

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
Sherri Zube, Trustee

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**7:00PM ON NOVEMBER 8, 2021, IN THE MEDIA CENTER AT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL
(35320 Division, Richmond, Michigan 48062)**

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

Regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance recited by Board of Education, Superintendent, Central Office, and audience.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

Mission statement read by Board member Shuboy

4. ROLL CALL

Board member Shuboy took roll call: Deborah Michon – Present, Angela Pacitto – Present, Bridgette Shuboy – Present, Kyle Simmons – Present, Danielle Sutton – Present, Margaret Teltow – Present, and Sherri Zube – Absent with Notice.

6 – 1 Quorum of the Board

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board member Michon revised the agenda to eliminate Agenda Item # 8 – D (*Richmond Administrators Association (RAA)/Teamsters Grievance 2021-22 Coordinator of Information Technology*). The subsequent agenda items would be renumbered as follow: Agenda Item 8 – E (*First Reading of Board Policy*) would become Agenda Item 8 – D

Motion by Board member Pacitto to approve the amended Agenda as presented. Support by Board member Sutton.

Discussion: None

Non-Discrimination Statement

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All in Favor: 6. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Board member Shuboy to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in the attached documentation. Support by Board member Pacitto.

Discussion: Superintendent Walmsley recognized the following:

Resignations and Retirements: Frank Orlando (JV Boys Basketball) and Stephanie Witkowski (Childcare).

Termination: None.

Lay-off / Non-renewal of Contract: None.

New Hires: None.

Notice of Appointments (Previously Hired by the Board): Christopher Baba (7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach).

Superintendent Walmsley stated that he received no questions or corrections to the minutes from the 10-25-2021 Board meeting

Superintendent Walmsley stated that he received one questions regarding the *Claims and Accounts* from Board member Michon. The question was, “*What do we use that we pay Symmetry Energy Solutions?*” *Symmetry Energy Solutions* is one of the district’s energy providers. They used to be called *CenterPoint Energy*. The Press Release from *Symmetry Energy Solutions* acquisition of *CenterPoint Energy* in June 2020 was provided to Board members. The district uses the buying power of *Symmetry Energy Solutions* to lock in natural gas rates.

All in Favor: 6. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

7. BOND UPDATE

Dan Jerome, French Associated Inc., presented the summer 2022 baseball and softball field improvements and site renovations. Gerry McClelland, Auch Construction, was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

Board member Simmons questioned the distance to the outfield fence on the new varsity field. Dan Jerome stated it is within the range of regulations for a varsity softball field. Mr. Jerome also stated that the varsity girls’ softball coach was consulted and approved the distance.

Board member Teltow questioned why there was no parking lot by the varsity baseball field as discussed previously. Superintendent Walmsley stated that a parking lot by the varsity baseball field was not in the original scope of the bond, but that he would get with the Bond team to put a drawing together with an estimate a cost, should the Board wish to put a parking lot in. Superintendent Walmsley stated that it could not be very large due to the location.

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8. PRESENTATION

A. Fiscal Year 2021 Audit

Jennifer Watkins, CPA/Principal from Yeo & Yeo CPA and Business Consultants, presented the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 audit. The audit results gave the “Unmodified Opinion.” Superintendent recognized the outstanding work of Tammie Schadd (Director of Business and Management Services) and her team, Judy McIntire (Purchasing & Accounts Payable Coordinator), and Angela Blake (Payroll & Employee Benefits Coordinator).

B. Instructional Spotlight: 2020-21 Student Achievement Data

Renee Ara, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, along with Andrew Kastl, Richmond High School Principal, Keith Bartels, Richmond Middle School Principal, and Heidi Mangune, Will L. Lee Elementary School Principal, presented the 2020-21 student achievement data and five-year trend analysis.

Board member Teltow asked Andy Kastl (HS Principal) specifically what was being done to address the achievement of all students in the math courses. Mr. Kastl, Renee Ara, and Superintendent Walmsley provided a response to Board member Teltow.

Board member Pacitto asked Keith Bartels (MS Principal) what year the district was in standards-based grading, is middle school homework being graded, and what supports are in place for middle school students as they transition to high school. Mr. Bartels, Renee Ara, and Superintendent Walmsley provided a response to Board member Pacitto. Superintendent Walmsley stated that he would work with Ms. Ara and Mr. Bartels to put together a presentation to the Board regarding standards-based grading in the near future.

