

Approved

**Richmond Consolidated School
School Committee
1831 State Road, Richmond, MA 01254
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 3:15PM – Class Room 207

Approved as amended on 1/14/2020

Attendees: Adeline Ellis, Dewey Wyatt, Michelle Smith, Beth Smith, Natalie Gingras, Julia Sabourin, Sharon Renfrew, Gill Romano, Geoff Bell-Devaney, Neal Pilson. Absent: Susan Benner

Call to order: 3:15pm.

The purpose of this was for the School Committee to hear more from the staff and to provide input on the future Superintendent plans. Dr Dillon, Superintendent was not in attendance as he agreed it would allow for more open candid discussion.

DW provided copies of a guiding document for the Advisory Committee that the School Committee has been working on. This included the purpose, committee guidelines, and the member selection criteria. Fourteen people offered their time to participate on the committee. The School Committee will confirm the members in the regular School Committee meeting this evening.

A decision had already been made by the School Committee to pursue the modified Shared arrangement with BHRSD. DW explained this had been discussed for months in RCS SC, SMSU meetings, and BHRSD/SMSU meetings. Concerns were raised by some around why we have narrowed in and not looking at other options.. The school committee is in agreement that this was a primary path however AE says she is now also wondering why we don't look more at other options. DW explained that further understanding of other arrangements (including the old model of a shared part time Superintendent) will inherently come when analyzing the financial impact, needs and concerns relative to previous/current/future state. NG and BS are concerned about Richmond needs being met with a new/updated BHRSD relationship. There was some discussion about the role of a Superintendent. DW explained that it is not the role of the Superintendent to be within the building as much as some at Richmond wish. BS highlighted that the relationship with Hancock has been in place in some form for over 40 years. DW explained that that in itself doesn't mean the three town arrangement is the best going forward – today there are so many other factors around providing good education. The School Committee agreed the Advisory Committee output needs to further assess and quantify the pros and cons of other Superintendent options (that is need to insure any agreement is well understood and sustainable for years to come).

DW noted that Dr Dillon has submitted a grant application to fund consultation to on the future Superintendent project. Notification of this grant should be sometime in January.

NP asked if we have received a formal statement from BHRSD to clearly understand what they want from any arrangement. DW said no and agreed to get this from them.

JS raised concern about losing the ability for Richmond students/families to choose high schools due to an agreement with BHRSD, where tuition agreements with Pittsfield, Taconic, Lenox would not in place. She said having high school options is a value we don't want to lose.

JS says she feel there has been less than honest communications of what's going on based on what was communicated by DW in a previous discussion with staff on (Nov18, DW offered with purpose to provide updates and hear thoughts). DW apologized and said he understood the articulation of details as best known at this point in time was not the best, and more questions and unknowns resulted.

Adjournment 4:25pm: Motion DW, second AE