

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
Sandra Fortuna, Secretary
Margaret Teltow, Treasurer
Candess Cunningham, Trustee
Kelly Oldani, Trustee
Danielle Sutton, Trustee

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION **REGULAR** MEETING AGENDA

**7:00PM ON JANUARY 23, 2023, 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 9.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board member Michon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Michon read a statement in which she discussed changes to the Board of Education meetings going forward. She discussed adding R.A.V.E.S. (Recognizing A Valued Employee or Student) to the first meeting of the month. Board member Michon stated the first Board meeting will be presentations and the second Board meeting will be action items. She stated Public Comment has been moved to the end of the meeting in the hopes that during the meeting many questions would be answered.

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 Fortuna.

4. ROLL CALL

Board member Fortuna took roll call: Candess Cunningham – Present, Sandra Fortuna – Present, Deborah Michon – Present, Kelly Oldani – Present, Angela Pacitto – Present, Danielle Sutton – Present, and Margaret Teltow – Present.

7 – 0 Quorum of the Board

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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.

Motion by Board member Teltow to approve the agenda as presented. Support by Board member Oldani.

All in Favor: 7. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Board member Teltow to approve the *Consent Agenda* as presented. Support by Board member Cunningham.

Discussion: Superintendent Walmsley recognized, and noted the following corrections:

Personnel Report:

Resignations and Retirements:

Campbell, Melanie	COVID-19 Aide	2023-01-17
Richmond High School		
Nowak-Owens, Glenda	Assistant Cook	2023-01-19.
Richmond Middle School		

Termination:

None.

Lay-off / Non-renewal of Contract:

None.

New Hires:

Kenward, Jeffrey	Interim Dean of Students	2023-01-19
Richmond Middle School		
Lemon, Kathleen	Social Studies / Interim Science Teacher	2023-01-23
Richmond High School		
Miller, Jessica	Social Worker	2023-01-23
Richmond Middle School		
Williams, Ryan	Physical Education teacher	2023-01-23
Richmond Middle School & Will L. Lee Elementary School		

Notice of Appointments (Previously Hired by the Board):

Jahr, Cheryl	Geography Bee Advisor	2023-01-19
Richmond Middle School		

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Jahr, Cheryl Richmond Middle School	Spelling Bee Advisor	2023-01-19
Shagena, Kari Richmond High School	National Honor Society Advisor	2023-01-10
Walla, Kristina Richmond Middle School	National Junior Honor Society Advisor	2023-01-19

Superintendent Walmsley stated no errors brought to his attention regarding the 2023-01-09 Organizational Special Meeting minutes, 2023-01-09 Regular Meeting Minutes, or the 2023-01-14 Special Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Teltow asked for clarification regarding Ms. Lemon’s position. Mr. Walmsley explained she is a certified teacher, but not certified in science. Mr. Walmsley discussed that a new candidate is interested in pursuing a science degree through #TEACH.
All in Favor: 7. Opposed: 0. Motion passed.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S DISTRICT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

B. Walmsley

Superintendent Walmsley reported contacting the following individuals who spoke during *Public Comment* on January 9, 2023.

- Cheryl Jahr made a statement at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley sent Ms. Jahr a thank you text, as well as spoke to her in-person several days after the meeting to thank her for what she did. I also spoke to Local 1 representative who indicated that he “might have help” Ms. Jahr write the statement.
- Carolyn Gallo spoke at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley call Ms. Gallo on Friday, January 20, 2023, following the *Letter to the Community* update sent on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Great conversation. Very supportive.
- John Pepper spoke at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley call Mr. Pepper on Friday, January 20, 2023, following the *Letter to the Community* update sent on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Great conversation. Was very thankful of the changes implemented. Noticed them immediate.
- Kristina Turchi spoke at Public Comment. Board member Michon and Superintendent Walmsley met with Mr. and Mrs. Turchi on Monday, January 16, 2023, for about an hour and a half in the high school conference room.
- Christina Bass spoke at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley call Ms. Bass on Friday, January 20, 2023, following the *Letter to the Community* update sent on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Great conversation. Stated she sent her students back to school this week. Loves having the police officers in the building.

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- Amanda Spears spoke at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley call Ms. Spears on Friday, January 20, 2023, following the *Letter to the Community* update sent on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Respectful conversation. All questions have been answered.
- Reverend Kim Newport spoke at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley call Rev. Newport. Left a message.
- Ashley Rose spoke at Public Comment. Superintendent Walmsley tried calling Ms. Roses. Number is not correct.