C. Discussion on Instructions for Superintendent’s Evaluation

Deborah Michon, Board of Education President, reviewed the instruction with the Board of Education on how the Superintendent’s evaluation will be conducted. It was agreed that only the goals previously established between the Board and Superintendent would be utilized in Component 7: Statutory Factors (Optional). The goals previously establish include (1) The Superintendent shall continue to build a trusting, collaborative, and respectful relationship with the Board of Education through written communication, in-person meetings, and telephone conversations. (2) The Superintendent shall review and recommend to the Board of Education a building-level administrative evaluation tools that provides quality feedback to allow administrators to grow as instructional leaders. If approved by the Board of Education, the Superintendent shall provide training and support to administrators on the instrument. (3) The Superintendent shall continue to improve the quality of written communication disseminated to the public.

Board member Teltow asked if all Board members have been trained. Board member Michon indicated that she did not need the training as she has conducted multiple evaluations in the

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past. After discussion, Board member Michon stated that Board members Pacitto and Zube went to a recent training and will train any Board member not trained.

~~D. Richmond Administrator Association (RAA)/Teamsters Grievance 2021-22-01 Coordinator of Information Technology~~

Removed from the Agenda (See Agenda Item 5)

D. First Reading of Board Policy

Superintendent Walmsley presented the First Reading of the following Board Policy that reflect updates from Thrun Law Firm, the firm that provides the district their policies:

- 2501A Electronic Board of Education Meetings
- 2505 Board Committee
- 3102 Smoking, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol
- 3118 Title IX Sexual Harassment
- 3306 Construction Bidding
- 4108 Union Activity and Representation
- 4112 Extracurricular Employees or Volunteers
- 5101 Student Expression
- 5106 Transgender Students
- 5202 Unlawful Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Against Students
- 5708 Do Not Resuscitate Order
- 5710 Student Suicide Prevention

9. CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER MATERIALS EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(H) OF THE MICHIGAN OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Board member Pacitto moved that the Board of Education go into Closed Session to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute. Support by Board member Shuboy.

Roll Call Vote: Deborah Michon – Yes, Angela Pacitto – Yes, Bridgette Shuboy – Yes, Danielle Sutton – Yes, Kyle Simmons – Yes, and Margaret Teltow – Yes.

All in Favor: 6. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

Closed Session Start: 8:49PM

Closed Session End: 9:43PM

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public spoke:

- Diane Thorne. Ms. Thorn asked if Richmond Community Schools was going to hold vaccination clinic, if RCS was approached by the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD), was Superintendent Walmsley asked specifically to hold a vaccination clinic. Mr. Thorne stated that

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the decision to vaccinate is one that should be made between the parent and medical providers and the school should not be involved.

- Amanda McLeod. Ms. McLeod stated there are no emergency orders that require students to be quarantined. Ms. McLeod stated that she would like to know the law that allows the school to exclude students. She insisted the district provide transparency and involve all stakeholders.
 - Beth Stemmerich yielded her time to Amanda McLeod to finish her address to the Board.
- Traci Bartell. Read a prepared statement in reaction to the Superintendent's statement at the last Board meeting. Ms. Bartell talked about the process the previous board took in the selection of the Superintendent. She outlined the role of the board. She stated that if there was a violation of the law, these violations are recallable offenses.
 - Kathi Miller yielded her time for Traci Bartell to finish her address to the Board.
- Shelby Paul. Ms. Paul expressed her dissatisfaction with the school and the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) when during recent vision and hearing testing by the MCHD, her child was forced to wear a facemask or not be tested.
- Candess Cunningham. Ms. Cunningham was disheartened by the statement Superintendent Walmsley read at the last Board meeting and that out focus should be fighting the COVID-19 "Blueprint" as it is continuously changing.

11. SUPERINTENDENT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Prior to providing an update, Superintendent Walmsley address some of the public comment questions. He stated that there is no *Emergency Order* or *Executive Order*, but rather the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) is using the authority under the health codes to require students to be quarantine, much like they would require a student to be excluded from school should they have measles or chicken pox. Superintendent Walmsley stated that he discussed this during the August 23rd Board meeting and a recent Board meeting. Superintendent Walmsley stated that she meets weekly with Macomb County Superintendents and the MCHD.

Superintendent Walmsley provided the following update:

Athletics, Facilities, and School Safety. Superintendent Walmsley reminded the Board and listening audience about upcoming middle school basketball games and wrestling meet. And to check the website for current times and dates.

Superintendent Walmsley stated that tonight was the first middle school athletic event in which the new concession stand at the middle school, paid for through bond funds, is being utilized.

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Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Report. Superintendent Walmsley stated this Friday is the end of the First Quarter. It is hard to believe that 25% of the school year has been completed.

As previously heard during the student achievement presentation, Superintendent Walmsley stated that he had an opportunity to visit each building's professional development day last week and it was great.

Superintendent Walmsley reminded the Board of the middle school's Veterans Day Ceremony coming up. The ceremony will be held virtually.

Superintendent Walmsley stated that the district is reviewing its *Return to Learning Plan* policy regarding non-educational visitors in the building.

Management Services Report. Superintendent Walmsley express his gratitude for the remarkable job the food service staff are doing. The meal count for the month of September shows that the food service staff served 2,863 breakfasts and 11,253 lunches for a total of 14,116 meals served. That is 1,281 more meals meal more than was served in September 2020. Keeping in mind, school started one week later this year.

Superintendent Walmsley stated that we started off the school year with the new bus, which was used in the Richmond Good Old Days Grand Parade.

Superintendent Walmsley stated that transportation has begun offering academic field trips after almost 18 months of no field trip. Transportation took students to Pine River and Goodells Nature Center, Blakes Cider Mill, Russell Schmidt Factory and Detroit St. Anne's Church. In addition, drivers transported 10 athletic field trips for their away games. The Transportation department also was able help a neighboring district (Clintondale) and transport their football team to Grosse Isle for a game. Hats off to Karen Montgomery who was the driver.

Superintendent Walmsley stated that Richmond Community Schools will once again participate in the City of Richmond Santa Parade being held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. A school bus, decked in lights will be one of the parade floats. The parade begins at 5:30pm. The Board and staff will be invited to ride on the bus in the parade. After taking last year off due to the pandemic, we are ecstatic to participate in the City's efforts to bringing back this beloved community event. The event kicks off the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Enrollment Trends Report. Superintendent Walmsley stated that enrollment "Head Count" for ECSE through 12th Grade is 1,556. When you add 3-year-old, 4-year-old preschool, and Great Start Readiness Program, the total "Head Count" is 1,666. He reminded the Board this is not FTE, but actual student bodies. Pam Dailey (Community Liaison and PowerSchool Coordinator) is certifying the district's count day numbers and the district is up 46.98 FTE from last October.

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Legislative Update. Hearings began on *Prohibiting Public Funds to Membership Dues*. Superintendent Walmsley stated last Tuesday, the House Education Committee began testimony on House Bill 5424, which would prohibit school districts from spending local, state, or federal funds on dues to membership organizations, specifically education associations or trade unions. Under the bill, a school board would have to create and implement a policy by January 1, 2023, that would prohibit public funds from being used on membership dues for certain individuals including, but not limited to, superintendents, principals, board members, central office staff and teachers. This bill will not only severely impact organizations like MASB or MASA, but could affect participation in athletic conferences, music associations, subject-specific associations for teachers and more. We expect another hearing this coming Tuesday.

OSHA Issues Emergency Standard on COVID-19 Regulations. Superintendent Walmsley stated in September, President Joe Biden announced the Path out of the Pandemic Plan. This plan includes requiring employers with 100 or more employees to mandate that their workers are either vaccinated or tested on a weekly basis for COVID-19. Since then, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has been working on the implementation language. Yesterday, the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) was announced by OSHA and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Under the ETS, employers, including Michigan school districts, must ensure that their employees are fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022, or are being tested weekly and providing the result to the employer. Also, by December 5, 2021, a district will need to verify the vaccination status of their employees and have a plan in place to comply with the other requirements outlined, like paid time off to get vaccinated and masking requirements for unvaccinated workers.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration is expected to adopt the standard in full within the next two weeks. As stated, this plan applies to any employer, including school districts, with 100 or more employees as of December 5, 2021.

Curriculum Limitations Passes House. Superintendent Walmsley stated on Tuesday afternoon, House Bill 5097 passed the House of Representatives in a controversial 55-0 vote. This bill would prohibit any form of race and gender stereotyping from being included in the core curriculum. If passed, it would also prohibit the teaching of certain historical events and anti-bias training.

Superintendent Walmsley stated that after one Democratic member was not allowed to speak to the bill, Democratic House members refused to vote on the bill. This left only 55 Republican legislators voting "yes" on the bill; just enough for the bill to pass.

Superintendent Walmsley stated we should oppose this bill, not for the political content it is addressing, but rather the decision on what to teach should be made by the Board, not Legislature.

12. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Deborah Michon, President – (1) Board member Michon stated that the results of the staff survey will

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be reviewed at the next Board meeting. (2) Board member Michon congratulated the Lee PTA for their recent *Trunk-and-Treat*. She reported that over 800 were there that night. (3) Board member Michon also stated that the Board received additional training on the Open Meetings Act tonight.

Danielle Sutton, Treasurer – Board member Sutton thanked everyone for completing the survey. She stated that there are about 200 employees and the survey yielded about 50% response rate.

13. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Board member Teltow motioned to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the overnight/extended student trips to Defiance College, December 17-18, 2021, New Lothrop High School, January 7-8, 2022, and Lowell High School, January 21-22, 2022, as presented at the October 25, 2021 Board of Education and outlined in the attached documentation. Support by Board member Simmons.

Discussion: None

All in Favor: 6. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Michon adjourned the meeting at 10:25 PM.

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