

Richmond Consolidated School - School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2020 4:00PM

APPROVED

Present:, Adeline Ellis, Dewey Wyatt, Susan Benner, Jill Pompei,

Guests: Karen Fierst, Beth Smith, Natalie Gingras, Roget Kohler, Lauren Broussal, Rachel Kanz, Ina Wilhelm, two others

1. Call to order 4:05pm

DW announced the meeting is being recorded per MGL Ch30sec20(f) requirements, and that the meeting was posted and being held according to current Open Meeting Law requirements.

Meeting was held by conference call due to the COVID-19 issue.

[An Executive Order from the Governor of Massachusetts relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time. In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended. All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, as well as the limited, enumerated purposes for holding an executive session, remain in effect.]

Connection: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/587805669>, (571) 317-3122 Access Code: 587-805-669

2. Purpose was to meeting with KF. She outlined the purpose of the meeting and direction on the Superintendency Project.

[her slides are attached at end of minutes]

KF wanted to cover three things:

Talk through factors and the weights of factors, prioritization.

Revisit the landscape of options (6 total)

Discuss the ongoing work of the Superintendents Advisory Committee (SAC) and how to integrate the work and clarify any cross purpose with what she is doing.

KF requested we start the discussion and answer questions with the SC members first and then open it up for more discussion with public. DW confirmed this is a meeting of the SC and procedurally we need to follow protocol in bringing in open discussion from others.

AE asked whose role it is, SC or SAC, to find out what Berkshire Hills (BH) is offering. KF said she has had several discussions with BH recently to get a better understanding. DW said it clear now it is SC that is to communicate with BH. LB added that while it is clearer lately, the SC needs to provide guidance and clarify what the SAC is to do.

KF whet over slides 1 and 2 regarding decision making and the need to set up a cadence of meetings to be able to work through the HB/RSC -> RSC, SAC-> RSC-> BH.RSC decision/discussion path.

Discussed the various categories that need to be factored in and understanding details within (page3-4).

DW said financial is important to know we are getting what we need and want that is within the capability of the taxpayers. Other factors also very important, but transportation seems to be the least complex.

Educational aspects are obviously important.

AE stressed the need for K-8 autonomy. DW suggested the RSC take including K-8 in any regionalization off the table and this is the one aspect that everyone is Richmond agrees on. We don't want to look educational, financial, operational control for our school. While there may be new ideas or lines of thinking that would change that, at this point we should simplify and take that off the table. Understand BH would like it to remain. SB said this seems to be where we've been leaning. DW said this is a point he hopes a more diligent process would bring more clarity to such points.

There was some discussion how the combination of shared service at k-8 level with regional arrangement at high school level would work.

Lenox is something that needs to be talked about. KF ask how the SC wishes to proceed. DW spoked to how complex this all is and what a huge decision we'll need to make. So we need to complete understand the landscape for sound decisions that we can live with. We need to understand the options. It fits better in to the scope of the SAC information and analysis objective rather than the SC. SB: Most Richmond student have

gone to BH, Lenox does not offer the breadth of programming that BH does. After discussion about who should reach out, the SC agreed members of SAC (Lauren, others?) will reach out to Lenox for fact finding. For the SMSU option, need to identify factors/questions around what needs to be in place to meet future needs. DW clarified SMSU is in the process of interviewing a hiring a candidate to meet their needs now, so that is not a direct option. No specific action on the option.

Moved to page 6, bullets pulled from the SAC "charter" document from SC in January. DW: the scope has shifted a bit since the beginning, especially since the end of last year. Shifted to understanding more than just BH. What hasn't changed is that we need to arrive at a financially viable, sustainable. There has been so much healthy discussion and all are enlighten on how complex it is, but we need to frame it up again and work to get down to specific steps and documented analysis with what we know now.

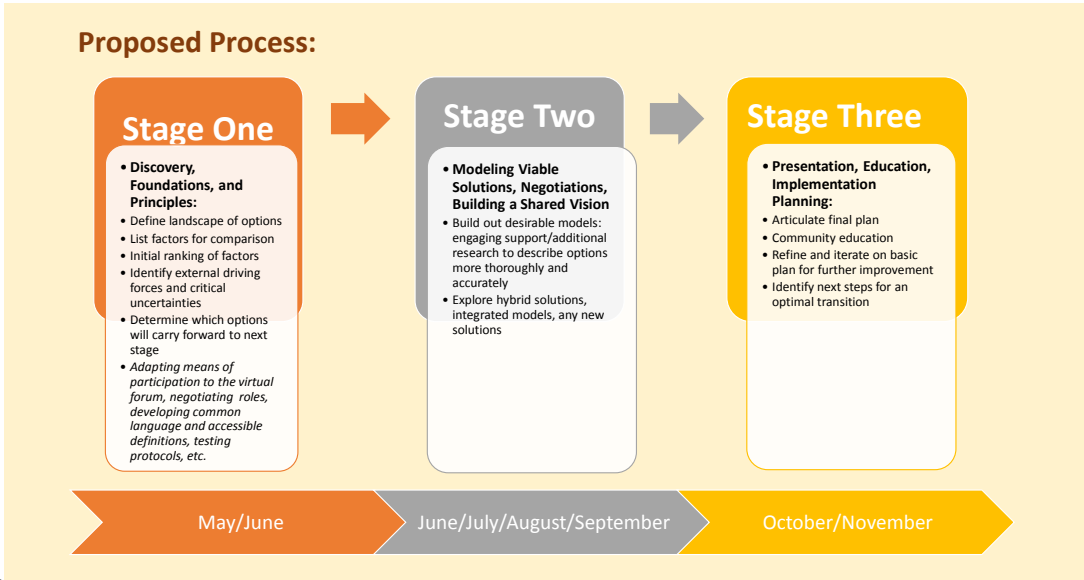
DW: asked where the pros /cons of options and the need/wishes/wants fits in to this. Richmond needs to clearly document a needs/wishes/wants for Superintendency services. For example, time expectations in addition to standard accountabilities. LB: the SAC has not formally provided anything yet relative to that. LB: SAC is advisory and a research committee to provide needed info for the SC. RK agreed and said getting diverse group input is important. KF will help the SAC to shore up the research piece. KF will reach out to LB to schedule a meeting with the SAC.

KF will be continuing to work with BH including having financial conversations which is basically tutorial from Peter and Sharon for her.

The next joint meeting RSC/BH is tentatively scheduled for 5/26. There was some discussion how this fits in to the timing sequence and if that meeting should be postponed to be sure the is enough to talk about. DW: one aspect is hanging out there is the firm request from Richmond to get enough detail to understand financial how this would work, to know if we should stop now (not financial feasible) or it makes sense to proceed. KF understand this need and understand needs to be addressed. This likely won't be ready by 5/26.

3. Adjournment Motion by SB at 5:34pm, 2nd AE, all in favor

Presentation from Karen:



Page 1

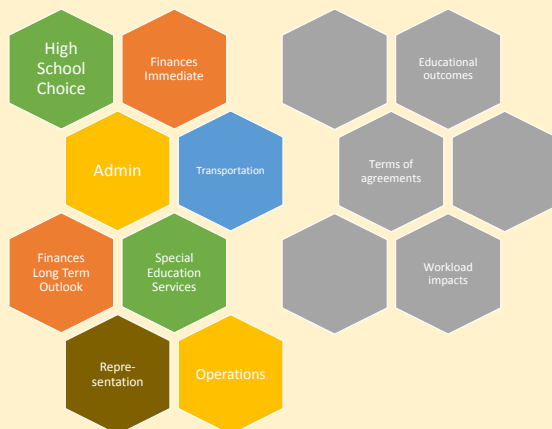
Distributed Decision-Making within Complex Systems:

- Types of decision
- Decision Rights
 - Boundaries of roles
 - Decision levels
 - Decisions requiring cross-functional collaborations
- Meeting cadence and information linkages
- Reflections/Assessments

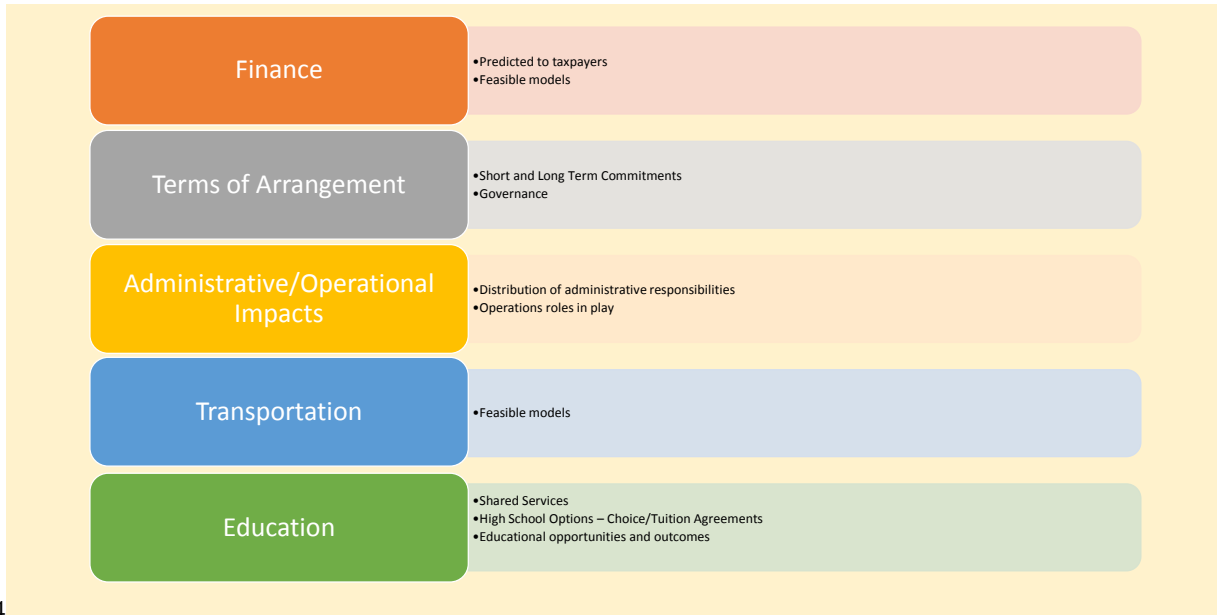
Page 2

Stage One: Foundations

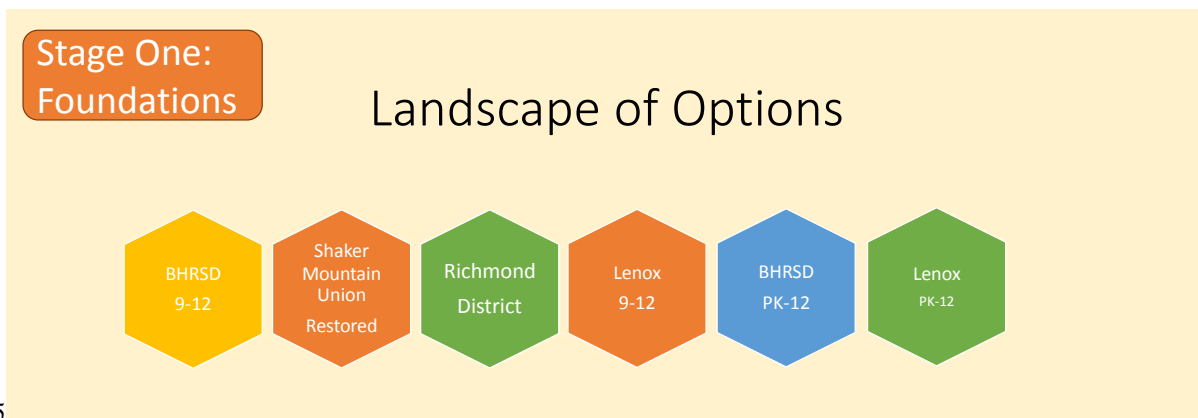
Factor Brainstorm



Page 3



Page 4



Page 5

Page 6

Superintendent Advisory Committee

- a. Operate according to the Open Meeting Laws (public posting, minutes, etc). Committee members do not need to be sworn in by Town.
- b. Be advisory in nature, not a decision making body.
- c. Provide monthly report outs to the RCS School Committee.
- d. Assign a Chair person who will drive the committee, organize meetings, be the main point for contact for the School Committee.
- e. Consult, as needed, with outside experts provided by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Fred Dupere, legal counsel to the School Committee.
- f. **Review and understand Roles and Responsibilities for a Superintendent.**
- g. Meet with BHRSD shared services representatives at appropriate time during the review to cross check expectations.
- h. List, quantify and prioritize service levels to meet the needs of all Richmond students, including high school students.
- i. Assess financial aspects of a shared Superintendency services model (Superintendent, Business Manager, SPED services, etc).
- j. Assess financial implications for Richmond with regard to funding high school tuition costs for Richmond students relative to the BHRSD high school building project.
- k. **Consider opportunities, concerns relating to busing, support for custodial, maintenance, other.**
- l. **Identify terms and provisions to be included in a contract to allow for modification or exit if certain requirements can't be met.**
- m. **Review current contracts for any impact related to any future Superintendency agreement.**
- n. **Evaluate and review the current School Union agreement with Hancock and New Ashford to determine next steps and needs for Richmond going forward.**
- o. **Report on any opportunities identified for further consideration that may enhance the education provided to Richmond students.**
- p. **Highlight and report concerns, barriers, issues seen with future contract with BHRSD, compare to alternative models that provide opportunity to address.**