

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Regular Meeting

Middle School Library

7:00 p.m.

Board: Cates, Crowley, Paula Caraway, Nelson, Taylor, Pronold, Cummings, Ferguson, Peach, Elizabeth Heiser (Student Council Representative)

Absent: N/A

Administration: Benson, Hayek, Radtke, Hegland, Briehl, Kaukl, Hoffman

Others: Sue Sadler, Linda Kettner, Mary Gutknecht, Michelle Weiss, Karen Wilkinson, Jean Alt, Brenda Degenhardt, Carla Carmody, Rose Ellen Schneider, Linda Thering, Lewis Lama, Michele Radlinger, Mike Spude, Tara Johnson, Susan Gereau, Andrea Sullivan, Andrea Kinney, Lisa Bowen, Kathy Harris, Laura Heintz, Cristy Cornelius, Dawn Eno, Jamie Licht, Shawn Duren, 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. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor stated that Governor Doyle announced his 2009-11 state budget, which relies heavily on federal stimulus dollars. Doyle intends to introduce legislation separate from the state budget to reform Wisconsin's school financing system. School Boards are asked to adopt resolutions supporting the QEO to counter the Governor's proposal to repeal the QEO.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson reported that there is an Effective Bargaining seminar on March 27 in Eau Claire. There is also a Day at the Capitol seminar on March 18.

Student Council Report

Elizabeth Heiser noted that the student council will begin offering a "welcome basket" to new students.

River Valley School District received national certification for its Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program, which promotes science, technology, engineering, and math. Two representatives from PLTW presented the certificate.

Discuss Change of Date for April Regular Board Meeting

The April Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

SAGE Compliance

Benson noted that over the past few months, the administrative team has been gathering and discussing ideas and options from staff, Board members, parents, and community members on how to meet SAGE class size compliance in the 2009-10 school year. In order to balance class sizes, a future proposal will likely include a combination of transferring staff between buildings, creating additional multiage classrooms, and limiting new kindergarteners to attendance sites other than Spring Green Elementary. Several parents and teachers spoke about the desire to keep multiage classrooms small or to include only grades above the Kindergarten level. Other options discussed were changing elementary attendance boundaries, bussing to balance, or building classrooms at Arena Elementary. Teacher transfer options were also discussed.

The idea to add a 4 Year Old Kindergarten program to the district was discussed briefly. This program could be done as a community-based program at an existing daycare facility and the district would receive state funding, including some start-up grant monies.

Ferguson noted that long range planning for years beyond the current referendum should include discussion of building a new consolidated elementary attendance site for the entire district.

Technology Plan Overview and Technology Presentation

This portion of the Board meeting was held in the Middle School Computer Lab where Carl Hayek, Shawn Duren, Rose Ellen Schneider, and Linda Thering presented the district 2009-11 Technology Plan. The plan is available on our district web site. It was noted that the district has implemented a new web site.

Public Comments/Open Forum

No discussion.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – February 2009; Open Session Meeting Minutes – February 12 and 26, 2009

Crowley moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted, but without the February 26, 2009, minutes. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

Ferguson moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to accept Long Life's \$101,080 bid for labor and Milwaukee Insulation's \$50,900 bid for materials to repair high school roof sections 8A, 8D, 8E. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Cummings moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to maintain banking services through People's Community Bank. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

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

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy #653.1 – Free Admissions with a minor revision to reflect that citizens 62 years of age or older may receive a free athletic pass. Pronold seconded. Motion carried.

Ferguson moved to approve the first reading of Policy #345.1 - Grading Systems to add language pertaining to the Cum Laude System to be effective starting with the Class of 2011 and to add #345.1-Rule 1 and #345.1-Rule 2 related to the Cum Laude System. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy #345.4 - Academic Honors to add language pertaining to the Cum Laude System to be effective starting with the Class of 2011 and to add a cross reference to Policy #345.1- Grading Systems. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to approve the first reading of Policy #345.52(a) - Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program to add language pertaining to the Cum Laude System to be effective starting with the Class of 2011 and to add a cross reference to Policy #345.1- Grading Systems. Pronold seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve changes to the high school student handbook, "Recognition of Seniors," to add language pertaining to the Cum Laude System to be effective starting with the Class of 2011. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on CESA #3 Services Contract

Pronold moved to approve the 2009-10 CESA #3 Services Contract of \$59,042. Ferguson seconded. This represents a decrease of \$5,111 from 2008-09. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on CESA #5 Services Contract

Ferguson moved to approve the 2009-10 CESA #5 Services Contract of \$16,847.90. Cummings seconded. This represents a decrease of \$1,952.10 from 2008-09. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on District Technology Plan

Cates moved to adopt the 2009-11 District Technology Plan as presented earlier in the meeting. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes

19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts

Cates moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:39 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for 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