with staff and families the following documents early next week:

Acceptable Use Policy: We have updated this and I sent it to SC so that you could view it. We feel that with remote and hybrid learning, it is important to articulate very clearly expectations for you the year.

CANVAS handbook: We are working on a CANVAS handbook for families that we will have uploaded in the next week.

RCS Parent/Student Technology & Remote Learning Handbook: We are also working on this document that we feel is comprehensive and will address any questions folks have.

RCS FAQ document: Includes information about our planning and reopening- to answer questions I have received from staff and families.

Resident JG interjected there needs to be more done to make folks aware of meetings.

DW mentioned that the SC needs to look at holding face-to-face meetings

IW: It hard to land on structure when the variables are changing so frequently.

KL: There are a lot of children with anxiety issues than can't not do remote learning. We cannot let our kids fall further behind for a few more weeks.

DW clarified the SC did vote to start remotely on 8/7 as it would be a better plan . This was before the state came forth with metrics and recommendations that remote learning was not needed.

7. Pre-School plans: number are down, the question is if it make sense to run it under context of current situation. Some details are subject to negotiations with the REA. We will continue to look at this
8. Policy: Face Mask Policy: second reading. 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph Removing “on school ground” when social distancing is observed to eliminate conflict in other areas of documents. Need to add clarification of effective (ineffective) types.  
EBC Emergency plans briefly reviewed but will register reading. in next meeting.  
EBC Supplemental, second reading
9. Financial: End of FY2020 closeout. PD explained there is an end of year there is a gap related to a number of unanticipated expenses: oil smell remediation, custodial services at start of last year and covid related, incremental heating system upgrades. We have two accounts School Choice, Tuition. Motion to allocate up to \$50k for FY2020 general fund expenses from School Choice revolving fund AE, IW 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor. Motion to allocate up to \$50k from Tuition revolving account to return to the town for future SPED. IW, AE 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in factor. PD also noted he is asking the town to pass a warrant article for new special education expenses.
10. Upcoming meeting plans: DW would like to work towards meeting face-to-face, insure all safety provisions are followed (masks, disinfecting, distancing, entry, continued on-line access). We have become very used to and accustomed to these on-line meetings. The public has now become used to being able to join on-line so we'll need to have set up for microphones and cameras. On-line has become very efficient with the number of meetings and personal schedules, but it is valuable meeting in person. The Richmond Selectmen are now meeting in person. AE likes the way we are meeting on-line, how convenient it is, this is how meetings will be held in future. IW: having face-to-face does provide options for those who don't favor on-line. No decisions.
11. Other unforeseen items: none
12. Adjournment: 7:40 pm IW motion, AW 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Submitted: DW