

Richmond Community Schools

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

Sarah Gillies, President
Jessica Sexton, Vice President
Angela Pacitto, Secretary
Kyle Simmons, Treasurer
Kristine Furtaw, Trustee
Margaret Teltow, Trustee
Sherri Zube, Trustee

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

7:00PM AUGUST 12, 2019 IN THE MEDIA CENTER OF RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL

1. CALL TO ORDER

S. Gillies called the Meeting to Order at 7:00pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Education led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

A. Pacitto, Secretary read the District's Mission Statement, *"At Richmond Community Schools, we provide a quality education that empowers students to be successful in a global community."*

4. ROLL CALL

A. Pacitto, Secretary, took Roll Call

Present: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Absent with Notice:

Quorum: 7-0

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by K. Furtaw seconded by S. Zube to approve the Agenda as presented.

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: none

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motioned by S. Zube seconded by J. Sexton to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: none

Non-Discrimination Statement

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Motion Carries: 7 to 0

**7. CLOSED SESSION FOR 032519- A STUDENT DISCIPLINE HEARING
PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(B) OF THE MICHIGAN OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Motioned by J. Sexton seconded by K. Simmons to move that the Board of Education go into Closed Session for the purposes of a Student Disciplinary Hearing for Student 032519 - A pursuant to Section 8(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

8. PRESENTATION

A. Overnight Football Camp

C. Rinehart

Mr. Rinehart, Mr. Kocher, and Mr. Day presented on the overnight football camp to Olivet College that took place in July.

B. 2019-20 Student-Athletic Handbook

C. Rinehart

Mr. Rinehart presented on the changes made to the Athletic Handbook.

C. 2019-20 Student-Parent Handbook

B. Walmsley

Mr. Walmsley discussed the changes made to the 2019-20 Student-Parent Handbook.

D. Merit Pay Requirement

B. Walmsley

Mr. Walmsley presented the merit pay requirements and the merit pay proposal for Richmond Community Schools.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Hamblin discussed his concerns with the Board's decision to disallow H & H Driver's Education from using Richmond's Facilities.

10. SUPERINTENDENT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

B. Walmsley

For those that missed the 2019-20 budget process last school year, I am proud to report that for the second year in a row, the District has no structural budget problem with the approval of the FY20 Fiscal

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Budget by this Board of Education this past June. A structural budget problem is when a school district's expenses exceed their revenue and the district must utilize *Fund Balance* (e.g. savings account) to fill the short-fall. In the *FY20 Fiscal Budget*, Richmond's expenses equal our *projected* revenue. I would like to commend the Board of Education for demonstrating outstanding fiscal responsibility when it comes to managing the taxpayers' dollars.

The process to eliminate the structural budget problem and maintain a sound budget has been a long and often times difficult road; however, it was achieved through strategic financial planning by this Board of Education and without cutting programs or services for students. Again, *without cutting programs or services for students!*

In fact, over the past several years, the *District has added programs for students* such as elementary and middle school STEAM classes and robotics teams, K-12 theater program and Green Clubs, culinary arts, cybersecurity, television production, emergency medical technician (EMT), advanced placement courses, SAT courses, guitar and dance classes. In addition, for the second year in a row, Richmond has been able to offer a summer breakfast and lunch program, "*Meet-up and Eat-up*", to any students 18 and under, regardless of their residency, at no cost. These program additions and offerings could only have been accomplished through the cooperative and focused efforts of the Board of Education, administration, and collective bargaining units in the District. Working together, we can accomplish anything!

Although the Richmond Board of Education has demonstrated outstanding fiscal responsibility, the State has not. It is important to realize that the State legislature has not approved, nor has the Governor signed into law, a State budget for *Fiscal Year 2020*, which begins October 1st. As of today, we still do not know what we will receive in a '*per pupil allocation*' and the district has already accumulated almost two months of expenses. Think of it this way, one-sixth (1/6) of the 2019-20 school year is almost over and expensed. The *FY20 Budget* approved by this Board of Education is based on conservative assumptions, which could be drastically different once the State budget is approved.

While meetings regarding the State budget have occurred throughout the summer months by the Governor's office and leaders of the State House and Senate, legislators are not schedule to return from summer recess until the end of August, though Richmond's legislators have told me that they have been working throughout the summer months. I expect the public will soon read news reports about State departments preparing for a shutdown of State Government, beginning October 1st, due to contractual requirements for lay-offs and furlough days.

I would strongly encourage everyone to *contact your legislators and urge them to approve a budget which invests in schools* and does not take funds from the *School Aid Budget* to fix the roads. When inflation is taken into consideration, most schools, including Richmond, are just returning to 2009 *per pupil* funding levels – ten years later.

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Also, you may have read about a plan, proposed by some members of the legislature, to “refinance” or “bond” the public school employee pension fund to extend the debt out longer in order to raise funds to pay for the roads. In the long run, this will *cost the State billions of dollars*. Other State pension funds, such as police, fire and government workers, are not part of this conversation to “refinance” or “bond”. This is yet another attack, *specifically on public school employees*, much like the legislature and former Governor did when they took 3% from every public school employee, which was found to be unconstitutional. This plan only *‘kicks the can down the road’* down the road for our children to deal with finding a solution.

If schools are to significantly improve, the State must invest in its public education system.

Again, I ask the listening audience, to contact your legislators today. The contact information for legislators that represent Richmond Community Schools are on the District’s website. While they are not in session, they are still working, so I am sure you will be able to get a hold of them.

Upcoming Events

Welcome Back Address to staff on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 8:00am in the Auditorium of Richmond High School. This will focus on the “State-of-the-District” as well as information about the upcoming Bond Election, pending the Board’s action tonight.

Welcome back letters to families will be mailed the week of August 19, 2019. This letter will include general information about the school year as well as specifics about upcoming Blue Devil Days.

Speaking of Blue Devil Days, Richmond High School Blue Devil Day is Monday, August 26, 2019 at 5:00pm for Grades 9 and 12 AND 6:30pm for Grades 10 and 11.

Richmond Middle School Blue Devil Day is Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 5:00pm for Grades 4 and 5 AND 6:30pm for Grades 6, 7 and 8.

Will L. Lee Elementary School Blue Devil Day is Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 5:00pm for Grades K and 3 AND 6:30pm for Grades 1 and 2.

And finally, we are doing things a little different this year, the Richmond Early Learning Childhood Center Blue Devil Day will be on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 5:00pm for Preschool Programs.

First Day of School for students in Grades K-12 is Tuesday, September 3, 2019 and for the Preschool Programs, the *First Day of School* is Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Good Old Days Grand Parade on Sunday, September 8, 2019 and all staff will be invited to walk with the Board, Administrators and myself. More information will be emailed to you in the near future.

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Just a quick reminder, the next Board of Education Meeting will be held in the Media Center of Will L. Lee Elementary School, beginning at 7:00pm due to Blue Devil Day at the High School.

11. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education

M. Teltow stated that she was very pleased with all of the new hires and thankful that Richmond graduates are coming back to work in the district that they attended.

12. ACTION ITEM

A. Approval of Ballot Language for November 5, 2019 Bond Proposal

Motioned by M. Teltow seconded by K. Furtaw to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS:

1. In the opinion of this Board it is necessary and expedient to ask voters whether to approve a bond project consisting of erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to and remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings and other facilities; acquiring and installing instructional technology in school buildings; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, and improving athletic fields and facilities and sites.
2. This Board estimates the necessary cost of the project to be Thirty-Nine Million Six Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$39,645,971).
3. It will be necessary for the District to borrow the sum of Thirty-Eight Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (38,710,000) and issue the bonds of the District therefor, the remaining funds to be derived from the investment of the bond proceeds.
4. This Board intends to submit a proposition at a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.
5. On or before 4:00pm on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, the Board shall certify any ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters at such election to the election coordinator or coordinators designated to conduct elections within the District (the "Election Coordinator").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. A special election of the school electors of the District be called and held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.
2. The proposition to be voted on at the special election shall be stated on the ballots in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit A.

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3. The Election Coordinator is requested to:
 - a. Utilize The Voice Newspaper, a newspaper published or of general circulation within the District, for publication of notices in accordance with the election law requirements.
 - b. Utilize ballot proposition summary information, as prepared by legal counsel, in the form of the notices of last day of registration and election in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto.
 - c. Provide a proof copy of the ballot to the District and its legal counsel in sufficient time to allow the ballot to be proofread prior to printing.
4. This Board estimated the period of usefulness of the improvements for which bonds of the District in the amount of Thirty-Eight Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (38,710,000) are to be issued to be not less than twenty (20) years.
5. The Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Elections Coordinator and with any Elections Clerk or clerks designated to conduct elections within the District by 4:00pm, on Tuesday, August 13, 2019.
6. All Resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.in the attached documentation.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: None

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

B. Approval of Asbestos Abatement

Motioned by K. Simmons seconded by K. Furtaw to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the asbestos abatement contract with Qualified Abatement Services, Inc. and NOVA Environmental for a total not to exceed \$17,000 for which funding from the 2019-20 General Fund is authorized.

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: None

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

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C. Approval of Overnight Football Camp

Motioned by K. Furtaw seconded by K. Simmons to approve the football trip to Olivet College that has already occurred.

Discussion: M. Teltow questioned why the trip wasn't brought to the board for approval in May or June.

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: None

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

D. Approval of Merit Pay Resolution

Motioned by M. Teltow seconded by S. Zube to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the attached Merit Pay Resolution.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: None

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

E. Board Action on *Student 032519* – A Discipline Hearing

Motioned by M. Teltow seconded by K. Simmons to table the decision on the student discipline hearing until the August 26, 2019 Board Meeting.

Roll Call:

Ayes: J. Sexton, S. Gillies, A. Pacitto, K. Simmons, M. Teltow, S. Zube, K. Furtaw

Nays: None

Motion Carries: 7 to 0

13. ADJOURNMENT

S. Gillies adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm

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