

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

NOTICE: 7:00PM ON ~~MARCH 13, 2023~~ **MARCH 14, 2023**

LOCATION: 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 12.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board member Michon 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 – Present, Kelly Oldani – Present, Angela Pacitto – Present, Danielle Sutton – Absent with Notice, and Margaret Teltow – Present.

6 – 0 Quorum of the Board

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Due to the rescheduled Board meeting and presenters not being available, Board member Michon stated Agenda Item 8 – A4 will be removed from the agenda and placed on the April 27, 2023, Board meeting.

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

No discussion by Board members.

Non-Discrimination Statement

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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 Fortuna.

Discussion:

Superintendent Walmsley report an updated Personnel Report was given to each Board member prior to the Board meeting as well as uploaded to the Board back-up document website. The following Personnel Report was presented:

Resignations and Retirements:

Burg, Brett	Middle School Track	2023-02-28
Sheila Lepak	HS Counselor	2023-06-09

Termination:

None.

Lay-off / Non-renewal of Contract:

None.

New Hires:

Ballard, Louann	Custodian	2023-03-13*
Gee, Greg	Freshman Baseball Coach	2023-03-13
McArthur, Alex	Trap Team Coach	2023-03-13**
Rose, Nicole	COVID-19 Aide	2023-03-13
Schaefer, Jessica	Special Education Paraprofessional	2023-03-07

* Upon completion of background check and physical

** This is a volunteer position

Notice of Appointments (Previously Hired by the Board):

Day, Brandon	Spring Event Facilitator	2023-03-01
Nader, Julie	School Improvement Co-Chair	2023-03-03

Superintendent Walmsley stated no errors were brought to his attention regarding the 2023-02-27 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Superintendent Walmsley stated no questions were errors brought to his attention regarding *Claims and Accounts*.

No discussion by Board members.

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

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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 Fortuna R.A.V.E.S. the RHS choir and choral for going to solo and ensemble in January. The choirs received division 1 rating. Two students did a duet and received a top rating.

Board member Oldani R.A.V.E.S. RMS for their dodgeball event

Board member Michon R.A.V.E.S. Ms. Nichols, Ms. Mangune, and Ms. Marella for her great experience reading to students last week.

Mr. Walmsley R.A.V.E.S: Ms. Pinsky, Ms. Klein, Ms. Mangune, Ms. Ogden, and Mr. Gibson for streamlining kindergarten and preschool roundup, resulting in more completed student registration now than in previous years.

8. PRESENTATION

A. District Spotlight

1. Richmond Masonic Educational Grant

Mark Zink, Richmond Masonic Lodge, recognized Megan LaZare, Middle School Art Teacher, as a recipient of the 2022-23 Richmond Masonic Lodge \$500 Educational Grant. The Richmond Masonic Lodge was founded in 1864.

2. *We the People* National Finals Competition Request

Dr. Ladd, *We the People* Advisor, and student members of the Richmond High School *We the People* team, presented a request to the Board of Education to fund Richmond High School's *We the People* team to attend the National *We the People* competition in Washington, D.C. This is the first time in school history that the group would be competing at the National level.

Richmond High School received a "Wild Card" to the National *We the People* competition in Washington, D.C. The event is from Friday, April 21, 2023, through Tuesday, April 25, 2023. The cost is \$1,759/student. There is no cost for the advisor. The total cost would be \$28,144 (16 students x \$1,759). The cost includes 4-night accommodation, round-trip motor coach from Richmond to Washington, D.C., all meals, and transportation to and from the hotel to event.

Funding the *We the People* trip is consistent with the district's support of other groups competing at a national or world level. In the past, the district has supported DECA students/advisor competing in California (~\$7,300) and Florida (~\$5,000), Art

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students/teacher in New York (~\$5,000), and most recently Richmond High School Robotics students/advisors to compete at FIRST Worlds in Texas (~\$30,000).

