



Ricci Middle School
School Improvement Team

Date: January 21, 2021

Start Time: 6:00 pm

Staff Representatives: X - represents present

- X Thomas Mellen, Principal (Chair)
- X Carol Catone (SS Content Leader, Team Leader)
- X Connor Fagan (7/8 SS)
Deb Norato (7/8 Resource)
Kim Hardman (7/8 Science)
- X Brittany Smith (Math Content Leader, 7/8 Math)
Marilyn McLaughlin (7/8 ELA)
Kim DiTusa (Science Content Leader, 7/8 Science)
Jill Harraka (6 ELA)
Miriam Badger (Foreign Language)
Lori Drolet (ELL)
- X Tracy Graham (6 Math)
- X Tarra Bilyj (7/8 Resource)
Tara Carlson (6 Resource)
Melissa Paliotta (6 SS)
Nicole Pospisil (Student Council Co-Chair 6 Math/Science)
- X Julia McCormick (7/8 Math)
Terri Connors (Team Leader, 7/8 SS)
- X Kim Walsh (ELA Content Leader, Team Leader, 7/8 ELA)
- X Danielle Tiernan (6/8 Resource)
- X Lauren Monti (7/8 ELA)
- X Steve Muccino (Student Council Co-Chair, 6 SS/ELA)

Parent Representatives:

- Megan Burns
- Margarita Robledo Guedes
- Michele Patnaude Overton
- Stephanie Morrison
- Michelle Ficocelli
- Melissa Caffrey
- Kayla Chancey
- Courtney Fuller
- Joanna Cedeno
- X Jennifer Gladding
- X Sara Goodger
- Jessica Iozzi
- X Kristine Pontarelli
- Andrea Martel

- X Marilyn Santomaro
Tara Blais
Shara Fillmore
Kristine Munroe
Jessica Azarian
Merann Gervais
Jessica Giusti
- X Delmy Rodas
Jessie Donnelly

Student Representatives:

- X Kyla Angel- 8
- X Arthur Tseytlin- 8
- X Roman Laurito- 7
Lilly Watson-7
- X Zoe Harrington-7
Maggie Martin-7
Surrayah Wilson-7
Zach Webley -6
Molly Reis-6
Alexa Ragano-6
Quentin Forkpa-6
Angelina Martinez-6
Quiyanna Sylvia-6

Agenda:

- 2021 School Update, Staffing (Open Positions)

Minutes:

- Meeting started at 6:00 p.m.
- Meeting started by Mr. Mellen asking if there is anyone that would like to bring up a topic
- Mr. Mellen asked if the students have any questions or ideas.
- Roman Laurito stated that he thinks more clubs need to be added to Ricci but virtual. Mr. Mellen replied by stating that sports have started to open up and he explained that things would be happening if there was no COVID. Ricci School has many clubs that would be running currently but due to the current COVID situation that is unable to happen. Mr.Mellen will reach out to the Superintendent to get his thoughts on starting clubs.
- The current state of Ricci in regards to COVID: The good news is that currently there are zero cases that he is aware of. We have yet to have any student to student or faculty transmission which is a positive.
- Any big indoor events are still a ways away and discussion for grade 8 moving up ceremony and NJHS ceremony being outdoor events.
- Mr. Mellen asked if any parents have any questions or concerns.
- Mrs. Pontarelli asked a question in regards to NJHS. Her concern was when paperwork will be coming out and what will be required due to COVID.
- Zoe Harrington asked about soccer and Mr. Mellen spoke about the Rhode Island Interscholastic league and he is not sure how this will work but we will need to just want to see what they decide.
- Student Council - At this point students will be doing candy gram and the teachers have come up with ideas to keep the spirit going.

- One school component that is missing at Ricci at this point is the large scale activities such as: dances, clubs, and group activities such as dodgeball nights.
- Steve Muccino is recommending that the Student Council help with moving up ceremony and NJHS
- Steve Muccino is asking about the late bus getting in the budget- Mr. Mellen stated that we have it in our budget this year. Due to COVID the mixing of pods is the concern. The late bus is also budgeted for next year also. We can talk at the faculty meeting regarding remediation for RICAS programs and the late bus.
- At Ricci we have more students back on a weekly basis. We have about 90 students doing virtual learning.
- Staff attendance is one of the highest in the district.
- Staffing: the SIT team will be part of this decision since they have more opportunity to fill the positions. The following positions are vacant at Ricci:
- Science Teacher will go out to the public on Monday advertised as a LTS
- Asst Principal position was decided to get a better candidate pool at the end of a school year.
- Social Worker - problem with certification
- Tech Ed. - will be open in the Spring.
- State Testing - this will occur and we will be tested in Math, ELA and Science. The state is all in on testing. The mandate is that all students take the test in school. Virtual Learners will need to be in school for testing. This will require more discussion. State testing is asking a lot of the school. The state wants to see how much learning is lost.
- Mr. Mellen asked if there are any questions regarding State Testing and there were none.
- The schools are going to be held accountable for students who don't take RICAS. This will be counted as a zero and will overall impact our school rating.
- Mr. Mellen asked the students how they feel about State Testing. Ari Tsetylin. states it is not a big deal since he feels as though he didn't lose much learning. He does see that the students who are not putting their education first will certainly be affected.
- Mr. Mellen did some home visits and since those students have come back to school they seem to be doing much better academically and socially.
- Ceremony Ideas - this is something that Mr. Mellen wants to discuss at the next meeting. Superintendent gave the opportunity for outside events.
- Mrs. Gladding had a question regarding logging in issues before Christmas Break. Frustration is that there was no communication stating there was an issue. Mr. Mellen stated that it was very sporadic and it was a google issue. The entire state was going virtual and the system couldn't handle it. He stated that the district sent out an email blast explaining the issue. He will look into why she didn't receive the email from the School Department. Mrs. Gladding sits on the board of Parent Support Network and she would be happy to provide services to the school.
- Gratitude Club is a suggestion from Roman Laurito

Discussion:

End Time: 6:35p.m.