

FINAL

RICHMOND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, December 12, 2023 - 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Beth Choquette, Superintendent/Principal; Ina Wilhelm, Chair; Tom Forstner; Nate Steele; Kimmie Leeco; Rachel Kanz; Kristin Smith

REVIEW AND APPROVE NOVEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES: In future, Beth will make all necessary punctuation and name spelling corrections in order to save time. Some text changes were made to the minutes. Ina moved that the Minutes of the Tuesday, December 7, 2023 meeting be approved as amended. She was seconded by Kimmie and the motion passed by unanimous approval.

CORRESPONDENCE: None
Go Guardian program

PRINCIPAL'S Report: Beth explained reasons to use the Go Guardian program: 1. Safety and security. To ensure students are using only the websites and apps used for education. Students have been straying from course work to non-educational sites. 2. Teachers are able to curate resources for students to create personalized learning environments. 3. Teachers can provide feedback and support to students in real time and create custom groups. Ina asked for clarification of the access process. Beth provided a quick overview.

State Comprehensive Health and PE Frameworks. The State has updated the standards for which all teachers are responsible and which students are expected to master. Beth met with Ronna Zigmand, Doug Wentworth, Haley Korte, and all classroom teachers to determine what is already being covered.

Many of the standards concern nutrition and balanced eating. Since March is National Nutrition Month, Beth is planning to have every department create a program on the subject to share with the rest of the school.

Gender Issues and Sexuality. Beth expects that Haley Korte will be able to advise her that many of those standards are being covered.

Nathan questioned whether there was anything being done to introduce bio-feedback capabilities into the curriculum so that students could learn to monitor their heart-rate, breathing rate, etc. under certain circumstances. Beth responded that Haley has students monitor pulse and heart rates and that Mr. Wentworth deals with those issues in his Social/Emotional Learning classes.

Vision and Mission and Core Values. Beth wants to have an opportunity to refresh Richmond's written Vision and Mission and Core Values. She is putting together a group to look at what exists and to see if perhaps some adjustments should be made.

Virtual School - Pre-K through 12. Richmond pays the tuition out of School Choice funds.

In October, all superintendents received a notice that choice-in students will be afforded the same tuition opportunities as Richmond students. The school is responsible for payment of tuition for graduates wanting to attend a "tuition" school. Hancock has reached out to Senator Marks for advice. He recommended classifying the district as Pre-K - 8th grade for School Choice purposes only. Those students would return to their town after graduation from 8th grade and either attend the local high school or apply for school choice through their town.

Senator Marks will meet with the Commissioner and will advise the outcome of that conversation to the schools. This law will have an impact on the budget for future years. A discussion followed of the costs of tuition for choice students going on to high school in other towns and the details of how the law operates.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mary announced that Grant #274 in the amount of \$2,060 was approved. The grant is for training on the new IEP. Rebecca and Mary are working with the Collaborative to get someone to train the Hancock and Richmond teachers.

Mary had her first SEPAC meeting with Hancock. A PowerPoint presentation was provided to introduce the new IEP to parents. A complete explanation is expected to be ready for presentation at the spring meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Beth had nothing of substance about the budget to report at this meeting. She has asked both teachers and parents to provide her with a list of absolute needs and wants for the upcoming school year budget.

Fire Drill Procedure - Kimmie Leeco raised the issue of the incident at the last fire drill. A discussion ensued concerning safety in drills; the need for accurate headcounts of students and working with the Fire Department to clarify the protocol for lock-down. Beth and the Fire Chief are discussing clarification of the protocols, including provision for a possible short-staffing of the Fire Department in which case the drill would not take place.

There being no further business before the Committee, Ina moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:06 PM. Kimmie seconded and all members of the Committee voted to accept the motion.

Submitted by Phyllis LeBeau