

River Valley School District
Thursday, November 10, 2022
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Carstensen, Minich, Jennings, Cates, Iausly, Young, Maier (arrived 7:03 p.m.)

Absent: Bettinger

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Peterson, Blakley, Radtke

Others: Shawn Duren, Brittiney Belche, Jordyn Wendhausen, Judy Ettenhoffer (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. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

No report given.

Discuss Process for District Administrator Annual Evaluation and Administrator Annual Evaluations

The same evaluation form that was used last year will be used again. Board members will complete and return to Wedige to consolidate. Glasbrenner will give the Board his self-evaluation and an annual review will be conducted at the December Board meeting. Glasbrenner will also share annual evaluations of administrators with the Board.

Maier arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Annual Report on Reimbursable Leave Sharing Program

There are currently 482.55 hours in the leave sharing bank. Per the employee handbook, staff members were able to donate days to the bank during the first two weeks in September.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

The second quarter started on November 1. There is a career fair at the high school next week and Glasbrenner, Krey, and 2nd Grade Teacher Marissa Anderson will represent River Valley School District as a local employer. Winter sports have started and final exam results for first semester have been shared with families. Our district has been chosen to be part of a CESA 3 grant to get a Fab Lab on campus and area districts would use our facility in the evenings for technology education. If the grant is awarded, it could be \$400,000 in equipment.

High school and middle school academic and climate teams have been meeting. At the middle school, exploratory courses have started for the new nine weeks and the recent Halloween party hosted by student council was a success. At the elementary level, many parent/teacher conferences were done via phone and there are Veterans Day programs tomorrow. November 22 is a half day for all students, and all staff will meet in the afternoon for activities focused on climate and culture.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Glasbrenner will attend an online WASB workshop “Connecting with Lawmakers.”

Legislative Update

No report given.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – October 2022; Open Session Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2022, Regular Meeting and October 24, 2022, Special Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Review of “Safe Return to In-School Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan”

Upon return to school after COVID, every school district was required to provide a “Safe Return to In-School Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan” and update the plan every 6 months. This most recent review prompted a discussion of the COVID procedures we are currently following. We learned that many districts near us have pulled back and we are more strict than most. Our nurses have been getting backlash from families when trying to implement our guidelines. Also, 90% of parents tell us student COVID test results are negative and we don’t really have any proof.

Consultation with our medical advisor, Dr. Furukawa, showed that he is not seeing a big difference with COVID case count when comparing our district to others with less rules. There is currently more influenza now than COVID. When reviewing two options suggested by administration and the nurses, Dr. Furukawa recommends option 1 as follows: If you are ill, stay home; after testing positive for COVID-19, students/staff must isolate for up to 5 days but could return to school earlier with a mask if symptoms are improving and he/she is fever free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours—masking would be recommended through day 10 unless a negative antigen test is produced upon return to school; masks for students/staff returning from a positive COVID-19 test may be lifted at school if a negative antigen test is produced; household contacts—recommended masking; continued CDC education shared from our nursing team; and no requirement to test negative to return.

Option 2 is as follows: If you are ill, stay home; after testing positive, COVID-19 will be treated as all other communicable diseases; students/staff can return to school if symptoms are improving and he/she is fever free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours—masking would be recommended; household contacts—recommended masking; continued CDC education shared from our nursing team; and no requirement to test negative to return.

When asked, our nurses feel comfortable with either option. Cates moved to approve option 2 and to treat COVID like other communicable diseases. Young seconded. Iausly thinks we should go with Dr. Furukawa’s recommendation, which still includes some days of masking. It was noted that anyone can still wear a mask, which we can provide. We would still recommend wearing a mask through day 10. It was noted that we would still monitor community thresholds for building specific masking but the day to day procedures will change. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Jennings, Cates, Minich, Maier, Young, Carstensen

Against the motion: Iausly, Nelson

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Bettinger

Polled vote was 6-2 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Curriculum and Instruction Committee Recommendations

Glasbrenner noted that more assessment data will be available soon from standardized testing but 2021-22 data is still embargoed. When looking at last year's scores and trends, we have some work to do. However, ACT scores were encouraging. He stated that all curriculum is now documented on the district website and the Committee is discussing a five-year plan to review curriculum by department and get a renewal cycle established. Teacher Professional Learning Communities meet weekly and 25 staff members will meet next week as part of the staff level curriculum and instruction group.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Jennings moved to delete Policy 223.31 Early Retirement for Administrators and to approve the second reading of the following policies: 373 Fundraising Activities; 448 High School Yearbook Senior Portrait Photo; ~~523-428/528~~ Communicable Diseases; ~~523-Rule~~ 428 Rule/528 Rule Guidelines and Procedures Regarding Communicable Disease; ~~523-Exhibit~~ 428 Exhibit/528 Exhibit Periods of Exclusion from School with Infectious Conditions; 523.2 Employee Treatment for Chemical Dependency or Mental Illness; 534 Resignation of Professional Staff Members; and 536 Professional Staff Evaluation. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 362 Library Media Centers; 524.4 Staff/Student Relationships; 722.5 Sudden Death or Suicide (Prevention and Response); 722.67 Public Access Defibrillator Program; 727 Concussion Management; 744 Creating and Placing Web Pages; 760 Food Services Management; 761 Free and Reduced Price Food Services; 762 Automated Lunch/Breakfast Program; 762.1 Food Service Collection and Non-Payment; and 762.1 Rule Food Service Collection and Non-Payment. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

The Committee discussed the budget that was set for 2022-23 at the annual meeting. Continuing discussions include a potential solar program at River Valley Elementary, the high CPI projection (which is the maximum we can give staff for base wages), and potential options for short term disability insurance for staff.

A \$10,000 grant was awarded to our district from the Department of Health Services to be used in one of three ways—hire more nurses, increase current nursing staff from part time to full time, or provide retention bonuses for nursing staff. As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to use a \$10,354.16 grant from the Department of Health Services to pay bonuses to our nurses per an addendum to each of their contracts. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Minich moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting gifts as follows: \$1,200 for a coach bus to Lake Country Lutheran for boys soccer team from Davidson Drywall LLC; \$316.49 for Fastdraw and Fastscout bundle for girls basketball team from the Athletic Booster Club; \$316.49 for Fastdraw and Fastscout bundle for boys basketball team from the Athletic Booster Club; \$500 for a pottery wheel for the middle school art department from "Eureka Grant" from River Valley Arts Inc.; trumpet valued at \$650 to the Middle School Music Department from Andy Knutson; and trumpet valued at \$200 and a guitar valued at \$100 to the Middle School Music Department

from Peggy Radel. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Bettinger absent. Motion carried.

Carstensen moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of a donation of masonry work for columns at stadium entrance valued at \$3,300 from Strine Design Masonry LLC. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Bettinger absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 7:54 pm. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

 Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk