

# Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division \* Richmond, Michigan 48062 \* (586) 727-3565 \* [www.richmond.k12.mi.us](http://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 FEBRUARY 13, 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 11.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board member Pacitto called the meeting 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 Fortuna.

**4. ROLL CALL**

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

6 – 1 Quorum of the Board

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

All in Favor: 6. 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.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

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

Personnel Report:

Resignations and Retirements:

Carra, Jennifer	Mathematics Teacher	2023-02-24
Laratonda, Nancy	Social Worker	2023-02-16
Miller, Jessica	Social Worker	2023-01-27
Robbins, Julie	Special Education Teacher	2023-02-16

Termination:

None.

Lay-off / Non-renewal of Contract:

None.

New Hires:

Harrison, Ariaah	Social Worker	2023-02-20
Klein, Hailey	Childcare Aide	2023-02-16
Orrey, Wendy	Assistant Cook	2023-02-16
Schultz, Bryan	Custodian	2023-02-16
Zito, Colleen	Counselor	2023-02-13

Notice of Appointments (Previously Hired by the Board):

Badalamenti, Barbara	Childcare Aide	2023-02-13
Kelly, Kathleen	Green Club Co-Advisor	2023-01-19

Superintendent Walmsley stated no errors brought to his attention regarding the 2023-01-23 Regular Meeting Minutes or the 2023-02-08 Special Meeting Minutes.

Superintendent Walmsley stated he received the following questions from Board member Teltow regarding the *Claims and Accounts*:

Check #54551, from ASN 22050 – Board member Teltow asked what was repaired and stated her continued concern about the repairs of the bleachers and the need to move forward on replacing bleachers. Superintendent Walmsley stated, check #54551 was for the Middle School bleachers, not the high school. The bottom row on one of the ends of the middle school bleachers was not locking into place so the company came out and fixed it. There was a safety hazard concern with the bleachers not locking into place when people sit down. The middle school bleachers were replaced in the summer of 2014, so this summer would be the tenth anniversary of the bleachers. The high school bleachers, which I stated below have required more repairs and are around twenty-seven years old.

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Board member Teltow asked, “How many events have we hosted that we need to have paid 10 officials? Or are we late paying or advance paying officials?” Superintendent Walmsley stated the ten cheer official checks issued were for the cheer invitational that was held on January 6, 2023. For cheer and track and field events, the district pays by check rather than using Arbiter.

Check #54591 - \$200, from ASN 33541. Board member Teltow asked what is the \$200 for Nick Matthes as “Cheer point tally operator?” Superintendent Walmsley stated the position of tallying the point for each team from each round and uploading them to the live website.

Superintendent Walmsley stated no questions or concerns were brought to his attention regarding the Claims and Accounts.

No discussion by Board members.

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

## **7. BLUE DEVIL R.A.V.E.S. (Recognizing A Valued Employee and Student)**

The Board of Education and Superintendent acknowledged employees, students, and volunteers who have demonstrated a special effort, a job well done, a project of quality workmanship, and/or caring and sensitive attitude.

Board member Teltow R.A.V.E.S. Coach Evans and the 2020 Boys Varsity Baseball team. They presented a sign for the 2020 Boys Varsity Baseball team which will be hung on the athletic fields. The sign honors the seniors who lost their senior baseball season due to COVID-19.

Board member Pacitto R.A.V.E.S. Ms. Shack, MS/HS Band teacher, for all she does for the students of Richmond.

Superintendent Walmsley R.A.V.E.S. Kim DeLange – Building COVID-19 Substitute. The R.A.V.E.S. was provided by Ms. Marella and Mr. Kenward.

Ms. DeLange has been subbing in different classrooms throughout the school year and is currently in a long-term position covering for a teacher on leave. Ms. DeLange takes her job very seriously. As a substitute teacher, Ms. DeLange creates and implements lesson plans, builds positive relationships with staff including asking for help, taking direction, and collaborating with her team. Ms. DeLange works diligently to build positive relationships with students and provides a consistent learning environment for all. Ms. DeLange has been recognized by her colleagues as “doing an excellent job!”

Superintendent Walmsley R.A.V.E.S.: Nicole Schafer – Media Paraprofessional. The R.A.V.E.S. was provided by Ms. Szabo and Ms. Borwick

Ms. Schafer has been a breath of fresh air and excitement since joining the Richmond High School staff. From the start, she eagerly looked for ways to make the Media Center a vibrant

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and exciting place to be. She has gone out of her way to decorate and celebrate holidays and events and embraces all students in a welcoming fashion. Without hesitation, she monitors students in the halls during passing time and has created a safe space for students who need a place to go and work. Ms. Schafer has a positive and charismatic personality. When she is not in the Media Center mastering her job responsibilities and looking for ways to lend a helping hand, Ms. Schafer is out at her crossing guard post with her decorated stop sign and a big smile. We cannot begin to thank her for the impact she has made on our building in just a few months.

