

River Valley School District
Thursday, October 28, 2010
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Taylor, Cates, Bettinger, Cummings, Caraway, Nelson, Peach

Absent: Crowley, Ferguson

Admin: Benson, Hegland, Radtke, Hayek

Others: Todd Miller, Deb Miller, Caroline Hamblen, Tom Wermuth, Paula Wedige
(Administrative Assistant)

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. Cummings moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor provided a legislative update and noted that the State Superintendent's annual State of Education Address focused on Tony Evers' plans to change the state's school funding formula. Also, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan launched a national teacher recruitment campaign to attract replacements for 1.5 million teachers expected to retire nationally over the next decade. Other topics of interest were: state SAT results exceed national average; a new nationwide principal-training initiative was unveiled; competitive grants will be awarded to high school charter management organizations; Wisconsin gets federal grant for safer schools; a bipartisan "roadmap" for the next governor, Legislature, and private sector leaders has been finalized; a report on the nationwide impact of economic crisis on schools was released; data indicates poverty on the rise in Wisconsin; a study ranking school funding systems in the 50 states was released; virtual charter school enrollment is up slightly in Wisconsin; and figures released by DPI indicate that 37% of local school districts will see their state general aid increase while 63% will receive less than they did last year.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson noted there is a Legislative Conference on November 13 in Wisconsin Dells. The Milwaukee convention will be held January 19-21.

Student Council Report

No report.

Receipt of Grants from Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair

The Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair Committee awarded \$3,439 in grant monies to various groups in the district. In addition, they awarded a grant to APT for \$5,000 to send middle school and high school students to attend the "Gift of the Magi."

Update on October 26 Candidate Forum on School Funding Issues

Representatives from the Board, RVEA, and RVEST hosted a candidate forum on school funding issues. The consensus of candidates Schultz, Beals, Marklein, and Simonson was that funding of schools is at a crisis level but ideas on how to fix the issue were varied.

Review Charter School Contract Between District and Charter School Governing Council

The Board previously approved the application for a \$150,000 DPI charter school planning grant which was awarded to the district. The River Valley Elementary Studio School (RVESS) Governing Council provided a draft agreement between the RVSD and the RVESS. There were questions pertaining to financial commitment. The Board would need to decide if the hiring of a teacher would be appropriate. It was noted that only one other district of the 31 districts in CESA #3 has a charter school, which makes this a unique attraction for families. The two entities will discuss the agreement again at the November Board meeting.

Referendum Update and Discussion

There was discussion about some hesitation in the community to support the November 2, 2010, referendum since it is recurring. It was explained that if the revenue cap is discontinued, the referendum becomes null and void since the Board would lose its authority to exceed the cap if it is no longer in place. It was noted that even with the passage of the referendum, the district will still need to make significant cuts and/or reduce expenses for 2011-12 and beyond.

Public Comments/Open Forum

President Taylor expressed her need to be excused from the meeting if it exceeds 9:00 p.m. Vice President Caraway would then reside over the meeting in her absence. Cates shared information pertaining to his recent visit to Honduras.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – September 2010; Open Session Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2010 and October 7, 2010

Cummings moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

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

Bettinger moved to approve the first reading of Policy #733-Energy Management with a minor edit and a cross reference to the Building Use Form. Peach seconded. Motion carried.

Caraway moved to approve the first reading of Policy #345.1-Rule 1 – Cum Laude Honors Courses. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy #352 Field Trips and the related Exhibit 1, 2, and 3 (Student Health Information Form for Overnight Field Trips, School Field Trip Checklist, and Bus Request Form) with minor edits. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of an anonymous donation of \$300 for the school fair. Peach seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Cummings moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts to Fund 21 for needy students and their families as follows: \$200 from the Spring Green Moms Club; \$50 from an anonymous donor; and \$5,000 from Eric and Irene Rapp. Peach seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Cummings moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts for the Lone Rock lasagna garden as follows: 6 hay bales valued at \$300 total from Donald Dolan; 3 hours of hauler rental valued at \$75 total from Harold Gies; and 3 hours of hauling time valued at \$105 total from Mr. Jedlicka. Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried. Hegland thanked Roger Reynolds for coordinating the donations for the Lone Rock lasagna garden.

Consideration & Action on School Levy Credit Resolution

The Board discussed the School Levy Credit Resolution which seeks to correct the school levy credit dollars and distribute to Wisconsin schools. Cates moved to adopt the School Levy Credit Resolution. Cummings seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Providing for the Tax Levy and Budget Change for the Year 2010

Hayek proposed budget changes from the annual meeting which net a \$0 change to the budget. Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Tax Levy and Budget Change for the Year 2010. Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for 2011–13 RVEA Collective Bargaining and 2011–13 RVEST Collective Bargaining

Peach moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:42 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for 2011–13 RVEA Collective Bargaining and 2011–13 RVEST Collective Bargaining. Bettinger seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige For:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk