

RIVERSIDE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



Riverside High School

June 13, 2024

6:00 P.M. Special Meeting

A recording of this Board of Education meeting is available on the District's YouTube page here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbTmn\\_sGBiEvF2c598hBCSg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbTmn_sGBiEvF2c598hBCSg)

**1. Opening Items**

A. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 0164B of the Riverside Local Board of Education which was adopted in accordance with Section 1.450 of the O.R.C. and the Ohio Administrative Procedures Act.

The Bylaws of the Board of Education can be found here.

B. Roll Call: Krenisky - absent, Grassi, Brewster, Fishel, Harden

C. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Work Session**

A. Work Session – Auburn Academy

Dr. Rateno introduced the Auburn Academy. He talked about why we are developing this idea and how it fits in with the Teaching and Learning piece of the Strategic Plan that states that we will "expand program options and delivery to meet the need of each student and grow teacher capacity and efficacy". The Auburn juniors present a logistical challenge with the current block schedule. There are limits to what courses the Auburn students can take. They are getting fewer hours of English instruction per two-week period than a regular student. They are unable to earn a traditional honors diploma and are limited in the elective classes they can take, such as band, choir and art. This program will require mastery of a subject, not "seat time". It is based on Ohio's Personalized Competency Based Learning model. The six pillars of this model are Learner Agency, Assessments, Learner Supports, Mastery, Learning Paths, and Learning Targets. Students are empowered to make important decisions about their learning experiences and how they will demonstrate their learning. Once a subject is mastered, the student can move on. The student and teacher will work collaboratively on how to get to mastery. Students will take an assessment to see how they learn best and meet with teachers regularly to determine their strengths. Personalized learning presents a solution for the Auburn students. The juniors will be enrolled in four classes per semester throughout the school year instead of the three that they are now. The classes will be delivered in a personalized nature with four teachers and one intervention specialist. Students will

have new opportunities such as the ability to earn an academic honors diploma and to participate in additional elective classes such as band, choir and art. Students will have more options in their senior year including work-based learning, electives and CCP classes. The teachers selected have shown characteristics of teachers in strong personalized learning classrooms. They have either done this in their class or have gone through training. The Auburn Academy is a pilot program for a larger scale personalized competency-based learning initiative in concert with the Strategic Plan. The vision is to scale this approach to more students in the future.

Discussion followed about the program and how it will be handled. Mrs. Harden said she first heard of this program as a parent of an Auburn student, and the students are under the impression that this is a mandatory program. There is an opportunity to opt out of this program and be placed in the traditional classes as they always have been. Mrs. Harden and Mrs. Grassi had some concerns about the individualized learning and group projects. Some students might sit and talk to friends and not learn, or one student in a group will not contribute and will get the same grade as the others. Mr. Fishel asked about how long it could be before a student is determined to not be successful in this program and could be moved to the traditional classes. Mr. Hall said the same things that cause failure in a traditional classroom will cause failure in this program, such as excessive absences. Mr. McIntyre stated that if this program disproportionately targets handicapped or minority students that it is not legal. As long as it is not doing that and there is an option to opt out, then it is legal. Dr. Rateno said there is intent to meet with the parents closer to the start of the school year. The student's schedule can still be adjusted at that point if they opt out. He encourages the parents to come and meet with the teachers who will be teaching these classes. The standards of the material are the same, how it is being taught is changing. His thought is to expand this to seniors, then ultimately open it up to all students taking high school credit classes. Mrs. Grassi asked for data throughout the program on the students who were moved out of the program or who were not successful. Mr. Fishel and Mrs. Harden feel that this is premature. Mrs. Harden said the parents and students should have been made aware of the change before signing up for Auburn. Most Board members said they support moving forward as long as there is an option for the student to opt out and an evaluation plan in place for the students and the program as a whole. Dr. Rateno said he has had very little feedback from parents. There is a lot of concern among the Board members that they were not involved in this decision. Discussion and planning were started in January but no one was notified until May. Mrs. Grassi asked if a plan could be in place for a work session on July 11 for how to catch the students who are falling behind and how to inform the parents for the change and to make sure they know it is optional.

### **3. Next Meeting Announcement**

Buildings and Grounds Committee	June 18, 2024	7:30 a.m.
Finance/Audit and Personnel Committee	June 20, 2024	7:30 a.m.
Curriculum & Programming Committee	June 26, 2024	7:30 a.m.
Board of Education Meeting	June 27, 2024	6:00 p.m.

### **4. Executive Session**

- A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Riverside Local School District Board of Education hereby adjourns to executive session at 8:29 pm to discuss personnel matters relating to the employment of public officials and the Riverside Local School District Board of Education hereby designates all matters

discussed in this executive session as strictly confidential and finds that this designation is warranted because of the status of this matter and the need to preserve confidentiality to properly conduct the business of this Board of Education.

Motion: Grassi

Second: Brewster

Vote:

Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Jennifer Harden	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 061324-1

B. Return to regular session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion: Grassi

Second: Harden

Vote:

Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Jennifer Harden	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 061324-2

5. Closing Items

A. Motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Motion: Grassi

Second: Harden


Vote:

Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Jennifer Harden	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 061324-3

Attest:

  
Board President

  
Date Treasurer

June  
July 27, 24  
Date