Superintendent Walmsley R.A.V.E.S.: Tammie Wilson, ES Special Education Teacher. The R.A.V.E.S. provided by Ms. Mangune and Mr. Gibson.

For her outstanding attendance and ongoing dedication to her students. No matter what may be going on, Mrs. Wilson shows up every day and gives her absolute best to her students and families. Mrs. Wilson has built lifelong relationships with her students and their families that go well beyond the classroom. Mrs. Wilson strives to do her personal best and is always looking for ways to improve her teaching practice. There is really no limit to what Mrs. Wilson will do for her students and the team at Lee Elementary. Mrs. Wilson comes every day with a positive attitude.

## 8. SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

Superintendent Walmsley and Chief Thomas Costello, Richmond Police Department, provided an update on school safety measures and the on-going police investigation regarding the antisemitic death threat to the former Middle School Dean of Students and email death threat to a middle school teacher. In addition, Superintendent Walmsley updated the Board on the installation of Night Lock shades and the implementation of the Crisis Alert badges.

## 9. PRESENTATION

### A. District Spotlight

#### 1. Career and Technical Education Month

Renee Ara, *Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services*, and Andrea Szabo, *HS Principal and CTE Director*, will present an overview of the district's career and technical education programs in honor of Career and Technical Education Month.

### B. Instructional Spotlight

#### 1. High School Seven Period Day

Superintendent Walmsley will present an overview of the seven period day that will be implemented at the high school beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

#### 2. 2023-24 Middle School and High School Course Catalog

Renee Stapels, *Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services*, Andrea Szabo, *HS Principal*, and Jennifer Marella, *MS Principal*, will present the 2023-24 Middle School and High School Course Catalog for the Board to consider.

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Some of the new courses proposed include *Introduction to Theatre, Esports and Master Coding*, and *AP Computer Science Principles*.

3. Benchmark Assessment Report (MCL 388.1698b)

Renee Stapels, *Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services*, will present the district's benchmark assessment report for Will L. Lee Elementary School, Richmond Middle School, and Richmond High School, as required by State Law (MCL 388.1698b).

C. Business and Operational

1. #TEACH

Jamie Thiel, Director of Human Resources, and Renee Stapels, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, presented an overview of the alternative teaching certificate available to individuals who currently have a bachelor's degree and want to pursue a career in teaching.

2. FY2023 Budget – Amendment #1

Tammie Schadd, *Director of Business and Management Services*, presented the FY2023 General Fund Amendment #1 Budget.

3. Board Communications: Board Brochure & *Just Ask Us!*

Board members Fortuna, Pacitto, and Teltow discussed and presented the Board Brochure that was developed as a result of the Board Workshop on Saturday, January 14, 2023. In addition, the "Just Ask Us!" will be reviewed and demonstrated for the Board and listening audiences. The "Just Ask Us!" is a vehicle the community may ask the Board of Education or Superintendent questions and the district will post responses on the website for all to read.

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

B. Walmsley

Superintendent Walmsley reported contacting the following individuals who spoke during *Public Comment* on January 23, 2023.

- Mr. Ladd, *We the People* advisory, spoke at the last Board meeting and thanked the Board and I for supporting the Michigan Center for Civics Education, *We the People* and Mock Trial programs. He also presented certificate of appreciation from the Michigan Center for Civics Education which now hangs in the Board office.

*Legislative Update:*

***Governor Presents 2023-2024 Budget***

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer [presented her 2023-2024 budget](#) to the Legislature. This officially starts the budget season in Michigan.

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In her budget, she included a \$458 per-pupil increase to raise the foundation allowance to \$9,608; this is a 5% increase. The proposal spreads that 5% increase to special education, English Language Learners, rural/isolated districts, at-risk students, and the Great Start Readiness Program. The GSRP increase also includes an expansion of eligibility, taking steps toward universal access for all 4-year-olds.

A new item for her budget this year is to expand the free and reduced lunch and breakfast program to all students. This became a MASB legislative priority this year after our members saw the benefit through the school years that the federal government allowed the waiver. Now that the waiver has expired, the Governor has stepped up to continue to make sure all our students receive healthy meals and we are excited to work with her on this initiative.

### ***Senate Passes Removal of Retention in Third Grade Reading Law***

The Senate passed Senate Bill 12 on Tuesday by a vote of 22-16. This bill would repeal the mandatory retention sections of the third-grade reading law and state that if a child is still not reading at grade level as they move into fourth grade, the reading intervention program for that child would continue.

The bill is now before the House Education Committee.

### ***Senate Committee Adopts Expansion of Civil Rights Law***

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee approved a bill to expand the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. Senate Bill 4 would include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression as protected categories under the Act.

Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) supports the bill, which is now before the full Senate for its consideration.

### ***Tax Change Package Passes House, Held up in Senate***

After lengthy negotiations, House Bill 4001 was adopted by Conference Committee on Wednesday, January 8, 2023 and sent to the House for its approval before going to the Senate. Because it is a conference report, no amendments may be made to it; it is simply a yes or no vote.