3. Richmond Ed. Foundation 2022-23 Classroom Mini Grants

The Richmond Education Foundation (REF) was founded in June 2012, and consists of men and women from the community who are seeking to enhance the Richmond Community Schools education programs in areas not generally covered by the regular school budget. The REF provides scholarships for graduating seniors, summer camp scholarships, and classroom mini grants.

The Richmond Education Foundation provided an opportunity for staff to apply for mini grants to enhance their classrooms or programs. Margaret Teltow, President of the Richmond Education Foundation, presented Kristie Cramton (MS Teacher), Ann Durst (ES/MS Teacher), and Ronda LaGrois (ES Teacher), as this year's recipients of the Richmond Education Foundation 2022-23 Classroom Mini Grants.

4. ~~Richmond Community Schools Hall of Honor/Fame Showcase~~ Moved to 2023-03-27 Board meeting.

B. Instructional Spotlight

1. Macomb County Literacy Ambassadors

The Macomb Intermediate School District, in partnership with our 21 local school districts, seeks individuals who use their expertise, knowledge, and collaborative interactions to advance literacy throughout the county. The ideal Literacy Ambassador is:

- **Passionate:** Literacy Ambassadors believe in the importance of reading and share their excitement with the school community.
- **Leads by Example:** Literacy Ambassadors actively engage in reading for pleasure and serve as role models for our youth.
- **Determined:** Literacy Ambassadors work to ensure that Macomb County youth have the tools needed to acquire literacy skills to reach their full potential.

Each Macomb County Local District shall select one individual as their 2022-23 Literacy Ambassador. District Literacy Ambassadors will be honored with special recognition throughout the year. Renee Stapels, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, presented Autumn Walters, Title I Teacher, as Richmond Community Schools representative to the Macomb County Literacy Ambassador program.

2. 2022-23 Outstanding Teachers of the Year

Renee Stapels, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, Heidi Mangune, ES Principal, Jennifer Marella, MS Principal, and Andrea Szabo, HS Principal, presented Nicole George, Will L. Lee Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Kathy

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Campau, Richmond Middle School Teacher of the Year, and Leah Guzek, Richmond High School Teacher of the Year, as the 2022-23 Outstanding Teachers of the Year for Richmond Community Schools. This year winners will compete at the county level for Macomb County Outstanding Teachers of the Year.

3. Student Advocate Program

A student advocate works to provide an additional layer of support for our students at all levels. She works with students towards their academic goals, promotes positive school culture, and assists in the implementation of positive behavior intervention systems (PBIS). Renee Stapels, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, and Adrianna Retman, Student Advocate, presented an overview the district's student advocate plays in supporting students.

4. Instructional Coaching

An instructional coach is an educational leader who works in a school or district to support teachers in reaching their goals. Effective instructional coaches serve as thought partners, building relationships based on trust and mutual respect and providing reflective, inquiry-oriented feedback.

Renee Stapels, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, and Jessica Schlehber, Instructional Coach, presented an overview of instructional coaching occurring in Richmond and the impact it is having on staff and student performances.

C. Business and Operational

1. Varsity Softball Overnight/Extended Student Trip

Howard Stuart, Varsity Softball Coach, presented a request for an overnight/extended student trip for the varsity softball program to travel to Gaylord, Michigan and compete in softball games from May 12, 2023, through May 14, 2023. Ms. Stuart has been an employee in the district since 1968,

2. Summer 2023 Bond Project Presentation

Colleen Koffel, Project Manager, from Auch Construction presented an overview of the planned summer 2023 bond projects. In addition, the recommendation for the award of contract will be discussed, for Board approval on March 27, 2023.

3. Early Learning Childhood Center Outdoor Classroom Presentation

The Child Care Stabilization Grant is a \$700 million investment in childcare providers across Michigan. The Stabilization Grant is a non-competitive grant for childcare providers to help stabilize operations and support the health and safety of children and staff. Richmond Community Schools is proud to be one of the recipients of this award and have been working on ways to improve our existing programs.

