

River Valley School District
Thursday, November 18, 2010
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Taylor, Cates, Bettinger, Caraway, Nelson, Peach, Crowley, Ferguson (arrived 7:05 pm), Jenna Hopkins (Student Rep), Megan Spude (Student Rep)

Absent: Cummings

Admin: Benson, Hegland, Radtke, Hayek, Stotts

Others: Todd Miller, Deb Miller, Caroline Hamblen, Tom Wermuth, Colleen Madden, Bev Smigielski, Tara Johnson, Warren Hoyer, Andrew Kerr, Jean Alt, Al MacKenzie, Nathaniel Dresser, David Saperstein, Julie Kuhse, Timm Zumm, James Ridge, 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. Crowley moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Update on Revisions Related to the Proposed Charter School Contract Between River Valley School District (RVSD) and River Valley Elementary Studio School (RVES) Governing Council

There was discussion until 8:30 p.m. regarding the proposed charter school. Members of the RVES Governing Council were present—Todd Miller, Caroline Hamblen, Deb Miller, Colleen Madden, and Tom Wermuth.

The focus of the proposed charter school would be project-based and placed-based learning and arts integration for students in grades K-5. This school would be an additional public school and not a private school. They would follow common core standards and adhere to state testing requirements. There would be multiage classrooms, similar to some classrooms already in our district, but core curriculum would have an added emphasis on integration of art, phy. ed., and music.

A letter was sent to K-5 families to gauge interest in a charter school. The site for the charter school could be an off campus lease or within a current district school building. Benson spoke that he is not in favor of a lease agreement due to projected financial deficits. Changes made to the draft contract between the RVES and the Board of Education since the October 28 Board meeting were discussed.

It was noted that budget and staffing discussions need to be held. The charter grant has already paid for some staff training which also benefits our existing schools. There is concern by Board members regarding budget needs of the charter school but interest in potential revenue by bringing additional students into our public schools (home-school families, open enrollment families, new families). A joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the RVES Governing Council was set for December 9 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the formal agreement.

There are public informational meetings regarding the charter school scheduled for December 6 and January 11.

Legislative Update

Taylor provided a legislative update and encouraged Board members to contact newly-appointed members of the Joint Finance Committee. She noted that results of school referendum elections were 11 of 21 passing and 10 of 21 failing. State Superintendent Evers will unveil a funding reform proposal for 2011-13.

Board Training Opportunities

Taylor, Nelson, and Caraway will be attending the annual WASB Convention in Milwaukee in January. Benson and Hayek will also be attending.

WASB Convention - January 19-21, 2011

(See "Board Training Opportunities" above.)

Student Council Report

Jenna Hopkins and Megan Spude reported that the "super fan" recognition of members of the student body during athletic events has been a success. Music in the halls between classes on Fridays will continue and a holiday assembly is being planned.

School Law Seminar Update

Taylor attended a school law seminar which focused on use of e-mail by Board members, such as to avoid "walking quorums" or interactive conversations between more than two Board members.

Public Comments/Open Forum

No comments.

Discussion of the Process and Timeline for Future Budget Reductions and/or Revenue Increases

It was noted that there is an April timeline for preliminary notice of reductions in teaching staff. Negotiations have already started with the RVEA and the RVEST will begin soon. The Board would like to see a list of potential budget cuts by early February. A Budget Committee meeting was set for December 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – October 2010; Open Session Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2010

Peach moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Charter School Contract Between River Valley School District (RVSD) and River Valley Elementary Studio School (RVESS) Governing Council

Cates moved to table the charter school contract until December 9. Caraway seconded.

Cates moved to amend the original motion to revise it to table discussion and action on the charter school contract until the December 9 Board meeting. Caraway seconded. Motion on the amendment carried.

Cates moved to amend the original motion to add to move forward in good faith with charter school planning but to delay approval of the contract. Crowley seconded. Motion on the amendment carried.

The original motion with the two amendments was voted on— to table discussion and action on the charter school contract until the December 9 Board meeting and to move forward in good faith with charter school planning but to delay approval of the contract. Motion carried.

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

Crowley moved to approve the second reading of Policy #733-Energy Management which is a new policy. Peach seconded. Motion carried.

Bettinger moved to approve the second reading of Policy #345.1-Rule 1 – Cum Laude Honors Courses. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to approve the second 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). Cates seconded. Motion carried.

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

Ferguson moved to approve the first reading of Policy #345.1 – Rule 2 – Cum Laude Chart with minor changes to close the gap in the point system using “.99” for cum laude and magna cum laude. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Peach moved to approve the first reading of Policy #830-Rule – Facilities Use Regulations and Policy #830-Exhibit – Facilities Use Request Form to note that user fees should be paid prior to using district facilities. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on the Process and Timeline for Future Budget Reductions and/or Revenue Increases

Crowley moved to defer this item to the Budget Committee. Cates seconded. The Budget Committee will bring a recommendation to the full Board by February. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for 2011–13 RVEA Collective Bargaining, 2011–13 RVEST Collective Bargaining, and Progress Report on Administrative Realignment for 2010-11; and 19.85(1)(e) for River Valley Elementary Studio School (RVESS) Building Lease Options

Bettinger moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:20 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for 2011–13 RVEA Collective Bargaining, 2011–13 RVEST Collective Bargaining, and Progress Report on Administrative Realignment for 2010-11; and 19.85(1)(e) for River Valley Elementary Studio School (RVESS) Building Lease Options. Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige For:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk