

School Committee Minutes 10/11/11

Present were School Committee Chairman Dewey Wyatt, Vice Chair Jim Biancolo and secretary Bianca Daigle. Also present were RCS Principal, Dr. Karin Deyo, Superintendent, Mr. William Ballen, SPED Director, Mrs. Jenevera Strock, Richmond teachers, Mrs. Joy Mullen, Mrs. Michelle Smith, Mrs. Kim Hosley, Richmond parents Smith and Layden.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:03pm

Minutes from 9/15/11 were approved with one revision; in the Social Networking policy “risks” was amended to “exceptional risks.”

There was no correspondence.

There were no citizens concerns.

School Committee Vice Chair Jim Biancolo and Superintendent Ballen will be implementing a policy review and implementation over the next few months. Some of the areas that will be targeted are:

Contracts

Full Budget

Technology Plan

Bullying Plan

Student Conduct

Social Networking Policy

Building Maintenance Plan

Textbook Adoption Plan

Facilities Usage Plan

School Improvement Plan

Organizational Chart

Attendance Policy

Educational Philosophy

This undertaking is vast in scope and the School Committee, Principal and appropriate officials will give feedback and collaborate, when appropriate. Ultimately the goal is that the policies will exist as a hard copy, that will "live" in the Principals office, as well as a PDF file (or files) that will be available electronically, at the RCS website. Policies will be submitted to the School Committee by our Principal and Superintendent, reviewed, and then modified as needed, before being approved and adopted.

The school's oil line repair is almost complete. Concrete will be poured shortly, our back steps will be repaired (for a nominal fee) and will be able to be used again this Fall and Winter, until a more comprehensive repair can be done.

Professional development workshops have been scheduled for the end of October for RCS teachers and specialists.

Para Professional negotiations were conducted earlier this week by Superintendent Ballen, Mr. Hanson, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Wyatt, Chairman of the School Committee, and Mr. Dupre, school counsel. Unfortunately a contract is not, as of yet, in place and negotiations will continue in November.

Hill Engineering submitted a quote for \$12,500 for a site/building assessment report. The School Committee requested that an additional quote be obtained from another engineering firm. Mr. Ballen will work with Mr. Kerwood to obtain this estimate.

Mr. Ballen announced that he will be retiring this year, he indicated that he will be actively developing a succession plan with the School Union Chairs and Principals. He expressed that although his departure may be earlier than previously anticipated, he is committed to aiding RCS in our transition.

Mrs. Strock, our SPED director held a PAC meeting, another is scheduled next month. Our files will be reviewed next week (and in November) by the state. All files are up to date. By all accounts the students are doing very well.

Dr. Deyo, our Principal, is implementing a textbook adoption plan which will consist of a strategy taking into account the common core and state frameworks; this will consist of an audience with vendors, a pilot program, followed by adoption. Dr. Deyo will be developing a 3-5 year plan with the faculty and administration. We are currently purchasing textbooks for 5-7th grade from School Choice funds.

The YMCA will be offering an after school program at RCS beginning Monday, October 24th. This is anticipated to be very well received by working parents.

Our School Council has been elected and will meet on October 24th.

Richmond parent Victoria Layden shared her opinion that in the past the school had not sought input from parents when developing policies. She stated she is glad that we will be doing this in the future via the website, and felt it had been a very positive and productive meeting in general.

Next School Committee meeting will be November 8th at 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm, by unanimous vote.