



Ricci Middle School
School Improvement Team

Date(s): April 15,2021

Start Time (s): 3:00

Staff Representatives:

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

Parent Representatives:

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

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
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:

- **RICAS Update**
- **COVID Update**
- **End of year activities**

Minutes:

Update on RICAS

Successful testing for ELA

We are expecting gaps due to online learning last year. We do have approximately 74 students still in distant learning out of 419 students. We will close the gap through after school programs. We will know more about that once the budget is finalized.

TJ asked for questions and Steve Muccino stated that the ELA team came out with a survey. Two questions about how they were prepared and the students stated that the RICAS release questions helped them. The question about being unfamiliar or challenging the student response was writing two essays in one day was heavy for them. TJ states that the survey is a great idea.

COVID Update

At one point we went two consecutive months with no cases at RICCI. We saw some cases at Christmas but lately we have had exposure due to sports. The

nurse did BINEX testing on those students and all of them came back negative. As of right now we have had 6 pods of cases in the month of March and April. There has been no in school exposure. These cases were not from school. We have gotten better with isolating students. We are not having the whole team out just the setting. Mr. Mellen would like to see distant learning off the table for next unless there is a medical exemption.

Mrs. Pontarelli asked why we are not testing the athletes. Mr. Mellen states that it is a decision that the school can not make. He states that if all of the districts do not take part in the testing it is not worth just the one district doing it.

End of the year activities

Last year missed on all of their activities.

We are planning an 8th grade dinner at Twelve Acres. One of the main issues is that you can only dance with someone from your own table. All students will have to be tested prior to entering the event. More information will come out after vacation.

Team Cookouts, End of the year field day - would like to get back to normal.

Signs have been ordered for the 8th grade.

Graduation is up in the air. That ceremony will be modified. A car graduation is being talked about. We want to do more than what was done last year.

If anyone has questions or ideas

We need to be consistent with Birchwood.

Miss McCormick talked about a drive thru graduation that she attended.

TJ stated that graduation is about the students and not all of the speeches.

Mrs. Pontarelli asked about NJHS regarding a date and how that will look. It will be mid to late May. Mr. Mellen would like to have a ceremony without the audience. The ceremony will take place and will be live streamed.

Field Day - Move Up Ceremony - want to make this fun for the kids and celebrate
At this point we are at 80% capacity with our students.

The last day of school is June 23 so Move Up Ceremony will probably on the June 21 or 22

Mr. Muccinno asked about Field Day and will there be separate days for separate classes. Mr. Mellens response is that he doesn't think we need to do that due to the activities that we will conduct.

Maybe this year we can have a separate 8th grade field day

Mrs. Pontarelli asked about yearbook. Mr. Mellen said that Lifetouch was at school this year taking team photos. Last year COVID really hurt the yearbook. Maybe hold off to get a lot of the end of the year activities could be in it.

Parent asked about sending graduation suggestions to Mr. Mellen and he said that would work.

Discussion:

End Time: 3:28