Under House Bill 4001 (CR-1), the Earned Income Tax Credit would increase from 6% to 30% and taxpayers could choose between current law on how their retirement or pension incomes are taxed or be subject to new limits that will be fully phased in by 2026. Under the pension tax rollback, the School Aid Fund will be protected by increasing the amount of income tax revenue that is dedicated to the Fund.

The bill also includes a \$180 rebate per income tax filer as an advance refund payment for the 2023 tax year and amends the distribution of the revenue collected from the corporate income tax to pay for the rebate.

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Finally, the bill includes a \$500 million deposit into the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund, which is an economic tool to incentivize businesses to locate in Michigan. This has been the sticking point for some legislators. Some Democrats see it as a corporate handout and some Republicans see it only as a way to avoid the income tax reduction trigger.

After two days of conversations in the House, the bill was finally passed on Thursday, February 9, 2023 by a vote of 56-54. One Democrat, Rep. Dylan Wegela (D-Garden City), voted no and one Republican, Mike Mueller (R-Linden), voted yes. The bill was then sent to the Senate for its consideration.

While the Senate Democrats were still in caucus, the Senate Republicans made a procedural move and adjourned the Senate for the day. This delayed the vote on the bill. It is expected to be brought again up on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

Once passed by both chambers, it will go to the Governor for her expected signature. The question remains if it will be granted immediate effect to allow the changes included to take effect and potentially stop the trigger to lower the income tax. Expect more maneuvering over this priority of the Governor, but we do expect the bill to eventually become law.

#### County Update:

Superintendent Walmsley reminds the Board that the Macomb County School Boards Association (MCSBA) dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at Anchor Bay 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

Superintendent Walmsley stated marquee signs have been installed and asked the public to be patient as various district personnel are learning the system.

#### District Update:

Just a reminder, on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> there is no school for students. February 17<sup>th</sup> is a professional development day for teachers and administrators, and February 20<sup>th</sup> is President's Day.

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

- Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine's Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear pink and/or red to show their spirit for Valentine's Day.
- Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. Many classroom activities are planned to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school.
- Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> is National Kindness Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear yellow to show happiness and gratitude in honor of National Kindness Day!

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- Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is USA Spirit Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue in honor of President's Day.
- The Lee staff is excited to announce all students at Lee Elementary will be visiting the Richmond Library during March is Reading Month. Every student that is a Richmond resident will receive a library card.
- The Preschool Winter Formal was amazing. Special thanks to Ms. Soldan for all of her help preparing the gift bags and crafts for the event. We appreciate all of our staff and their support at these fun events! There was a lot of great feedback, and it was a nice night for our families.
- Preschool and Kindergarten Round-up planning is underway, and we are excited to invite our families in on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to meet the staff and see what Richmond has to offer. Round-up will run from 5:00-7:00 on both nights. March 1<sup>st</sup> is Preschool Round-up for the Class of 2037 and 2038, and March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Kindergarten Round-up for the Class of 2036.

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

- Our Kindness Challenge continues at RMS!
  - February 13<sup>th</sup> – Ask someone different to be in your group in class.
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> – Happy Valentine's Day – Students are asked to let someone else go first!
  - February 15<sup>th</sup> – Students are asked to say a sincere "thank you" at least three times during the day.
  - February 16<sup>th</sup> – Students are asked to hold the door for one another.
- MS Boys Basketball at Home v. Algonac Middle School
- Several middle school students will attend the Macomb County Diversity Summit on February 14<sup>th</sup> at the MISD, chaperoned by Mrs. May, school counselor.

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

- Red Cross Blood Drive on February 15 from 8:00am - 2:00pm at the high school
- Scheduling Series begins February 15. Information on building specific scheduling for 2023-2024 school year will be provided after this date.
- Snowcoming was last week with spirit week, the Basketball Game on Friday, and culminating with the dance on Saturday.

## 11. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board member Cunningham stated the marquee signs look good. Ms. Cunningham stated she wanted to thank Mike and Jim and Strikers Bowling Alley for helping the bowling team.

Board member Fortuna stated there was a powder buff volleyball game last week for Snowcoming and thought it was a good idea.

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Board member Oldani stated the marquee signs look amazing.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following members of the public spoke:

Megan Powers asked the Board if the district would be interested in the *Youth For Christ* program. She stated 31 schools in Macomb County participate in the program.

Pat \_\_\_\_\_ said the presentations on curriculum were great compared to many years ago. She said the district should be proud with all the choices. She thanked the district for all their work, especially Ms. Stapels.

**13. 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 Teltow motioned 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 Fortuna.

No discussion by Board members.

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

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

Closed Session Started: 10:50 PM

Closed Session Ended: 11:18 PM

**14. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(C) OF THE MICHIGAN OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Board member Teltow motioned that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purposes of negotiations. Support by Board member Fortuna.

No discussion by Board members.

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

Closed Session Started: 11:22 PM

Closed Session Ended: 12:19 PM

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Pacitto adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM.

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