Legislative Update:

School Aid Supplemental Passes the Senate

On Wednesday, January 18, 2023, the full Senate quickly passed supplemental budgets for the School Aid Fund and the General Fund by party-line votes. The bills make appropriations for last fiscal year and this one, adjusting amounts previously appropriated. Senate Bill 8, the School Aid Fund budget, includes language that would allow MPSERS supplemental payments to be made on behalf of all participating entities (including ISDs), not just local districts. The bill also adjusts amounts needed for special education reimbursements and school breakfast. Finally, it adds \$27.9 million in federal dollars for the state to establish safe and healthy learning environments.

The passage of these two bills also moves forward closing the books with final numbers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This was not completed before the end of last session. The bills are now under consideration by the House Appropriations Committee. We expect the House to act on them next week.

State of the State, January 25, 2023

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will deliver her annual State of the State Address on the evening of Jan. 25, 2023

County Update:

Superintendent Walmsley reminder the Board that the Macomb County School Boards Association (MCSBA) dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at Fitzgerald Public Schools. He stated he was attending on behalf of the district. Superintendent Walmsley also stated if any Board members schedules change, to let him know so that he may RSVP for them.

Bond Update

New doors were installed at the high school, just north of the new addition. These doors were not captured in the original drawings for the addition, nor with the other renovations with the bond.

New doors were also installed in the kindergarten wing of the elementary school. The district will be using general fund, when possible, to replace doors that are nearing the end of their useful life. Many of these doors were installed during the 1996 bond and are nearing 30 years old.

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District Update:

Superintendent Walmsley reported the following activities and events happening at Will L. Lee Elementary School, as reported by Ms. Mangune, Principal:

- Lee teaching staff spent the day learning about building assessments for standards at the professional development day on January 16, 2023
- NWEA testing is still going on. The staff report seeing an incredible amounts of growth.
- Attendance improved from the December 2021. Great job to the students, and parents for getting students to school.
- February kicks off *Kindness Month*. Students will receive Kindness Cards throughout the school day to receive a prize for being kind. Lee is planning on schoolwide opportunities to practice kindness.
- The entire students body enjoyed "stuffy day" on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. "Stuffy Day" was an opportunity for students to bring their stuffed animals to school.
- Preschool Formal is on February 7, 2023.
- PTO provided a huge bag of PBIS prizes for not only classroom teachers but also support staff.

Superintendent Walmsley reported the following activities and events happening at Richmond Middle School, as reported by Ms. Marella, Principal:

- Monday is the Middle School Spelling Bee from 3:00-4:00pm. MS. Boys Basketball Game was also today at 4:30
- Tuesday is "Shine Day." Middle school students are encouraged to show your SHINE Spirit! 7th hour exams are also scheduled.
- Wednesday, 1st and 2nd Hour exams are scheduled. Middle school Boys Basketball has a home game at 4:30pm
- Thursday, 3rd and 4th Hour Exams are scheduled.
- Friday—5th and 6th Hour Exams. It is also Spirit Day—Wear your winter hat or earmuffs!

Superintendent Walmsley reported the following activities and events happening at Richmond Middle School, as reported by Ms. Marella, Principal:

- Congratulations to our choir students who earned Division 1 Excellent ratings in all four of their performances last weekend at Solo and Ensemble.
- Adjusted exam schedule on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
- Boys Basketball rivalry game (vs. Armada) at home Tuesday. Freshmen at 4:30pm, JV at 6:00pm and Varsity at 7:30pm.

Superintendent Walmsley reported the high school scholastic art awards are in! Congratulations, to the following students! Those students who received Gold Keys will be advancing to the national art competition.

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Madison Ball
Riley Bartolone
Gabe Brockett
Ava Conrad
Madelaine Foss
Aidan Kowalski
Olivia McIntyre
Priscilla Mullen-Rutledge

Emma Peters
Emma Peters

Silver Key for Photography: Good Dog.
Gold Key for Photography: I feel like I'm drowning.
Silver Key for Photography: Pain is Beauty.
Honorable Mention for Photography: Hidden Regality.
Honorable Mention for Drawing & Illustration: 2009.
Silver Key for Painting: Self Portrait Inspired.
Silver Key for Photography: Flower Head.
Gold Key for Photography: Knowing.
Silver Key for Digital Art: Sacrificed.
Silver Key for Digital Art: Eye Candy.
Honorable Mention for Photography: Electric.
Honorable Mention for Photography: Patience.
Gold Key for Digital Art: A Long Walk.
Gold Key for Digital Art: Ghost Kids.

Superintendent Walmsley reported the College for Creative Studies announced they will offer a regional Gold Key Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 (\$500 per year) to be awarded to seniors who have won one or more Gold Keys for a portfolio or individual work this year in the Southeast Michigan & Thumb Art Region, and who are admitted to CCS for the Fall of 2023. Seniors that Qualify:

Riley Bartolone
Mae (Emma) Peters
Priscilla Mullen-Rutledge

Superintendent Walmsley also thank Ms. Guzek, HS Art Teacher, for her dedication to the students and the art program. He stated that she is a true leader, who inspires her students to become more than they see for themselves.

Superintendent Walmsley also congratulated the choir students who earned Division 1 Excellent ratings in all four of their performances last weekend at Solo and Ensemble. Congratulations also to Ms. Clore who dedicates an enormous amount of time and energy to make sure our students have the best opportunities and are outstanding in their performances. Superintendent Walmsley stated that you can tell MS. Clore and the students' passion when you see them perform.

Superintendent Walmsley reminded everyone of the adjusted first semester high school exam schedule. 1st and 2nd hour exams are on Wednesday, 3rd and 4th hour exams are on Thursday, and 5th and 6th hour exams are on Friday.

Superintendent Walmsley also recognize the Board of Education for *School Board Appreciation Month*, which is January, with the following speech:

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The month of January provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge a special group of volunteers in education. It is School Board Recognition Month. Across the state, there are more than 4,000 school board members who dedicate countless hours of hard work to improving education for Michigan children. Here in Richmond, we are lucky to have seven Board members to proudly serve the students, staff, and community of Richmond Community Schools.

School board members take their responsibilities and public trust very seriously, dedicating an enormous number of hours to their work both in and outside of board meetings. Attending school functions, preparing for board meetings, reading financial reports, reviewing agendas and proposals, and making a host of difficult and challenging decisions are just a few of the regular activities board members participate in through their service.

Today, more than ever, school board leaders are faced with the overwhelming charge of providing a quality education at a time when financial constraints weigh heavily on school district budgets. In an era of unprecedented choice in education, school boards are also tasked with charting a course that provides long-term, sustainable success for current and future students.

School Board Recognition Month is part of a national effort cosponsored by the Michigan Association of School Boards and the National School Boards Association to build community awareness and understanding about the crucial role school boards play in our communities. Board members come from all walks of life with diverse experiences and backgrounds, but working together, they make decisions in the best interests of Michigan's children.

On behalf of the students, staff, and Richmond community, I thank you for your dedication and commitment to this great District. Your leadership, ability to be objective, without bias or personal agendas, and compassion is what makes you an outstanding Board member.

And for that, we thank you, and honor you as we celebrate School Board Appreciation Month, January 2021.

Superintendent Walmsley presented each Board member with a gift basket that contained:

Will L. Lee Elementary School. *I Never Dreamed I'd Be a Super Cool Board member, but Here I Am Killin' It!* notebook, charm with an inspirational message, and Cherry Salsa from Brownwood Farms.

Richmond Middle School. Coffee mug, chocolates, and a Tim Hortons gift card.

Richmond High School. A gift certificate to have lunch in the Blue Devil Café.

Athletic Department. Richmond Blue Devil Flag

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Food Service Department. 'Thank You' chalkboard with chalk.

Transportation Department. 'The Present is Female' coffee mug.

Board of Education & Central Office. Business cards, US & Richmond lapel flag pins, and a box of chocolates purchased from the Richmond Rotary Club.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board member Pacitto stated she enjoyed the Board workshop.

Board member Sutton stated she met with Board members Pacitto and Teltow to summarize what was discussed at the Board workshop.

Board member Teltow stated she is encouraged after the Board workshop. She feels that the board made progress during the workshop.

Board member Cunningham thanked Board members Pacitto and Teltow for setting up the workshop; she felt it was helpful.

Board member Fortuna: None.

Board member Oldani stated she echoed the same as the other Board members about the workshop. She felt as though everyone is ready to move forward. Board member Oldani thanked the parents that started the new positive Facebook page.

Board member Michon agreed with the positivity of the workshop. Board member Michon summed up what was discussed at the Board workshop. She spoke about communication, the layout of the Board meeting, and the roles of the Board and Superintendent. Board member Michon thanked Monsignor Halfpenny from St. Augustine Church for his statements of support for the school district. She stated the Board agreed to add a student representative.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Michon spoke regarding emails she received from the public.

The following members of the public spoke:

Dr. Mark Ladd addressed the Board on behalf of himself and the Michigan Center for Civic Activism. Dr. Ladd stated Richmond High School came to the attention of a Senator who noticed that Richmond students participate in both programs that are quite rigorous. Dr. Ladd presented the Board and Superintendent Walmsley with a certificate of appreciation.

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Jessica Romanosky spoke regarding the Facebook group that promotes positivity in Richmond Community Schools. Ms. Romanosky thanked the Board for doing what they do and wanted them to know there is a lot of support in the community.

Kristina Turchi stated she had a great conversation with Board member Michon and Superintendent Walmsley. Ms. Turchi stated she wants the school to think about what we can do to teach students about ramifications about making threats against schools. Ms. Turchi spoke regarding social media and stated that is the primary means of communication for parents.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Michon adjourned the meeting at 7:39PM.

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