

River Valley School District  
Thursday, January 12, 2017  
Regular Meeting  
Middle School Library  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Bettinger, Strozinsky, McCauley, Cates, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Iausly, Cummings, Baylee Shifflet (student representative)

Absent: N/A

Admin: Wermuth, Novak, Krey, Blakley, Hegland, Radtke, Kjos

Others: Michelle Orcutt, Bridget Roberts, Michele Weiss, Mike McDermott, Cathleen Withington, Erin Blakley, Kasey Maxwell, Melinda Mohr, Andrea Sullivan, Beth Novak, Tonia Hatfield, Kelly Joles, Jean Alt, Sue Quale, Linda Richter, Doug Richter, Lori Baryenbruch, Monica Reeve, Pam Gauger, Dan McGuire, Richard Brander, Doris Green (Home News), Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. She noted that the meeting had been properly posted and notice had been provided to the appropriate media and each School Board Member. Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Iausly moved to approve the agenda. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

#### Public Comments

Jennings outlined the rules for making public comments. Dan McGuire questioned River Valley's instructional fees compared to Richland Center, Cathleen Withington questioned the cost savings of closing two elementary schools and what expenses are associated with closings, and Richard Brander questioned the amount in the November referendum and asked if we should spend money on local schools and make the middle school a vocational school.

#### Student Council Report

Baylee Shifflet gave an update on happenings at district schools. Arena received a grant from SGAAC to implement a project with Stuart Stotts, a Packer party will be held on January 13 at Plain, a food drive and light up holiday cards were made for Greenway Terrace as part of a STEM project at Spring Green, and Mike McDermott is working with elementary students on coding. Academic and career planning conferences are being held with students at the middle school. A grant has been written for a field trip to Aldo Leopold for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and a Donors Choose grant was awarded for supplies for biology. The POPS Concert will be held on January 25 and River Valley will host the District 10 forensics competition. High school students were made aware of an "All Dressed Up" event where high school girls can get free prom dresses and jewelry.

#### Human Growth & Development Committee Meeting Update

The Committee met to review districtwide human growth and development curriculum. The Committee members include staff, students, Board, community members, and administration.

There were minor changes in the current curriculum and discussion about starting the hygiene curriculum as early as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

#### Board Reminders and Announcements

The WASB Convention in Milwaukee is next week and those who attend will provide a brief report at the February Board meeting. Blakley was asked to provide information about a recent fire alarm due to a bad sensor at the high school and students were ultimately evacuated to the middle school gym. Sarah Young noted that 14 students went to see “Hamilton” in Chicago, free of charge, through a program where cast members read biographies written by the students and then bought their tickets. Special thanks to Sue Quale and Colleen Madden for organizing this event.

#### Legislative Update

Governor Walker announced that he is planning to increase funding to public schools in his state budget next month. The state Opioid Abuse Task Force is looking at a measure that would allow opioid antidote administration in schools and provide civil liability exemption for certain school personnel to administer the antidote. Betsy DeVos, nominee for Secretary of Education, is known for her support of privatization efforts, including private school vouchers.

#### Board Training Opportunities

Cates noted that he will be the delegate for River Valley at the January WASB Convention in Milwaukee. There is a 2017 WASB Legal and Human Resources Conference in Wisconsin Dells in February.

#### Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – December 2016; Open Session Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2016

Iausly moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Young seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolution Requiring a Primary Election – February 21, 2017

Since there are more than two candidates running for School Board in both Area 1 and Area 2, we need to hold a primary election to reduce the number of candidates to two in each area for the April election. Iausly moved to adopt a Resolution Requiring a Primary Election on February 21, 2017. McCauley seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

Iausly moved to approve the Budget Committee’s recommendation to bid out auditing services for a three-year contract. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Elementary Configuration for 2017-18 and 2018-19

There was discussion on the administrative proposal for elementary configuration for 2017-18 and 2018-19, which is proposed as follows: Starting at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, create the “River Valley Early Learning Center” in Plain and serve all students in 4K and 5K (except those at Arena) and create the “River Valley Elementary School” in Spring Green and serve all students in 1st through 5th grade (except those at Arena); and, starting at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, serve all 4K and 5K students in Plain, serve all 1st through 4th

grade students in Spring Green, and move all 5th grade students to the River Valley Middle School.

Comments were made for and against the proposal. There was much discussion about the need to communicate with elementary families to make a smooth transition by inviting them to open houses in the buildings, having them meet staff, answer questions, and address bussing and other concerns. For 2018-19 at the middle school, the idea of having 2 "pods" at the middle school (one for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and one for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) has been considered.

Bettinger moved to approve the elementary configuration for 2017-18 and 2018-19 as presented. Strozinsky seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Bettinger, Iausly, Jennings, Nelson, Strozinsky, Young

Against the motion: Cates, Cummings, McCauley

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 6-3 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution to Repeal Existing State Statutes Restricting the School Start Date

Cates moved to adopt the Resolution to Repeal Existing State Statutes Restricting the School Start Date. McCauley seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2017-18 School Calendar

Young moved to approve the 2017-18 School Calendar. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2018-19 School Calendar

Iausly moved to approve the 2018-19 School Calendar. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Student Activity Account for Electrathon Club

Iausly moved to approve a student activity account for the Electrathon Club. Young seconded. This high school student group, led by teacher Robby Jacobson, will be making an electric motor car to take to competition and will be fundraising to cover expenses. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Strozinsky moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$2,000 from Eric and Irene Rapp to Fund 21; \$140.81 from the Class of 2005 to Fund 21; \$50 to the Equestrian Team from Jack and Kay Taylor in memory of Patti Belke; \$100 from Scott and Rosemary Pope to cover food service costs for Arena Community Elementary families in need; \$500 from Bonita Sitter and Fredericka Schilling for Arena Community Elementary needs; \$300 from the Middle School Student Council toward a new drinking fountain/water bottle filling station; lumber valued at \$600 from Jeff Haylock to the High School Building Trades Program; \$200 from Gigi LaBudde and Michael Whaley to the Middle School Art Department; \$200 from Gigi LaBudde and Michael Whaley to the Elementary Music Department; and \$5,550 from the Athletic Boosters for 10 laptops for the FFA. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Cates moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 832 Tobacco Possession and/or Use on School Premises; 835 Alcoholic Beverage Possession and/or Use on School Premises; 830 Use of School Facilities; 830 Rule - Facilities Use Regulations; 830 Exhibit - Facilities Use Request Form; 720 Safety Program. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Young moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 722 Emergency Plans; 722.7 Hazardous Material Incidents; 725 Privacy in Locker Rooms; 470 Student Fees and Fines; 362.2 Fines, Loss or Damage to Materials; 743 Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Electronic Mail, and Internet Safety; 423 Public School Open Enrollment; and 423 Rule Public School Open Enrollment. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Employee Relations Committee Recommendations

No recommendations. No action.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for District Administrator Mid-Year Evaluation Preparation and Discussion of Administrative Configuration

Strozinsky moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:55 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for District Administrator Mid-Year Evaluation Preparation and Discussion of Administrative Configuration. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk