

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Regular Meeting

Middle School Library

7:00 p.m.

Board: Cates, Crowley, Paula Caraway, Nelson, Taylor, Peach, Pronold, Cummings, Ferguson, Dylan Shaffer (Student Council Representative)

Absent: N/A

Administration: Benson, Hayek, Kaukl, Radtke, Hegland, Briehl, Hoffman

Others: Linda Donnelly, Sara Stellick, Julie Kuhse (Administrative Assistant), David Giffey (Home News)

President Taylor opened the meeting. She noted that the meeting had been properly noticed and notice had been provided to the appropriate media and each School Board Member. Ferguson moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor provided a legislative update. The state is facing a projected \$5 billion deficit in 2009-11. School boards are encouraged to write Governor Doyle and/or to pass a resolution calling for the 2009-11 state budget to prioritize public schools. Burmaster announced she will not seek re-election as State Superintendent and endorsed Tony Evers to replace her.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson reported that the WASB Convention is coming up soon.

Student Council Report

Shaffer noted that the student council was involved in a penny war for the Humane Society but have not held a meeting since before the holiday break.

District Goals 2008-09 and Beyond

Benson provided an update on progress towards our district goals for 2008-09 (literacy and response to intervention), noting literacy as the primary goal. Benson reminded the Board that fiscal responsibility is a continuous goal.

APT Student Internship

Kaukl informed the Board of a new opportunity for one high school student to intern at American Players Theater (APT) over the summer to earn one high school credit. An informational handout was provided explaining the program. Sara Stellick, APT Assistant Production Manager, answered the Board's questions regarding the internship. No payment is made to the student.

SAGE Compliance

Benson reminded the Board that our district's recent SAGE waiver approval has two components—the district must strive toward a 15:1 ratio in kindergarten and first grade all day long; and a 15:1 ratio for reading and math only is needed for second and third grades. Our district is more apt to continue to receive funding if we are working toward or meeting state requirements.

Benson discussed Hayek's chart of elementary enrollments and the concern of numbers at Arena. In order to meet SAGE requirements and to balance class sizes, we may need to bus to balance, change district boundaries for attendance areas, hire additional teachers, transfer teachers, or

continue with multiage classrooms. Benson requested ideas from the Board. The Board discussed growth in the eastern end of the district and long term implications associated with enrollment. Hayek provided figures on the amount of SAGE funding received by the district. Administration will discuss and bring ideas back to the Board for balancing K-5 class sizes.

Public Comments/Open Forum

Ferguson informed the Board that Ithaca will be running a newspaper ad encouraging open enrollment.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – November and December 2008; Open Session Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2008

Crowley moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Pronold seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution to Participate in the Wisconsin Energy Independent Communities Program

Ferguson moved to adopt the Resolution to Participate in the Wisconsin Energy Independent Communities Program. Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Calling Primary Election, if necessary

No action required since a primary is not needed prior to the April 2009 School Board Election.

Consideration & Action on District Goals – Final Review and Acknowledgement

Crowley moved to approve the final review and acknowledgement of district goals. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Second Reading of New and Revised Board Policies

Pronold moved to approve the second reading of Policy #225-Rule – District Administrator Evaluation to change the timeline regarding goals planning to occur prior to the start of the school year. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to approve the second reading of Policy #350 – Youth Options Program (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program) to add “Youth Options Program” to the title and to clarify that the student must receive a grade of “C” or better or he/she must reimburse the district for tuition and fees. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to approve the second reading of Policy #374 – Student Activity Fund Management to align with Wisconsin Uniform Financial Accounting Requirements (WUFAR) and to centralize student activity accounts as recommended by our auditors. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on First Reading of New and Revised Board Policies

The Policy Committee approved the concept of the Cum Laude Model for weighted grades which will start with the class of 2011. Kaukl noted that there was an informational meeting for parents on January 5 and another meeting is being held in February.

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy #423 and 423-Rule – Public School Open Enrollment during this annual review, as required by law, with no changes. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to approve the first reading of Policy #722.3 – Emergency School Closings and Policy #722.3-Rule – Procedure to be Followed for Emergency Conditions to change the titles to make these policies more readily accessible and/or identifiable. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the separation of the Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Handbook from the Athletic Code, since many WIAA rules pertaining to athletics are not applicable to non-athletic activities. Administration will form a committee of teachers, coaches, advisors, and community members to create a new handbook to bring back to the Policy Committee for implementation by the start of the 2009-10 school year. Taylor noted that community member Todd Miller produced a document to use as a starting point if the committee wished to use it.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Pronold moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts to Fund 21 for needy children and families—\$500 from Christ Lutheran Church Women; \$100 anonymous donation; and \$1,000 from Eric and Irene Rapp. Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Cates moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$400 to the gymnastics team from Plain Volunteer Fire Department for payment of work provided for the Plain Three Day Celebration. Crowley seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Caraway moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$400 from Warren Hoyer to the Tech. Ed. Department in memory of Laurel Hoyer. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Pronold moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of a cocoon swing from Jeff and Julie Flint to the OT/PT department valued at \$100. Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Caraway moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of 15 office chairs from Richardson Brothers to the High School Alt. Ed. Classroom valued at \$750 total. Pronold seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$255 from Physicians Plus to the Plain Elementary to be used for health or phy. ed. needs. Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$500 from the Sauk County Art Association to the art department. Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Cates moved to accept an \$8,000 grant from the Kern Foundation to train staff for the addition of a high school computer integrated manufacturing class. Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooperative Purchase of Insurance Consultant Services and Legal Services

Benson explained the agreement allowing the district to be involved in a feasibility study with several other school districts and CESA #3 to see if the creation of a new health insurance consortium would be in the best financial interest of districts while also providing comparable health insurance benefits. River Valley's consultant and legal fees would be no more than \$750

to be part of this feasibility study. Hayek explained that by joining the consortium the district may be immune from future possible taxation of health benefits. Cates moved to accept the agreement for cooperative purchase of insurance consultant services and legal services. Pronold seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c)

Crowley moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:35 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for: Discussion of Administrator Retirement Benefits; Discussion of Non-Union Support Staff Retirement Benefits; 2009–11 RVEA Collective Bargaining Update; 2009–11 RVEST Collective Bargaining Update; Discussion of Administrator Realignment Planning for 2009-10; and Annual Superintendent Evaluation. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Submitted by Julie Kuhse For:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk