

**Richmond Consolidated School
School Committee**

1831 State Road, Richmond, MA 01254
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, 4:30pm RCS

Approved, as amended

Present: -- Rachel Kanz., Ina Wilwel, Neal Pilson, Bob Gniadek, Melissa DiMassimo, Jill Pompei, Lauren Broussal, Karen O'Donnell, Ryan Sabourin, Beth Smith, Errin Roney, Dewey Wyatt, Kara Smith, Adeline Ellis, Penny Saupe,
Absent: Susan Benner

1. Call to Order 4:33pm
2. The Committee introduced themselves to each other.
3. Dewey shared the purpose of the Committee:

Review and assess the operational and financial aspects to support the School Committee's negotiation of a contract with Berkshire Hills for the next Superintendency arrangement which meets the needs of the Richmond Consolidated School and the Town of Richmond. This assessment to include alternate models, to explore what is needed and wanted by RCS and high school students and parents.

4. Dewey also shared the Advisory Committee's responsibilities noted here:

The Advisory Committee will ...

- a. Operate according to the Open Meeting Laws (public posting, minutes, etc). Committee members do not need to be sworn in by Town.
- b. Be advisory in nature, not a decision making body.
- c. Provide monthly report outs to the RCS School Committee.
- d. Assign a Chair person who will drive the committee, organize meetings, be the main point for contact for the School Committee.
- e. Consult, as needed, with outside experts provided by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Fred Dupere, legal counsel to the School Committee.
- f. Review and understand Roles and Responsibilities for a Superintendent.
- g. Meet with BHRSD shared services representatives at appropriate time during the review to cross check expectations.
- h. List, quantify and prioritize service levels to meet the needs of all Richmond students, including high school students.
- i. Assess financial aspects of a shared Superintendency services model (Superintendent, Business Manager, SPED services, etc).
- j. Assess financial implications for Richmond with regard to funding high school tuition costs for Richmond students relative to the BHRSD high school building project.

- k. Consider opportunities, concerns relating to busing, support for custodial, maintenance, other.
 - l. Identify terms and provisions to be included in a contract to allow for modification or exit if certain requirements can't be met.
 - m. Review current contracts for any impact related to any future Superintendency agreement.
 - n. Evaluate and review the current School Union agreement with Hancock and New Ashford to determine next steps and needs for Richmond going forward.
 - o. Report on any opportunities identified for further consideration that may enhance the education provided to Richmond students.
 - p. Highlight and report concerns, barriers, issues seen with future contract with BHRSD, compare to alternative models that provide opportunity to address.
5. Committee members asked questions and discussed the above items to develop clarity about Committee responsibilities. Timing for the committee was also discussed with the assumption that the Committee's work could be accomplished hopefully by March and that 2X meetings a month would be acceptable to the group. The Committee also learned that the Superintendency contract needs to be addressed by the RC School Board by June 30. Dewey noted it is possible an extension for 6-12month period could be put in place to allow more time for a well thought out, workable plan for the future.
6. Questions were also asked about state requirements, the difference pluses and minuses of how school districts can align themselves based on Mass. Regs, What benchmarks would help the Committee, what does the Berkshire Hills organization desire upon renewal of the Superintendency contract, and have we received a written statement from BH. Dewey said he is hoping to have the latter statement by the RCS Bd meeting set for next week and he would share with this Committee.
7. A call for volunteers was made agreed upon – Lauren Broussal and Rachel Kanz. No formal vote was taken. Meetings to be 2X a month. Doodle poll to be used to decide on meeting dates/times. Rachel will send out the Doodle poll.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm. DW motion, AE 2nd, all in favor