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Renee Ara, Executive Director of Curriculum and Educational Services, and Michael Gibson, Elementary School Dean of Students/Early Childhood Director, presented the plan to invest and improve in our courtyard to provide more learning opportunities and community events to help support early learning initiatives.

4. Section 31aa: Student Mental Health Guidance

Brian Walmsley, Superintendent, presented an overview of the allowable uses for the \$182,944 Section 31aa, Student Mental Health, grant received from the State of Michigan. During the presentation, the Board of Education and Community will be asked for input into how the funds should be allocated.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING USE OF 31AA FUNDS

The following members of the public spoke regarding the allowable use for Section 31aa funds:

- Beth Stemmerich stated she did research on 31aa. She stated that she likes the idea of using the money somewhere else and not assigned as school psychologists. She asked if this makes all kids tier 1 at risk for mental health.
- Cheryl Jahr was wondering if these funds could be used for programs after school towards mental health.
- Christina Turchi asked if it was possible to look in to what Anchor Bay is doing with plain clothes armed individuals. Mr. Walmsley stated that falls under section 97. She asked what we can do with the money in our general fund to benefit teachers more.
- Tressa DeVoogd stated she loves the idea of after school options for student support. She's also wondering if this public comment is fulfilling the grant requirements. Mr. Walmsley stated no, there will be other chances to discuss. She asked if there is any requirement or qualification to spend funds on the person's salary, for example the student advocate. Ms. Cunningham asked what Ms. Retman's certification is. Mr. Walmsley stated that she has a background in dealing with trauma and student issues. Ms. Cunningham asked if she is given curriculum and Ms. Teltow reminded her that there is no curriculum given. Ms. Cunningham stated that is a soft curriculum.
- Jessica Hebel stated that she is not comfortable with a non-certified staff member teaching the curriculum.

The Board would like Mr. Walmsley to look at funding current positions, providing funding for current employees to go back to school to get a counselor certification, mental health after-school programs for students, and curriculum for student advocates.

5. FY2023 General Fund Budget Amendment #2

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Tammie Schadd, Director of Business and Management Services, presented the FY2023 General Fund Budget – Amendment #2. On February 27, 2023, the Board of Education approved the FY2023 General Fund Budget – Amendment #1. The FY2023 General Fund Budget – Amendment #2 includes:

- General Fund adjustments, post FY2023 General Fund Budget – Amendment #1
- Section 31aa, Student Mental Health
- Section 97, Improve Student Safety
- Section 97c, Comprehensive Safety and Security Assessments
- Section 97d, Critical Incident Mapping
- Childcare Stabilization Grant
- ESSER III
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

9. SUPERINTENDENT’S DISTRICT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Public Comment Follow-up

Superintendent Walmsley reported he spoke with Ms. Turchi regarding her statement at the 2023-02-27 *Public Comment*. In addition, Superintendent Walmsley asked Ms. Borwick and Ms. Retman on March 13, 2023, to speak to Ms. Stemmerich regarding her statement at the 2023-02-27 *Public Comment*.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Walmsley reported on the following legislative updates that may impact Richmond Community Schools:

House Votes to Repeal Right-to-Work and Restore Prevailing Wage

Last Wednesday, the House moved quickly to consider and pass House Bills 4004 and 4005 that repeal the Right-to-Work law and House Bill 4007 that reinstates prevailing wage. Both issues are major priorities for the Democrats and the Governor.

HB 4005 would repeal Right-to-Work in the private sector, and HB 4004 would repeal it in the public sector. However, due to the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Janus v AFSCME*, public employers are not allowed to require union membership as a part of employment. Therefore, the repeal in Michigan law will not take effect unless the Supreme Court ruling is overturned.

