

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Regular Meeting

Middle School Library

7:00 p.m.

Present: Pronold, Cummings, Nelson, Ferguson, Peach, Cates, Crowley, Taylor, Caraway, Brooke Hogan (Student Rep), Richie Pulvermacher (Student Rep)

Absent: N/A

Admin: Benson, Kaukl, Hegland, Hayek, Radtke, Palm-Leis, Briehl

Others: Michelle Orcutt, Steve Roberts, Susie Hauri, Jean Alt, Sue Sadler, Ron Troxel, Misty Fredrick, Jason Hollenberger, John Bettinger, Herman Kaldenberg, David Giffey (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. Ferguson moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor provided an update and noted that 6 of 8 Wisconsin referendums were approved during February elections. There has been discussion of the SAGE ratio being adjusted from 15:1 to 18:1.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson noted that there is an Effective Bargaining Seminar on March 12 in Madison and a New Board Member Gathering on April 22 in Fennimore.

Student Council Report

Student council representatives noted that they will hold a spring assembly/pie throwing contest to raise money for Haiti. Caraway urged the student council representatives to attend future Resource Planning Team meetings. The next meeting is March 25.

WKCE Standardized Test Report and Related Reading Initiative

Benson noted that 2009-10 WKCE test results will be available for next month's Board meeting. Last year, River Valley met or exceeded the state average in 16 of 23 tests. Administration is working with staff on improvement plans for 8th and 10th grade reading scores.

Resource Planning Team Update

Approximately 50 people attended the February 25 Resource Planning Team Meeting (formerly known as "Process Planning Team.") Financial and course offerings information was provided and this information is posted on the website. The Committee was involved in an affinity process for ideas to resolve future budget deficits. The Committee will meet on March 25 and form sub-committees.

Charter School Grant Application Update

Parental interest has steered the grant application toward the level of K-5 students. An executive summary was provided which outlined the focus on project-based learning for 20 students served by one full time staff member. Although the River Valley School Board would control the budget, the charter school would have a governing council. This would be the first charter school in CESA #3. There is no location proposed at this time. The application deadline is April 15 for the initial year of this grant process. If financial factors related to the proposed charter

school become overbearing, the district may cancel the project. It was noted that grant money may not pay teacher salary.

Public Comments/Open Forum

Kaukl reported that Carla Carmody, High School Technology Education Teacher, received an Award of Excellence from the Wisconsin Technology Education Association and the high school mock trial team ranks among the top in Wisconsin.

Herman Kaldenberg stated that he appreciates the change to K-5 level for the charter school application and recommends cutting as presented to balance the 2010-11 budget and to not deplete fund balance.

It was noted that a two-year Fresh Fruit and Veggie Grant has been filed for Lone Rock Elementary and that the high school musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," will be held at the Touchtone Theater at APT from March 18 to March 21.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – February 2010; Open Session Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2010

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

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

Pronold moved to approve the recommendation of the Budget Committee to approve the boys hockey co-op with Sauk Prairie School District, with the parents of participants paying all the costs. Caraway seconded. Motion carried with Crowley opposed.

Pronold moved to approve the recommendation of the Budget Committee to approve the list of budget reductions for 2010-11 proposed by administration, with the exception of items #8 (closure of alternative education doublewide classroom) and #12 (5% athletic budget reductions). Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 8-1 with Crowley opposed. Motion carried.

There was some discussion of an alternate budget reduction scenario submitted by Crowley, which was presented to the Budget Committee. He proposed a \$400 cap per sport, per athlete and a pay freeze for all staff for 2010-11. There was some discussion regarding transportation expenses for sports. The Board requested further discussion of athletic expenses to occur at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Consideration & Action on Potential Budget Cuts for 2010-11

(See "Budget Committee Recommendations" immediately above.)

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Teacher Resignations

Ferguson moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Teacher Resignation for Jeff Sawyer, High School Guidance Counselor, effective March 5, 2010. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Teacher Resignation for Deidre Lueneburg, Elementary Speech and Language Pathologist, effective at the end of the 2009-10 school year. Cummings seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on CESA #5 Services Contract

Crowley moved to approve the 2010-11 CESA #5 Services Contract for distance learning and audiology at a cost of \$14,379. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Charter School Grant Application

Ferguson moved to approve the Charter School Grant Application. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Non-Union Support Staff Retirement Benefits and Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts

Pronold moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:57 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Non-Union Support Staff Retirement Benefits and Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts. Crowley seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige For:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk