

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Regular Meeting

Arena Elementary Gym

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, Hegland, Briehl, Kaukl

Others: Alan Green, Karen Wilkinson, Andrea Kinney, Roger Sheard, Shannon Shelton-Ganser, Laura Waldsmith, Lisa Bowen, Sue Sadler, Terry Webb (MATC), Vera Riley (MATC), Jean Alt, Tim Eastlick, Sharon Jeardeau, Heather Terrill Stotts, Michelle Weiss, Joyce Portz, Dee Swenson, Amery Harrington, Crystal King, Jessica Gilbert, Joyce Mason, Wanda Kratochwill, Joannie Harrington, 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. Peach moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor noted that WASB is asking school boards to adopt resolutions supporting the QEO to counter the governor's claims that school boards have been asking him to remove the QEO law. The fear is that the QEO law would be repealed while leaving the revenue cap in place.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson noted there is a WASB New Board Member Gathering for Area 10 on April 22 and a WASB Spring Academy on Board Governance and Policy Services on May 9.

Student Council Report

Elizabeth Heiser reported that the student council is discussing a weekly newsletter for students and the idea of "welcome baskets" for new students.

MATC Programs Available to River Valley Students

Representatives from MATC, Dr. Vera Riley and Terry Webb, gave a presentation about MATC partnerships with River Valley and ways to improve relationships with MATC.

Creative Learning Facilitator (CLF) Position Update

Heather Terrill Stotts provided an update on this second year of the CLF position. She explained how this position has focused on staying connected to district goals such as community relations, literacy goals, creativity, and staff development. Stotts noted that representatives from our district presented a session at the annual WASB Convention in Milwaukee pertaining to this unique position in our district. Plans are currently underway for staff development opportunities during the summer and a summer enrichment program for students.

Proposed Plan for SAGE Compliance for 2009-10 School Year

The Board reviewed a Plan for SAGE Compliance for the 2009-10 School Year which outlined staffing for each elementary building, including transfers of some staff to meet student needs. The plan also included creating additional multiage classrooms and limiting new kindergarteners to attendance sites other than Spring Green Elementary. There was discussion among Board, administration, teachers, and community members. The Board will be asked to take action later during this meeting.

Calendar for End of 2008-09 School Year

The Board was in agreement about waiving the June 8, 2009, attendance date for students if we do not experience any more cancelled school days prior to the Board's May meeting, when the Board will take action on this issue.

Board Members to Hand Out Diplomas at Graduation – Friday, May 29, 2009

Kaukl asked all Board members to respond by the end of April if they wish to hand out diplomas at graduation.

Community Garden at High School

Benson outlined a joint effort between the high school and the Center for Creativity (C4C) to provide garden plots on high school property to community members for a fee. Alan Green also presented plans to include a C4C community garden near the "white school" in Spring Green.

"Coffee with the Superintendent" Meetings

Benson has scheduled listening sessions in each of the four communities in the district, starting with Arena on the morning of April 23.

Public Comments/Open Forum

No discussion.

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

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

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

Crowley moved to approve the second 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 and to change the name of our athletic conference. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

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

Peach moved to approve the second reading of Policy #345.1-Rule 1 and #345.1-Rule 2 outlining the Cum Laude System course list and point system. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Cummings moved to approve the second 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. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Pronold moved to approve the second 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. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

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

Crowley moved to approve the first reading of Policy #763-Wellness Policy on Nutrition and Physical Activity, #763-Exhibit 1 – Classroom Celebrations, and #763-Exhibit 2 – Healthy Snacks to rewrite the policy and add the new exhibits based on input from our health and nutrition committee. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Related to Governor Doyle's Collective Bargaining / QEO Budget (2009 – 11)

Ferguson moved to adopt the Resolution Related to Governor Doyle's Collective Bargaining/QEO Budget (2009-11) with an amendment to reject the governor's package of collective bargaining changes and maintain current law "until a new equitable school funding formula is developed." Cummings seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts, Discussion of Administrator Realignment Plan, Discussion of Employee Transfers, Discussion of 2009-10 Open Enrollment Applications, and Discussion of Teacher Retirement; and 19.85(1)(c), (f) for Discussion of Employee Leave of Absence

Cummings moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:20 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Evaluations and Contracts, Discussion of Administrator Realignment Plan, Discussion of Employee Transfers, Discussion of 2009-10 Open Enrollment Applications, and Discussion of Teacher Retirement; and 19.85(1)(c), (f) for Discussion of Employee Leave of Absence. Crowley seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:40 p.m.

Consideration & Action on Plan for SAGE Compliance for 2009-10 School Year

Cates moved to approve the concept for the Plan for SAGE Compliance for the 2009-10 School Year as presented with a revision to have Ganser remain at Lone Rock and Eastlick transfer to Arena, with class configurations and teaching position assignments to be determined by staff and administration. Crowley seconded. Staffing for each elementary building was assigned but multiage groupings at grade levels are yet to be determined by administration with teacher collaboration. As part of the approved plan, transfers include Ganser from Title I to classroom teacher at Lone Rock; Eastlick from Grade 1 at Lone Rock to Arena; Kinney from Title I at Plain to Lone Rock; Sheard from Lone Rock/Arena special ed. to full time at Arena; and Gereau from full time special ed. at Spring Green to half time at Spring Green and half time at Lone Rock. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Open Enrollment Applications for 2009-10 School Year

Crowley moved to approve all 14 new open enrollment applications into the district for 2009-10. Pronold seconded. Motion carried.

Nelson moved to approve 34 out of 43 new applications out of the district and to deny 9—1 for high cost, 3 for incomplete documentation and not meeting age requirements; and 5 requesting K4 program since River Valley does not offer this program. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Peach moved to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige For:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk