

Richmond Consolidated School - School Committee
Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM

REVISED – Meeting to be 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.

Dial in using your phone: +1 (872) 240-3412

Access Code: 463-970-637

Approved

Attendance: Peter Dillon, Adeline Ellis, Jenervra Strock, Jill Pompei, Dewey Wyatt, Sharon Harrison, Susan Benner. Public: Lauren Broussal, Penny Saupe,

1. Call to order 6:05pm.
DW explained this was being held remotely due to the COVID-19 issues, and is accordingly the the OML provision (noted above). DW-challenging time and unique situation appreciate patience and cooperation.
2. Positive messages -open call to hear positive observations related to our educational efforts.
DW- difficult time appreciate what all is doing. Foodwise and educationwise. Parents happy with communication from teachers.
3. Public Comments- none
4. Correspondence-
Letter from Julia Subourin Feb 11,2020 requesting further calcification that her loss of confidence in the school committee was due to being told the SC was in the initial phase of exploring Superintendency option, while in the fact the committee was already moving fwd with BH.

Email 3/10/2020 from Craig Swinson outlining the issues he sees with the handling of the asbestos program findings, the band room oil smell, legal expense, and his issues with the competency of the Superintendent and the SC Chair. Attachments related to asbestos topic provide by to him by Dr Dillon where included.

Public Records Request for Craig Swinson:
 1. Public Records Request - Contracts as listed , received Mar6, 2020
 2. Public Records Request - Summer Cleaning , received Mar6, 2020
 3. Records Request - Agendas/Minutes asbestos, received Mar5, 2020
 4. Public Information Request RCS Chemical/Oil Spill , received Mar4, 2020
 5. Records Request - OML Guidance, received Mar2, 2020
5. Review and approval of the minutes from: February 11, 2020. AE- motioned to approve minutes as amended SB seconded, All in favor
6. Principal's Report
FY21 Calendar Proposal-Peter was able to provide two choices but faculty decided to come up with another choice. Two week winter break so start earlier in school three additional days in August and longer for winter break. Concerns raised about earlier August start and having a different schedule that other districts (impact on families with students in multiple districts). Good Friday not off, have a half day for PD. Will be voted on at a different meeting once Committee better understands staff and family have been considered.

PreK update- JP posed a question about free for Richmond residents and mandate three full days of five half days. Currently: 9 current (6 residents, 3 non), New: 9 residents and partial 8 non (18 for next year). We all would like to have residents attend free as that would be a plus. Jp- may need to hire another para, think about school choice. DW - need to be careful about number of employees. We need to look more at numbers and impact on budget.

Remote teaching/learning plans- JP asked teacher to send enriching materials to student (fun and engaging material as well as outdoors). Email communications and extra details are on website. Specialists are involved as well. provided hard copies for people with no computers, state not requiring lessons. AE- if school is closed, would it be possible to do more direct. PD- If schools are closed we are allowed to give enrichment. If we give formal to some students, need to do it for all. This Friday will get more clarification. JS- special needs and formal learning. Same thing as Peter said. Do not want to send people into homes.

AE - chrome book how many children need chrome books, 5 families with one family not wanted a chrome book.

7. Superintendent's report

COVID-19 issue plans, updates- closed school for two weeks, then Governor changed to three. Expecting a change to longer. Social and emotional side been really good and appreciated. Tammy done a good job getting food prepared and out. Cleaning the building and limiting access to building on going. Moving from meeting people's needs for food and socioemotional to actual learning.\

Proposed vote on pay/administrative leave during the state of emergency to April 6- MOU- blanket-everybody on administrative leave through April 6. Sue Benner noted that it is the morally correct thing to do. The motion that all employees be included. passed unanimously.SB motion AE seconded All in favor.

Budget discussion, revisions and setting the public hearing date: the DRAFT Appropriation request for FY21 sits at 13.28% increase. Business Admin SH talked through changes. Numbers looking to go by themselves. Money available by themselves. Need to be conservative. ½ director sped half in teachers Growing need of paraprofessional. Added a para to preschool. Growing need. Actual expenditure not that large of an increase. Required mandated expenses. Technology teacher part-time to full time. Increasing spanish to 1-3. ? give up the French. Include Frontline for SPED. Included on software. Support staff PD for paraprofessional. Technology for chromebooks for MCAS testing. Student activity spending. Need for advisors in contract ? solar can we reduce the electricity. PD- four areas stipend, insurance electricity and ?. PD, JP, JS will work on reducing but share this one. Meeting again Tuesday to review further before he Budget Advisory Committee meeting later in week. Chairman solicited public input. LB - budget needs to be brought down a little, especially the Superintendents accounts. It is unlikely Richmond would be a stand-alone district and have that cost burden. PD and SH are trying to balance some unknowns and don't want to get caught low.

AHERA/Asbestos Update- An asbestos management plan should have been created 5- 6 years ago, however the report cannot be located. If none found a new one will be created which will include input from the original architect or new inspection. PD: there is no know asbestos issue, this is a documentation gap. The understanding is the building is too new for asbestos, this just needs formal docs. Thinks it is fairly straight forward. AE- this is paperwork about issue. Have someone to show compliance. PD will reach out to architect.

Music Room Oil Smell- funny smell in music rooms. Cleaning has been done by three different groups. Everything comes negative. Did air quality testing which came up negative. Trying to figure out what the funny smell is. ServiceMaster has cleaned everything, will continue to monitor.

8. Financial Report- this was tabled. DW asked if there were know issues that the SC should be aware off. PD- No.
9. Special Education Director's report- JS is staying current with commissioner and staff reaching out to parents

10. Superintendency Contract, Advisory Committee Update:
DW- many questions raised in last few months, nothing is straight forward.
Shaker Mountain is interviewing part-time superintendent candidates at end of March for 0.2 position that does not include Richmond. DW talks with DESE's Governance Christine Lynch about use of grant study funds. There is no requirement to join BHRSD in order to use the grant funds. The fact that it is a study means we don't know everything and outcome may point to one direction over another. If the study does not back a scenario, then don't do it. It is always wise to look at all admin and education costs of options to understand what makes sense. Funds must be used by 6/30/20 (current FY). Christine Lynch did say it is an ongoing issue of not being able to use study funds in set time frames (studies take time) so they are working to allow extensions. She let us know when she knows something. Richmond does not want Shaker Mountain redefined until we evaluate Berkshire Hills. Christine Lynch says DESE understands the need to function while any study or transition plays out. Therefore they are willing to work with Districts. The next several months could allow Richmond to continue the share services with BHRSD (with Peter Dillon as superintendent) while Hancock and New Ashford operate as the Shaker Mountain School Union with their own part-time superintendent during FY21, without actually dissolving the school union.

Need to examine all the scenarios. AE asked how long can he continue to be a superintendent for us. Peter said until June 2021. AE wants Richmond school committee to talk to Berkshire Hills committee. LB agrees to go with the superintendent. SB move that we have a conversation with Berkshire Hills about shared services for 20/21 and to have conversation with Shaker Mountain to not dissolve for one year. DW seconded. All in favor.

11. Retainer increase for legal counsel-tabled
12. Compensation for minute's taker-tabled
13. Other unforeseen items

Adjourned 8:50pm SB motioned AE seconded All in favor.

Submitted SB