

River Valley School District
Thursday, February 9, 2012
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Cummings, Caraway, Taylor, Nelson, Bettinger, Peach, Ferguson, Cates, Luke Drachenberg (Student Representative)

Absent: Crowley

Admin: Krey, Benson, Hegland, Kaukl

Others: Stacie Nelson, Linda Kettner, Dan Kettner, Karen Wilkinson, Bob Churchill, Tim Harrington, Nick Ehlinger, Becky Miller, Shari Graffunder, Michele Radlinger, Susie Hauri, Jean Alt, Joanne Brown, Monica Reeve, James Russell, Dede Holverson, Jan von Stein, Jeff Ganser, Shannon Ganser, Cheryl Ross, Judy Van Sluys, Linda Schwanke (Home News), 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. Bettinger moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor provide a legislative update to include that the open enrollment window has been extended to 3 months and non-renewal and intent dates have been revised.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson reported that there is a School Finance seminar on March 3 in Stevens Point.

Student Council Report

Luke Drachenberg stated that there will be a high school dance on February 18. The SADD group is organizing sponsorship of events to be held on Friday nights. There is currently a ping-pong tournament being held during lunch time for students.

River Valley Elementary Studio School (RVESS) Update

Deb Miller noted that the contract is up for renewal in March. There will be a draft of changes after the February 13 RVESS Governing Council Meeting. There have been many visitors to the RVESS and increased interaction with the community and parents. A project night is being held on February 28 at the Green TECC Building in Plain.

Benson noted that the RVESS will seek renewal of the contract at the March 8 Board meeting. There was some discussion regarding the RVESS not currently being served by music, art, phy ed, and tech ed teachers in the district. There were questions on enrollment and it was noted that every application has been accepted—not exclusive enrollment. There are 14 students outside of the district that are interested in enrollment for 2012-13.

Discussion of Middle School Charter School Options and Possible Application Process

Radtke noted that parent meetings have been ongoing and plans are to proceed with the application at this time. The deadline is April 16 and Board approved will be needed at the March 8 Board meeting. It was reiterated that the middle school charter would start in the 2013-14 school year and be a place-based model and not arts integrated. Much will remain the same with improvements and innovations. Radtke referenced a question and answer document that is available to help provide information to parents and community.

Discuss Employee Health Insurance Options

The administration and staff representatives have been speaking jointly with an outside consultant about health insurance options that could save money through a CESA #3 health insurance consortium.

What's New? An Update on Continuous School District Improvements

There is a new staff committee working together to improve public relations for the district. The following 40 minutes of the Board meeting were spent listening to 22 district teachers briefly share classroom happenings in the district.

Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital Healthy Life Initiative Grant

The Wellness Committee received a grant from the Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital for \$1,100.

Public Comments/Open Forum

Benson invited staff members to join the new public relations staff committee. Cates expressed his interest in the Farm to School initiative which puts volunteers in schools to coordinate local food in schools.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – January 2012; Open Session Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2012

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

Consideration & Action on Business Manager Resignation

Bettinger moved to accept the resignation of Business Manager Brian Krey effective February 17, 2012. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Options for a Memorandum of Understanding With RVEA and RVEST

No discussion. No action.

Consideration & Action on Teacher Retirements

Cummings moved to accept the retirement of Kathy Peetz at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Cummings moved to accept the retirement of Dick Woppert at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to accept the retirement of Roger Kraemer at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Authorizing Teacher Contract Renewals and Issuance of Letters of Intent

Recent law changes have extended the timeline. No action.

Consideration & Action on 2012-13 CESA #5 Service Contract

Bettinger moved to approve the 2012-13 CESA #5 Service Contract. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

The Budget Committee recommended tabling discussion regarding consolidation of elementary schools and only address if the need arises and the Board directs revaluation by the Committee. The Committee determined consolidation is fiscally irresponsible at this time.

Ferguson moved that until it is fiscally responsible to consider action, the Board table discussion of consolidation of elementary schools. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

The committee made no recommendations at this time. No action.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts and Related Job Duties and Update on RVEST Level IV Grievance

Peach moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:45 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts and Related Job Duties and Update on RVEST Level IV Grievance. Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk