

**Richmond Consolidated School - School Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 29, 2020  
**6:00 PM**

**Approved**

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

**Absent:** Mary Shook

**Guests:** Andrea Harrington, Benjamin Rickard, Brian Grebeldinger, Cristina Lenfest, Jim Fletcher, Errin Rooney, Joy Mullen, Julia Sabourin, Keith \_\_, Kimmy Leeco, Lauren Broussal, Leah \_\_, Lisa Callahan, Michelle Smith, Neal Pilson, Rachel Kanz, 7 others

1. Call to order 6pm

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.]

Web: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/789133349> Phone: (872) 240-3311 Access Code: 789-133-349

2. Superintendency Contract one year extension

The draft has been modified since last review. Language in section 6a Termination updated to give Richmond sufficient transition timing in the event we go separate ways. This has been reviewed with Dupere Law Office. The term is to June30,2021. It has also been sent Steve Bannon Chair of BHRSD.

Motion to accept as amended IW, seconded AE, all in favor.

3. Review of the tentative Re-Opening Plans

This is for SC to hear current status, tentative plans, to ask questions, to hear from the public as there is a questionnaire submission June 30 covering three plans. There are negotiations with Richmond Educators Association (REA). A more comprehensive plan is to be submitted on Aug10. Peter said guidance from the state is changing every day relative to so adjustments will continue. Need to give parents enough information so they can plan. This is by far the most complex thing we have or will deal with. The state did issue a waiver that it will be 10 days shorter (180→ 170 days) to help prepare or whatever scenario we will go forth will.

Jill aspects for the three possible paths and what is in the MA DESC (Dept of Elementary and Secondary Ed) summary (questionnaire that is to be submitted 7/31/2020).

Keeping parents needs in mind as we look a best way to deliver education to our students. Conditions and guidance changes daily, grateful for extra days to prepare. Full in-person won't work due to space and bussing. Would like to pursue hybrid model to better meet the social/emotional needs. Hybrid includes elements of remote so can shift if we need to go full remote. Wednesday a cleaning and staff prep day without students, Cohorts with 6ft distancing MTTF days. Many considerations for minimizing contact and spate use of supplies

Remote learning: Learning management system CANVAS to be used. This has been reviewed by members of the staff and feel it can work. Staff have been doing self-guided courses on the system.

Ina asked if taking temperatures is part of the plans. Jill and Cristina said there are concerns with false positives, who and where the testing is done that won't create bottlenecks at the entry doors.

Ina ask about students on IEPs and how the specialize instruction with be delivered.

Whatever model is pursues, there are students with IEP, ELL, and youngest learnings are groups that we'll need to pay particular attention to. Need to look at extra swing space to allow for more direct interaction with individual students. Mary S mentioned how amendments to IEPs will be needed.

Ina asked if the SC could have a walk-thru school at some point. Jill said you would be able to see what the custodians have done to prepare rooms, using the stage to store extra equipment to open up space.

Adeline ask if a teacher will be conductive both remote and in person teaching in the same day. Jill said yes.

Dewey asked to Jill to re- summary steps to minimize contact within the hybrid plan.

Jill mentioned how important is it to be able to "pivot" to respond to necessary changes as the weeks progress. We'll need to continue to look at what needs adjustment. Working on a hybrid model at this point will be beneficial especially if going to remote model.

Adeline asked about grading and attendance, and concern if poor connections will be factored in. Jill said they will continue to work directly with families to insure connection/equipment issues are addressed.

Kimmie Lecco asked if students that have difficulty can do on-line learning they can get materials to work on directly. Jill said teachers will continue to work with families and can by dropping off materials like they did last spring.

Discussed when to schedule the next meeting for plan review. Decided on Friday Aug7 4:30pm

Ina asked Peter for clarification on contracts. Peter explained that the Phycologist is separate from the one covering him and Sharon.

Adeline said it is good to secure an extended contract so we can put Superintendency more on the back burner to keep focus on opening school (whatever that looks like) in this challenging time.

#### 4. Public comments:

Joy as President to the REA summarize that they want to teach directly but feel health and safety can't be sufficiently secured and requires way more diligence than what the staff can handle. Unanimous that they want to start full remote learning, keep measuring, when possible pivot to open school gradually with in person learning. They will work hard to knock remote learning "out of the park." State is providing ridiculous guidance. Risks far outweigh benefits. There is a moral obligation to keep students families, staff safe. Ina asked if this is in line with guidance from MTA, Joy said yes. Everyone will need to be tested prior to entering building. There was some open discussion about testing capabilities. Joy said testing is one example of a ton of unanswered questions.

Andrea: thanked everyone for the work that was done in the spring, RSC went above and beyond and didn't than most. However virtual learning will send families in to despair. There are kids at home being neglected/abused who otherwise would have had contact through school.

Kids are suffering when not directly engaged in school activity. Kids will fall behind when families don't have sufficient capability to support instruction at home. In Berkshire County we have some of the lowest transmission rates, of all schools, RCS is positioned well for in-school learning. People need to pressure elected officials to demand more resources to support education and getting kids back to school. We need to come together to get kids in school.

Adeline: ask Joy about possible accommodation for anyone has an underling condition that makes them higher risk. Joy asked Peter to answer; he says likely but wants to be careful talking about negotiating points in public. Joy reported there is about 40% of members who might have a pre-existing condition that increases covid risk.

Kimmie L wanted to say how thankful they are for all the work from Jill and Peter and so many others. They are asked by many if they are sending their kids to school. If they were in Pittsfield, no. But feel confident in RCS knowing all the thoughtful work that is going in to this.

5. Other unforeseen items: none
6. Adjournment IW motion at 7:20, AE 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor

Submitted by D. Wyatt