

## Richmond Consolidated School - School Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:30PM

#### Approved

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

**Absent:** Mary Shook

**Guests:** Joy Mullen, Debra Alibozek, Neal Pilson, Anna Smith, Cristina Lenfest, Katie Bovard, Keiper Michelle Smith, Beth Smith, Lauren Broussal, Bob Gniadek

1. Call to order 4:30pm

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/515486045> , Phone: (571) 317-3112 Access Code: 515-486-045

2. School Committee Annual Reorganization:

Nominations for Chair: Ina nomination. No others nominations. All in favor for DW.

Vice Chair: DW nomination AE . All in favor

Secretary: DW nominated IW, but she respectfully declined as to not want the responsibility and the need to fully focus on deliberations. DW highlighted the on-going need to have a non-committee member take minutes. And offered he will help with minutes so the burden wouldn't be on the secretary in this transitional time.

The Secretary position remains open, defaults to Chairman to insure minutes are registered. (Having a secretary is not required)

3. Positive messages -open call to hear observations related to our educational efforts.

AE: happy to see in paper RCS staff is part of learning remote education platform.

DW: appreciate what many are doing to move forward in this very difficult time;

4. Public Comments:

Joy Mullen: concerns around 3ft distance in state guidance, suggestion that kids do not catch or pass virus.

No teacher like remote learning, it doesn't work as well, but need to get it right. How we do reopening is important to sort out.

5. Review and approve minutes: 5/18/2020: AE motion as amended, DW second, all in favor, 6/9/2020: AE motion to accept as amended, DW second, all in favor , 6/18/2020: AE motion as amended, IW second, all in favor.

6. Re-confirm/update School Committee Beliefs:

IW would like more time to work on it. She is trying to match up with MASC guidance. She will propose updates in a future meeting.

7. Principal's Report

A re-opening committee comprised of staff members and a parent representative that meets weekly has been put together. DESE asked for three plans - in person/ hybrid/distance learning- by July 31. MTA-protocols for administration to follow.

Notes from Principal:

ON LINE Learning:

- We have joined other districts to adopt CANVAS as our learning management system for on line learning. This has been paid for with funding from the Berkshire County Educational Task Force. Roger and Ronna are our school based facilitators who are working hard behind the scenes to get it ready for fall. We also identified two teachers who will attend a CANVAS boot camp to come back as teacher experts to support staff.
- I sent an email to staff about training this summer; PD time prior to the school year will be used to train staff as well. And Ronna and Roger are exploring training options for parents/students. Some teachers and paras have begun or have completed the “Growing With Canvas” which is a baseline PD for teachers so they can build their own classes.
- I am working on a grant for more technology - specifically to get more iPad and Chromebooks in hopes of having a 1:1 initiative.
- According to a survey that I sent to families, If we have to do hybrid or remote learning, 95% of our families have internet access, 86% have required technology. 23% however, don’t have someone at home with kids during the day

#### Family Survey:

- A survey went out to families. 67% of families plan on sending their child back with the requirement of 3 ft and masks about Grade 2. 25% of families are unsure. 8% said they won’t send children back. I know MTA is concerned about 3 ft and I am also exploring 6ft distance. It will require I split classes into two cohorts - I am looking at space and staffing to see if I can do that for full in person learning.
- Natalie has reached out to Terri at Dufour about bussing. Right now 44% of families who are eligible to ride the bus said they will in the fall, 46% said maybe and 9% said they won’t. This could be tricky.

#### IF WE ARE BACK IN SCHOOL, we have been busy planning. In the health realm:

- Cristina and I have been in touch with B of H and Emilie Jarrett. We are attending their meetings and I am forwarding questions about school health and safety to them.
- PPE equipment and sanitation supplies have been ordered and should arrive this week.
- Tracey (custodian) is working with Steve on vented room and ordering sanitation supplies.
- We already have hand sanitation stations, signage about hand washing; letters have gone home about staying healthy and about the importance of the flu shot.
- Custodians report that using the guidance of keeping children 3 ft apart, we can get all students and staff back in school. We can get three classes in the lunch room at one time and have them eat with their cohort if we move to three feet.

#### OTHER BUILDING NEEDS:

- We may have to order desks for one classroom.
- We will have to order bins/individual materials for students to eliminate the need to share.
- I am looking at cost for carts and trays for lunch, plastic cutlery and paper plates
- I will encourage teachers to take advantage of outdoor spaces whenever possible
- I am looking at cost for building para or sub; for custodian....

I am waiting for DESE templates for three plans we have to have - If we need to do hybrid (week on/week off) I have worked on schedule to allow siblings on the same days; looking to see if high risk can come more often.

Adeline raised up that DuFour recently received a sizable amount from payroll protection program, and asked if we should get more back. Peter reminded us the Richmond part of their business is very small. He will talk to Legal Counsel for guidance in possibly of receiving more, but said it is not likely.

Adeline asked if outdoor areas can be used classroom space. Peter and Jill said this is being looked at and are getting quotes on tents for extra swing space for several months (weather permitting).

#### 8. Superintendent’s report

- a. Adopt Resolution on COVID-19 State Funding:  
Motion for Richmond to adopt resolution and to send letter: IW motion, DW 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.
- b. Renew retainer for Dupere Law Offices:  
Short discussion on how their office has been very supportive and a very valuable resource for us. Motion to renew retainer at the \$725/mo rate by AE, 2<sup>nd</sup> IW, all in favor
- c. Superintendency contract, one year extension:

The budgeted amount for services is \$47,650, end date June 30, 2021. There was discussion about the termination aspects on Richmond behalf. DW to send to Dupere Offices for re-review with these thoughts. Tabled to next meeting.

Open Meeting Law complaint OML2020-78 settled, no violation by School Committee (letter from the Office of the Attorney General, June 25,2020).

9. Special Education Director's report

Summer Services: Jill reported on behalf of Mary that services have begun and are continuing remotely.

10. Future Superintendency plans discussion

We will reach out to MARS (Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools Consulting Group) to further understand the RAAC process, what it entails, how complex it is, what decision points there are. Peter is having a call with Steve Hemman in the next day or two to set a time to meet.

A meeting between the SC and SAC is attentively scheduled for July21, but need to set specific purpose. It was decided to have the consultant join the joint meeting at beginning. Lauren Broussal highlighted the main concern is not knowing details of the RAAC process and the need to have more information before any commitments. There have been no further conversations with Lenox. Lauren also raised up concerns about how any discussion about mergers will impact RCS (The Long Range Sustainability Working ground recently heard from Berk County Relators what they are hearing). We need to manage information carefully. Peter suggested a statement be submitted to work against any rumor mill that various options are begin looked at but nothing committed to (and K-8 is to be retained).

Peter had to excuse himself for another previously scheduled meeting. Be exiting he provided financial report summary (below).

Briefly reviewed a draft matrix of pros/cons of various future options. This is something that would be reviewed in the next SC SAC meeting agenda.

11. Financial Report: Peter reported the end of year report being prepared, items being reconciled. End of year purchases made. No concerns to note but there is a lot to understand yet relative to COVID preparedness.

12. Other unforeseen items: none

13. Adjournment and Warrant DW motion at 6:20, AE 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor

Submitted by D. Wyatt