

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Regular Meeting

Middle School Library

7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Peach

Administration: Benson, Hayek, Radtke, Hegland, Palm-Leis, Hoffman

Others: Sue Sadler, Ellen LaLuzerne, Diane Been, Ramona Villarreal, Billie Jo Larsen, Eileen Brownlee (General Counsel), Paula Wedige (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 continuation of the QEO law is in serious question. School board members are encouraged to begin contacting their legislators. Taylor noted that there are 5 candidates for State Superintendent. After the February 17 primary, two candidates will be on the ballot for April 7. A group of senators are attempting to scale back the Federal Stimulus Plan and have proposed a series of reductions that would affect education funding. In addition, the WASB Delegate Assembly approved resolutions that relate to the new School Finance Network plan, which is intended to develop a common framework for agreement on school finance improvement among K-12 related organizations. Lastly, the 2009-11 state budget proposal deadline has been extended again to February 17 in order to incorporate the federal stimulus dollars once they become law.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson reported that there is an Effective Bargaining seminar on March 6 in Madison. There is also a Day at the Capitol seminar on March 18.

Student Council Report

Shaffer noted that the student council sponsored a “data match” as a way for students to meet other students within the high school who have similar likes and interests. They are also talking about ways to improve the annual Snowball Dance.

River Valley Community Learning Foundation Grant Awards

The River Valley Community Learning Foundation awarded two grants to the district—\$650 grant to support the Parenting Place Speakers Series and \$1,000 grant to the middle school to perform “A Comedy of Errors.”

Wisconsin Middle School of Excellence Award from the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators

The River Valley Middle School was awarded the Wisconsin School of Excellence for middle-sized middle schools.

Hearings on Three Petitions to Alter School District Boundaries

There was a hearing regarding three petitions to alter school district boundaries through land transfers. Land owners Wesley and Billie Jo Larsen petitioned to transfer property from the River Valley School District into the Sauk Prairie School District. Land owners William and Diane Been also petitioned to transfer property—both from the River Valley School District into Sauk Prairie School District and from Sauk Prairie into River Valley. If approved, these land transfers would result in a gain of property value for River Valley but a loss in revenue due to student attendance being moved from River Valley to Sauk Prairie. It was noted that under open enrollment, the families could fulfill their desire to have their children/grandchildren attend Sauk Prairie, while keeping their property in River Valley, and River Valley would retain partial open enrollment revenue. Both River Valley and Sauk Prairie School Boards must act on each petition. Sauk has approved all three.

Public Comments/Open Forum

River Valley School District staff member, Ramona Villarreal, read a statement to the Board regarding discrimination and harassment she has allegedly experienced over the past 10 years at River Valley School District by Superintendent Jamie Benson. Benson stated that he does not believe there has been any harassment or discrimination on his part or on the part of the school district.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – January 2009; Open Session Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2009

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

Consideration & Action on Approval or Denial of Three Petitions to Alter School District Boundaries

Pronold moved to approve the petition filed by William and Diane Been to transfer property from the River Valley School District into the Sauk Prairie School District as presented earlier in the meeting. Crowley seconded. Roll call:

For the motion: Cates, Crowley, Cummings, Pronold
Against the motion: Caraway, Ferguson, Nelson, Taylor
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Peach

Polled vote was 4-4 with 1 absent. Legal counsel advised the Board that this vote operates as a denial. Motion denied.

Legal counsel also advised the Board that they could vote again at a future meeting as long as they met the March 1 deadline to act on petitions to alter school district boundaries.

Ferguson moved to table action on the petition filed by William and Diane Been to transfer property from the River Valley School District into Sauk Prairie School District. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to table action on the petition filed by Wesley and Billie Jo Larson to transfer property from the River Valley School District into the Sauk Prairie School District. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to table action on the petition filed by William and Diane Been to transfer property from the Sauk Prairie School District into River Valley School District. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Special Meeting Date

The Board agreed unanimously to set a special meeting for Thursday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

Consideration & Action on Teacher Retirements

Crowley moved to approve the retirement of Barb Baxter, Middle School Social Studies Teacher, effective May 1, 2009. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Caraway moved to approve the retirement of Rose Ellen Schneider, High School Librarian, effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Pronold moved to approve the retirement of Paul Cummings, High School Special Education Teacher, effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Caraway moved to approve the retirement of Barb Pratt, Spring Green Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

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

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

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy #743 - Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Internet, and Electronic Mail and Policy #743-Rule - Student Agreement/Consent Form - Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Internet, and Electronic Mail to update these policies to comply with governmental requirements for Internet and electronic mail safety and security measures to be in compliance with the district's required three year Tech Plan. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Ratification of 2009-10 and 2010-11 School Calendars

Crowley moved to approve the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school calendars. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Girls Ice Hockey Co-op

Pronold moved to approve River Valley's participation in the girls ice hockey co-op at a fee of \$150, with the one player from River Valley paying an \$80 athletic fee. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of holding an expulsion hearing and 19.85(1)(a) and 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of deliberating and acting thereon; 19.85(1)(e) and (g) for Discussion of Legal and Financial Matters Related to Previous Transportation Contracts; and 19.85(1)(c), (f), and (g) for Discussion of Employee Unpaid Leave of Absence Request and Consult With Legal Counsel

Crowley moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:20 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of holding an expulsion hearing and 19.85(1)(a) and 19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of deliberating and acting thereon; 19.85(1)(e) and (g) for Discussion of Legal and Financial Matters Related to Previous Transportation Contracts; and 19.85(1)(c), (f), and (g) for

Discussion of Employee Unpaid Leave of Absence Request and Consult With Legal Counsel.
Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:46 p.m.

Consideration & Action on Employee Unpaid Leave of Absence Request

Crowley moved to deny an unpaid leave of absence for Lynn Bever and to deny her request for continuation of health insurance. Pronold seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to adjourn at 10:47 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige For:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk