

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

Present: Bettinger, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Case, Cates, Strozinsky, Iausly, McGuire

Absent: N/A

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

Others: Bridget Roberts, Joannie Harrington, Tera Hollfelder, Kasey Maxwell, Melinda Mohr, Rhonda Licht, Jean Alt, Kari Gribble, Jessica Knoble, Monica Reeve, Michelle Weiss, Linda Kettner, Noah McVay, Michele Orcutt, Rachel Orcutt, Dee Swenson, Joyce Portz, Debbie Stafford, Don Brander, Bridget Wyman, Doris Green (Home News), Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

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

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Bridget Roberts thanked the Board and administration for all they do and for their time and diligence. She appreciates that Board meetings are taped and can be watched on RVTV and likes that meeting handouts can be viewed by the public on the district website.

Kasey Maxwell is a teacher in the district but also a mother of three children. She shared that her five-year-old daughter rides the bus to the Early Learning Center in Plain and that is her favorite time of the day.

Don Brander noted that he feels Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings is too restrictive and against first amendment rights.

Student Council Report

Caroline Iausly thanked Shari Graffunder and the FFA for all their work with homecoming and the school fair and noted that the volleyball team and student council fundraiser proceeds will go to hurricane victims. The homecoming dance this year was on Saturday and senior Maya Jensen was the disk jockey. There is a middle school and high school choir concert on October 24 and rehearsals have begun for the high school musical. An off-site event was held for all seniors to learn about writing college applications and applying for financial aid.

At River Valley Elementary, the Blackhawk Bolt raised over \$30,000. Also, students participated in visits to the fire station. There was a kindness week event with random acts of kindness and a fundraiser for hurricane victims. Students at Arena Community Elementary have access to a fruit and veggie cart a few times per month, had vision and hearing screenings, and will have fluoride treatments this month.

Update on 2017-18 and 2018-19 District Configuration Transition and Transportation

River Valley Early Learning Center teachers, Michelle Weiss, Melinda Mohr, and Rhonda Licht were present. They noted it was hard to say goodbye last spring to the older elementary students who now attend River Valley Elementary. The new environment at Plain exclusively for our youngest learners is being enjoyed by both staff and students. The instructional assistants were thanked for their support within the classrooms.

The pros have been: there is a specific place for specialists; there is a therapy room for special needs students; the speech pathologist is on site the majority of the day; kids love to ride the bus; kids are making friends with children who live throughout all our communities and not just the town they live in; there is more daily collaboration amongst staff; there are monthly team events with the kids, such as the recent mini version of River Valley Elementary's Blackhawk Bolt; and the kids say they like that the lunchroom is quieter and the bells are softer.

Concerns are: the need to look at playground needs for early childhood kids and special needs students; the need for more bathroom stalls and kids can't reach to turn on the water (stands are being built); and bus scheduling that limits the amount of instructional time per day.

Hegland noted that the River Valley Elementary Blackhawk Bolt raised over \$30,000. This is their only fundraiser planned for this year. Money will be used by the PTO for field trips, special events, playground balls and toys, and classroom supplies. There were 64 area businesses that contributed a total of \$9,000, with 18 of those contributing at least \$250. Hegland was overwhelmed by the number of people involved with this event, which was successful because of the collaboration of the entire River Valley.

Jennings noted that administration and Lamers resolved the busing issues that were brought up at last month's meeting and noted that there are no overcrowded buses.

Arena Community Elementary Presentation

Members of the Arena Community Elementary School Governing Council and staff were present to share a video and PowerPoint presentation highlighting the mission and accomplishments of the school. It was noted that we hope to build on best practices throughout the district.

Review of Homecoming and School Fair

Wermuth reiterated the success of homecoming and the school fair and was impressed with the turnout. In the future, we want to engage more students to be involved in homecoming and the school fair.

RVTV 2017-18 ELITE Honor Roll Award

River Valley's RVTV earned a place on the ELITE Honor Roll for the second year in a row and is the only Wisconsin district to earn the honor for 2017-18. It was noted that many kids and sponsors are involved. Matt Snow, Brian Krey, Luke Thatcher, and Darby Blakley will be making a presentation to the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association to show how we use RVTV at River Valley.

WASB Business Honor Roll Awards Presented to Area Businesses

For the past few years, WASB has asked districts to nominate five businesses to be recognized for support of schools. This year, the district recognized the following businesses at a recent football game: American Players Theatre (APT); Arena Cheese, LLC; The Kraemer Company;

The Shed; and Wis-Coat Asphalt Maintenance. Furthermore, APT was highlighted in an article in the *Wisconsin School News* magazine. With so many businesses collaborating with our schools, it is a challenge to identify only five on a yearly basis, and the district plans to continue this annual event.

Third Friday Pupil Count Report

Districtwide, we are down five students from last year's count. With continuing and new open enrollment students, we have 49 students open enrolled into our district and 113 open enrolled out. We will contact new open enrollment families to ask why they choose to open enroll out of our district.

Update on Strategic Planning Process

A timeline from our consultant, Mark Roffers, was shared. Mark will be meeting with the administrative team on October 20 to gather some preliminary information.

Spring Green Area Arts Coalition Grant Awarded to High School Art Department

The High School Art Department received a \$1,484.96 grant. The money was used to purchase cameras for a photography class at the high school.

Board Reminders and Announcements

Wermuth, Nelson, Cates, and Strozinsky will attend the WASB Convention in Milwaukee in January. The River Valley School District Annual Meeting will be held on October 26 in the High School Little Theater. Two meetings are being held at the Arena Community Elementary School for discussion of potential future use(s) of the ACES building—October 23 at 6:30 pm and October 29 at 1:30 pm. Cates invited everyone to a barn dance at the Cates residence on October 14.

Legislative Update

Cates noted there is a new plan to boost sparsity aid by \$300 to \$400 per student, but the enrollment limit is 1,000 students, so we don't qualify. WASB is starting to accept resolutions for the state convention in January. Cates notes he will serve as our district's delegate at the convention. The state is making changes in teacher licensure requirements. Wermuth will share information with teaching staff regarding the changes.

Board Training Opportunities

A WASB School Law Seminar is being held on October 20 in Madison and a WASB Legislative Advocacy Conference is being held on November 4 in Stevens Point.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – September 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2017

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

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Cates moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts of \$60 to Fund 21 for families in need from an anonymous donor and \$2,987.27 for 2017-18 freshman football coaching salary; \$2,987.27 for 2017-18 freshman volleyball coaching salary; \$9,800 for two scoreboards for the high school; \$400 for HUDL service for wrestling; \$1,598 for Krossover service for boys and

girls basketball; and \$1,099 for Krossover service for volleyball, all from the Athletic Booster Club. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

Jennings moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Resignation from Kirsty Fahey, Special Education Teacher at Arena, contingent upon her payment of the \$3,000 liquidated damages fee. Iausly seconded. It was noted that Kirsty has done a great job and the vacancy has been posted. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Iausly responded to Don Brander's earlier public comments regarding Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings stating that we must follow the open meetings law and parliamentary procedure. Items can be requested to be on future agendas. Several other Board members agreed with the clarification. McGuire noted that open meetings law are vague and feels that the policy infringes on freedom of speech and gives the President more power than other Board members. Strozinsky added that having discussion on topics that are not on the agenda, but brought up during public comments, fails to give required notice to the rest of the public. Young moved to approve the second reading of Policy 345.5 Graduation Requirements and Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried with McGuire opposed.

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy 350 Youth Options Program (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program), Policy 351 Summer School Programs, Policy 361 Selection of Instructional Materials, and Policy 361 Rule Selection Guidelines. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

The Committee heard a presentation from Eagle Scout candidate Bryce Thier proposing to build a GaGa Ball pit on the Spring Green campus playground. Bryce will come back in the future with sponsorship and funding ideas. The Committee forwarded a recommendation regarding the Middle School HVAC system to the Budget Committee for action. They also discussed repairs needed on the high school track and the need to look further at long term facility needs.

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

The Budget Committee recommends proceeding with an Energy Exemption Agreement for 2018-19 and 2019-20. This item is listed later on this agenda for discussion and action by the full Board.

The Budget Committee recommends proceeding with the recommendation by the School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee to work with CESA #10 to hire a contractor to clean penthouses, coils, and ducts in the middle school. This could be covered with the maintenance budget. Strozinsky moved to work with CESA #10 to hire a contractor for HVAC cleaning at the middle school. Iausly seconded. Wermuth noted we will continue to pursue whether Kilgust was responsible for these items and seek reimbursement if it was their responsibility. Motion carried.

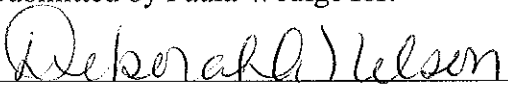
The next Budget meeting is November 6 at 5:00 pm.

Consideration & Action to Proceed With CESA #10 on Energy Exemption Expenditure Process
Representatives from CESA #10 were present and noted that Governor Walker is discontinuing the use of energy exemption expenditures in January 2018 and presented a timeline if River Valley plans to proceed. This program allows us to raise revenue outside the revenue limit. In order to meet the timeline, a budget amount would need to be approved by the Board at tonight's meeting. Then the list of facilities projects previously identified by the district would need to be prioritized and bids would be sought.

Cates moved to adopt a resolution to authorize up to \$2.0 million in costs for energy exemption projects during 2018-19 and 2019-20. Young seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk