

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Deborah Michon, President
Angela Pacitto, Vice President
Bridgette Shuboy, Secretary
Danielle Sutton, Treasurer
Kyle Simmons, Trustee
Margaret Teltow, Trustee
OPEN, Trustee

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

7:00PM, JANUARY 25, 2021 VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM MEETING

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued an order on December 18, 2020, that prohibits indoor gatherings of two or more people from more than one household, and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity issued emergency rules on October 14, 2020 regarding remote work by employees when feasible. In addition, one or more of the municipalities served by the Richmond Community Schools has declared a local state of emergency, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure against violating the indoor gathering prohibition, and in the interest of achieving the goal expressed in the MDHHS order and the MDLEO rules to protect the public health, particularly during a local state of emergency, the Richmond Community Schools Board of Education will meet virtually on **MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021** in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act as amended. This notice is required to ensure that those wishing to observe and/or participate in the meeting can have the opportunity to do so.

To attend the Board meeting virtually, go to the website:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84248993347>

Meeting ID: 842 4899 3347 | Passcode: 447833

Or Dial by telephone, (213) 338 8477

Meeting ID: 842 4899 3347

To address the Board during audience participation, or to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the Board at the meeting, please indicate so during the *Public Comment* portion of the agenda. If you wish to submit your statement in writing to Board members you may do so by sending your written statement to the Superintendent, bwalmsley@richmond.k12.mi.us, or drop the written statement off at the *Board of Education & Administrative Offices*, located at in the back of Richmond Middle School, Door #18 (35276 Division, Richmond Michigan 48062). The Superintendent will provide a copy of all written statements received to each Board member as well as read the written statement during the *Public Comment* portion of the agenda.

Anyone wishing to address the Board via electronic attendance at the meeting will be recognized by the Board President. Please note that delays are possible based on the number of individuals who express interest in addressing the Board. To contact members of the Board in order to provide input or ask questions on any business before the Board at the meeting, please use the contact information found on the district's website, under the Board of Education link on the left side of the webpage.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law,) height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. Inquiries related to any nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent, 35276 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062, (586) 727-3565.

*This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in Agenda Item **10**.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by D. Michon.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Board of Education.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by B. Shuboy.

"At Richmond Community Schools, we provide a quality education that empowers students to be successful in a global community."

4. ROLL CALL

Roll call was done by B. Shuboy.

D. Michon, present attending virtual from Columbus Township, St. Clair County, MI

A. Pacitto, present attending virtual from Richmond, MI, Macomb County.

B. Shuboy, present attending virtual from Casco Township, MI.

K. Simmons, present attending virtual from Richmond, Macomb County, MI.

D. Sutton, present attending virtual from Casco Township, St. Clair County.

M. Teltow, present attending virtual from Casco Township, MI.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by A. Pacitto to approve the Agenda. Supported by B. Shuboy.

Ayes: 6-0

Nays: 0

Motion carries: 6-0

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by A. Pacitto to approve the agenda. Supported by B. Shuboy.

B. Walmsley provided feedback that he received an inquiry from M. Teltow regarding a garnishment of wages that we have for an employee.

B. Walmsley provide an update on new hires. No Claims and Accounts questions. M. Teltow communicated changes in the minutes to the last name for the teacher who she spoke about, as it was not the right last name. M. Teltow communicated changes in the minutes to the Vice President and Treasurer nominations. M. Teltow indicated that she did not vote for either one of these, so the votes need to be changed to 4-2 from 5-1.

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Ayes: 6-0
Nays: 0
Motion passes: 6-0

7. BOND UPDATE

B. Walmsley provided an update regarding construction at the Elementary School. We had our 50% completion with the State Fire Marshall. Roofs are being installed and the project is moving as planned. Fencing was put up around the High School and everything else is on track.

B. Walmsley provided feedback regarding the dugouts and about possibly relocating the softball diamond, with the idea that in future years, if the District ever had to expand the middle school because of enrollment, we could expand off the back and not worry about having to tear down what we just put up with this bond. B. Walmsley shared drawings of what this would look like.

Michael Sims from Foresite Design, Inc. as the Project Manager working with French Associates presented drawings for the Varsity Baseball and JV Baseball sites and what is included in the Scope of Work for the project.

A. Pacitto inquired about power to the Baseball field and whether the District would be doing this for the Softball field also. G. McClelland confirmed that the Softball dugouts have power. The JV Baseball field is the one field that does not have power. The intent would be to get power to all fields. The power will come off one of the parking lot lights. Provisions will be made this summer. They are working through with the electrician now.