Because of the Supreme Court decision that overrules Michigan law, MASB, the group the represents School Boards, did not weigh in on the right-to-work repeals. However, as the evening went on last Wednesday, there were rumors about a substitute to the bill that would have removed ALL prohibited subjects of bargaining, repealed the law that freezes step increases and healthcare at the expiration of a contract, and repealed the law allowing penalties for strikes or lockouts. Because of the profound effect those changes would have on collective bargaining and the lateness of the hour, MASB, as well as the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA), immediately reached out to our Board of

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Directors and members of the Government Relations Committee to share their concerns and urge them to contact their Representatives and share the information with others.

Because of the outreach from Board members and superintendents across the State, the substitute was never considered. The bill passed as a simple right-to-work repeal.

Finally, [HB 4007](#) would reinstate prevailing wage for projects that are funded with any amount of state funds, including school district projects. MASB will be talking to the bill sponsor to see if an exception can be created for projects currently underway.

All three bills passed the House by a party line 56-53 vote and are now before the Senate Committee on Labor. We expect them to be brought up as early as next week.

Repeal of Retention in Third Grade Reading Law Heads to Governor

On Tuesday, the House passed [Senate Bill 12](#) by a vote of 57-51. This bill repeals the mandatory retention sections of the third grade reading law. It states 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 will now go to the Governor for her consideration and expected signature. The bill will not go into effect for this school year though; it will go into effect next spring for next year's third graders.

Senate Passes Sinking Funds for School Buses

Also on Tuesday, by a vote of 28-10, the Senate easily passed [Senate Bill 63](#), which would expand the allowable uses for sinking funds to school transportation.

The bill had been amended in committee to specify that sinking funds could be used for acquisition of student transportation vehicles, and the parts, supplies and equipment used to maintain those vehicles.

The bill is now under consideration by the House Education Committee.

House Education Committee Holds Hearing on Two Bills

On Tuesday, the House Education Committee began hearings on two separate issues. The first, [House Bill 4064](#), would "strongly encourage" the Michigan Department of Education to develop a model cursive writing curriculum and make it available to all public schools if they wish to adopt it.

The second bill, [House Bill 4157](#), would require schools to excuse absences for students to perform "Taps" at a military honor funeral.

Bond Update

Superintendent Walmsley reported no bond updated as a p[re]sentation was earlier presented.

District Update

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All three buildings reported successful parent-teacher conferences last week. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences are usually lighter in turn-out than fall conferences. But none-the-less, it was nice to see so many families in our building.

Lee Elementary School

- Science night is March 16, 2023. Families are welcomed with their children to explore science and STEM activities.

Richmond Middle School

- Our fifth graders continue enjoying learning and experiencing STARBASE.
- On March 14th, the middle school will be recognizing Pi Day in the math classes.
- Congratulations to the Richmond Middle School Choirs! On Tuesday, March 14th, the RMS Choirs participated in the MSVMA District Choral Festival at Dakota High School. The two (2) choirs combined their voices and earned a First Division Rating and earned a medal (114 of 120 Total Points). The panel of adjudicators judged the choir in the categories of Tone, Pitch, Rhythm, Interpretation, Presentation, and Sightreading. Their exceptional performances have earned them an invitation to perform at the State Choral Festival in April! We look forward to this continued success during our Spring Concert Cycle and ending the year strong!

Richmond High School

- Congratulations to the Richmond High School Concert Band who earned a First Division rating at Festival at Anchor Bay High School. They earn 18 out of a possible 20 A's in various categories such as tone, rhythm, technique and interpretation.
- Congratulations to the Richmond High School Choirs! On Monday, March 13th, the RHS Choirs participated in the MSVMA District Choral Festival at Dakota High School. Both Concert Choir and Chorale were awarded a First Division Rating and earned a medal! The panel of adjudicators judged the choir in the categories of Tone, Pitch, Rhythm, Interpretation, Presentation, and Sightreading. This is the 1st time Concert Choir has performed at Choral Festival since about 2006. Not to mention Chorale earned 117 points out of 120!!! So impressed by both Groups! Their exceptional performances have earned them an invitation to perform at State Choral Festival in April! We look forward to this continued success during our State Solo and Ensemble Event on Friday and ending the year strong!
- Congratulations to Mae Peters, 12th grade, who placed runner-up Honorable Mention for their Portfolio, and Aidan Kowalski, 11th grade, who placed 1st place for "Beetle" in the Macomb Secondary Art Show, currently on display at the Aton Center in Mt. Clemens.
- The National Honor Society inductions will take place this Wednesday, March 15th at 6:30pm.
- Varsity Boys Basketball lost in Regionals to Goodrich High School on Monday, March 13th.
- Scholarship season is upon us. Students should be checking their emails regularly for scholarship opportunities as well as the school website.
- Just a reminder...the *Class of 2023* students should be working to complete their FAFSA before departing for Spring Break. The deadline is fast approaching!

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10. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board member Cunningham thanked Mr. Walmsley for the transparency for the meeting tonight with the hot topics. She thanked him for opening it up for discussion. She stated she attended the choir festival today and the students did an amazing job. She also shared information on the first annual fundraiser for 42 strong which is in honor of one of the victims of the Oxford tragedy. She read a statement from the fundraiser. She stated the program creates a mentor program between younger and older high school students.

Board member Fortuna stated she was absent from the last meeting but watched it on YouTube and she saw several people made donations to the food fund and said thank you to the people that donated. She also spoke about the Richmond Education Foundation and stated that the REF also does scholarships for seniors and April 29th is a fundraiser called "A Night at the Races".

Board member Michon stated she has nothing to report.

Board member Oldani stated that little league registrations were last week and thanked the district for allowing them to use the facilities. She stated there is record enrollment for little league.

Board member Pacitto stated she went to the county school board meeting at Anchor Bay and it was a great event. She also stated there was a short presentation stating that birthrates are declining so it was great hearing from Mr. Gibson that kindergarten enrolment was increasing.

Board member Teltow stated she has nothing to report.

11. ACTION ITEM(S)

A. Approval of *We the People* National Competition Budget Request

Superintendent Walmsley stated Dr. Ladd and his students, Richmond High School received a "Wild Card" to the National We the People Competition in Washington, D.C. After polling each Board member individually on the topic, I authorized Dr. Ladd to notify the We the People organization that Richmond High School would be attending the national competition. Tonight, is the formal approval by the Board to authorize the trip.

Board member Teltow to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve \$28,144 for Dr. Ladd and the sixteen (16) Richmond High School students to attend the National "We the People" Competition from Friday, April 21, 2023, through Tuesday, April 25, 2023, for which funding from the FY2023 General Fund is authorized. Supported by Board member Oldani.

No discussion by Board members.

Roll Call Vote: Candess Cunningham – YES, Sandra Fortuna – YES, Deborah Michon – YES, Kelly Oldani – YES, Angela Pacitto – YES, Danielle Sutton – ABSENT, and Margaret Teltow – YES.

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

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Board member Michon stated she has not received any emails from the public.

The following members of the public spoke:

- Beth Stemmerich thanked Mr. Walmsley for contacting the high school to have them contact her regarding the student advocate. She stated the parents want to be involved in discussing what the advocate discusses. She stated as a parent she should know when anyone is talking to her student. She stated she wanted to have Mr. Walmsley involved in the conversation process since it's 'soft curriculum.'
- Christina Turchi stated that she commented Jessica Habel for speaking at the first public comment. She stated she doesn't feel comfortable with the student advocate speaking to her child. She stated she won't be allowing her student to speak to the advocate. She stated she wished she had known about the Oxford group Ms. Cunningham discussed. She would like a curriculum for the student advocate and help the students understand if they make a threat they will be in trouble.

13. 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 Pacitto motioned that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purposes of negotiations. Support by Board member Teltow.

No discussion by Board members.

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

Closed Session Started: 10:14 PM.

Closed Session Ended: 11:31 PM.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Michon adjourned the meeting at 11:33 PM.

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