B. Shuboy asked about the path that's going to be rerouted on the JV Boys field on the first base side. Where is it going to be rerouted to? M. Sims provided feedback that it would be rerouted around the back side with very minimal impact.

M. Teltow inquired regarding what we are doing with the baseball field, the area where people park where they aren't supposed to park. There were discussions about parking spaces for handicapped parking for grandparents to park. She wanted to know what the consideration is for doing something at the baseball field for parking. B. Walmsley provided feedback regarding parking that will be available. M. Teltow clarified that she is talking about specific parking for the baseball diamond. B. Walmsley & G. McClelland provided feedback regarding what we can look into.

K. Simmons inquired regarding any Title IX concerns considering the softball JV field is in perfectly good condition now. B. Walmsley clarified that there are no concerns at this point.

B. Walmsley added a follow up question regarding the summary and detail sheets that breakout the costs of the improvements that are included in the Board packet distributed to Board members. G. McClelland presented the Ball Field Improvements Summary which outlines costs involved.

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Roosevelt Civic Auditorium

B. Walmsley inquired about the disposition of the property. He provided feedback regarding what was done previously when the District went to the City, at which time the property was split into two parts: 1) Old Bus Garage and 2) Roosevelt Civic Auditorium. A copy of the current lease agreement was provided in the Board packet and a copy of what they have paid us for rent. The District receives approximately \$6,000/year. They reimburse us for utilities.

An assessment of the property was done previously. Appraisal report based on the value of the property. The building needs repairs to use it for any educational purposes. B. Walmsley needs feedback from the Board.

Question: Do we move forward with the Baseball project and begin the architect and planning, by reallocating dollars in the Bond or 2) Board to provide direction on the Roosevelt Civic Auditorium.

B. Shuboy would like to have a committee formed to see what the building could be used for. The building is very important at least to her family.

A. Pacitto would like us to contact the Richmond Historical Society and possibly get a grant to restore the museum.

M. Teltow provide feedback that she thinks we need to decide as a Board and District that we can't afford to keep this building.

A. Pacitto stated that she would like to explore other options. A. Pacitto thinks it can be used for after school programs, art theatre or culinary arts program. A. Pacitto would like to partner with the City and Historical Society and possibly investigate some grants to be used to restore the building.

M. Teltow provided additional feedback regarding previous issues identified with the cost that it would take to have the building fix.

D. Michon expressed her concerns about the problems that you have when doing construction on an older building (e.g. finding things that you just don't know you have). She is also concerned about the liability issues. She doesn't have a problem with us looking at it again. There are many things that need to be fixed. The Board should consider if this is something that we should keep in our community.

M. Teltow clarified that she isn't saying that we should take it away from the community, but just that we keep it as the School District's responsibility. If something happens, the District is responsible for it

D. Michon stated that she agrees with M. Teltow. D. Michon thinks we should reach out one more time, then vote on whether or not we want to put the property on the market.

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B. Walmsley to check with the City and local Historic Society to see if there is an interest. He will come back to the Board, then we'll go from there.

Clarification need for moving funds for the field. Do we move the funds now or hold until we know what we're doing with the Aud?

D. Michon doesn't have a problem with transferring the funds.

G. McClelland provided feedback regarding challenges and things for the Board to consider.

D. Michon took a Roll Call vote for moving of funds for the field now. **Roll Call Vote:** D. Sutton-Move funds (Aye), M. Teltow-Move funds (Aye), A. Pacitto-Hold off (Nay), K. Simmons-Move funds (Aye), B. Shuboy-Hold off (Nay), and D. Michon-Move funds (Aye)

Ayes: 4-2

Nays: 2

B. Walmsley to proceed with moving the funds.

8. BOARD MEMBER-APPOINTEE INTERVIEW(S)

D. Michon notified the community that we will not be doing the interview questions. The Board only had one person apply for the position, Mrs. Sherri Zube. S. Zube is well known to the community and Board. Per Board Policy 24.04, Item B #2, 1 of 3 that are listed. D. Michon indicated that the Board has done two. A motion will be made during the Action Items.

9. PRESENTATION(S)

School Board Appreciation Month Recognition

B. Walmsley announced that January is School Board Appreciation Month. He provided an overview of the recognition day.

Michael Clees, student in Ms. Hohmann's class, thanked the Board and also provided feedback regarding community businesses (Hamlin Pub, Hungry Howie's, Jimmy John's, J's Silkscreen, Ken's Country Kitchen, and Village Café, that donated for the Board of Education gifts. Baskets were put together by Mrs. Hercula, Mrs. Hohmann and Mrs. Hohmann's class.

B. Walmsley provided feedback that there were gifts from the Elementary and Middle School, Elementary School PTO, Transportation, Food Services and the Board of Education Offices. He thanked the Board of Education again and wished them a Happy School Board Appreciation month.

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (Section 98a) for the 2020-21 School Year (Update)

B. Walmsley recommended to revise our learning plan, which would result in going back to the District's original learning plan which offers parents the option to go in-person or virtually.

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Returned to in-person learning on 1/11

- Pre-School and Kindergarten: Recommendation to keep In-person and Virtual-Live Synchronous
- Elementary: Recommendation to keep In-person and Virtual-Live Synchronous
- Middle School: Recommendation to keep In-person and Virtual-Live Synchronous
- High School: Recommendation to keep In-person and Virtual-Live Synchronous

Review of Weekly 2-way Interaction Rates

- Week of 12/14-12/18/20: District Average 99.48%
- Week of 12/21-12/25/20: District Average 94.52%
- Week of 1/4/21-1/8/21: District Average: 99.23%
- Week of 1/11/21-1/15/21: District Average 99.04%

M. Teltow inquired about exams for virtual versus in-person students. How did everything go? B. Walmsley provided feedback that he isn't aware of any concerns with exams. B. Walmsley indicated that he does know that there were concerns regarding the number of students who did not pass, as a County. Some students just don't do well in a virtual environment. The District is currently up in the number in students attending in-person. Exams at our High School can only help students. Students who did not do well, cannot go back, so this doesn't hurt their grades.

B. Walmsley provided feedback regarding additional programs that are upcoming to assist students:

- The District is currently working on a Credit Recovery two 6-week blocks that will be 7th hour or after school, to allow students, especially 11th and 12th graders the opportunity to get the credits recovered before they graduate, so they won't get behind.
- This summer we will have a Summer Credit Recovery Program, in the portable that the Board Office will be moving from.
- The District will have a K-8 Literacy Program to address our students who are behind in literacy.
- The District currently has more people choosing in-person, in comparison to virtual.

PUBLIC COMMENT on *Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan*

No public comments.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Hohmann, High School teacher thanked the board for everything that they've done for our students.

11. SUPERINTENDENT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

B. Walmsley stated that last week we finished our 2nd card marking for the semester.

On this past Friday the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Governor issued an Emergency Order, so of the items have changes, some things have been extended.

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Governor announced an allocation ESSER funds. Once the District knows what funds have been allocated, it will be brought to the Board.

12. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Pacitto provided an update that she and B. Shuboy were able to attend the Macomb County School Board via Zoom. State has confirmed that there are enough funds in the School Aid Fund that we should not see a decrease in per pupil funds.

B. Walmsley encouraged the audience to contact their State Representatives to help us keep those funds.

B. Shuboy, provided feedback that she and D. Sutton were able to go to the ISD for Orientation. It was exciting to diverse group.

M. Teltow provided clarification from the previous Public Comments from the Teachers Union President. She corrected her statement that B. Walmsley increase was 2.9%. The Teachers Union President was correct, they did not receive 3%, on average teachers received a 5.1% increase. Also, there were 23 of our teachers who received over a 10% increase in pay.

D. Michon would like to have clarification of what a raise is. She clarified that we had 25 of our teachers who did not get a raise at all. 6 teachers who are above 10% because they are working an extra hour. 11 teachers received restoration, which means they were brought back to what they had (which M. Teltow did mention). We had 36 teachers who got longevity restored, which they lost. She's glad that we are working to continue to look at working on getting teacher raises.

13. ACTION ITEMS

Approval of amendment to/confirmation of *Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan*
Motion by A. Pacitto and support by K. Simmons.

Ayes: 6-0

Nays: 0

Motion carries: 6-0

Approval of Candidate for the Board of Education

Motion by A. Pacitto and support by B. Shuboy.

Ayes: 4-2

Nays: 2

Motion carries: 4-2

B. Walmsley congratulated S. Zube on her reappointment to the Board of Education. He administered a ceremonial Oath of Office to S. Zube.

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14. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by D. Michon at 8:29pm.



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