

River Valley School District
Thursday, May 13, 2021
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

- *The public was able to view this meeting live on our River Valley YouTube Channel.*
- *Anyone who attended the meeting was required to wear a mask and follow social distancing.*

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Bettinger, Minich, Maier, Cates, Iausly

Absent: N/A

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Radtke, Blakley, Peterson, Kjos

Others: Kasey Maxwell, Michelle Orcutt, Heidi Radel, Jess Hisel, Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. She noted that the meeting had been properly posted and notice had been provided to the appropriate media and each School Board Member. Maier moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Young moved to approve the agenda. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Kelsey Olson reported that high school students Jorja Box, Tyler Willoughby, and Kelsey Olson participated in a “Shark Tank” style competition to pitch new products. Willoughby placed 2nd and Olson placed 1st. The high school band and choir held the final performance for the year. Spanish III students created original fairy tales and students in Ms. Pipkorn’s class teamed up with the General Store for a delivery service project. Sophia Rohe and Starr Camacho were awarded “Best in Show” at the Wisconsin Regional High School Art Show. Independent art students worked with the 4th grade classes on creating art based on the well-known Japanese print, “The Great Wave,” during their unit on Japanese culture and history.

At the middle school, the band and choir held the final performance for the year and finalized the virtual Shakespeare Project, which can be viewed on our YouTube Channel.

River Valley School District Endowment Fund Grants Awarded to Teachers

The Endowment Board awarded grants to the following teachers: Tim Wunnicke for a laser engraver at the middle school, Lisa Roelke (with Jackson Their) for the development of a frisbee golf course at the high school, and Rhonda Licht (writer), Elaine Frank, Lisa Miller, and Melinda Mohr for multicultural/diversity materials for 4K at the Early Learning Center.

2021-22 Event Dates

- Homecoming/School Fair (NO SCHOOL) – Friday, September 24, 2021
- Prom – Saturday, April 23, 2022

- Scholarship Awards Night – Wednesday, May 18, 2022
- Baccalaureate – Sunday, May 22, 2022 (*tentative–based on request by parents*)
- Seniors Last Day – Thursday, May 26, 2022
- Graduation – Saturday, May 28, 2022

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Peterson reported that they are finishing spring assessments at the elementary level and planning a safe way for Kindergarteners to visit the Elementary School before attending there this fall. Transition plans are also being made for 4th graders transitioning to 5th grade at the Middle School this fall.

Radtke noted that parent/teacher conferences were held virtually or via phone on April 22. Forward exams will be finished on May 14, which included virtual students attending on Wednesdays for testing. Transition plans for 4th graders include them visiting the Middle School on May 17. There are approximately 15 students coming from St. John’s and St. Luke’s that have already visited and are registered for next year. They are working on Middle School scheduling for next year and this year’s 8th grade graduation will be held on the last day of school on the football field.

Blakley stated that AP testing is occurring to earn college credits. Scholarship night will be held at WI Riverside Resort on May 19 and graduation will be on the football field on May 29. Spring sports have started and are underway.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Jennings welcomed Elisabeth Minich to the Board and noted that Board Committees will be seated at next month’s meeting and to share committee preference.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that there is no minimum participation requirement this year for state testing. He reported that there is a lot of information coming out from the CDC regarding vaccines for children and that 12 and up are now eligible. The federal meals program is continuing free meals for families through the next school year. After surveying our families, we will be delivering a full week of meals (500 breakfast and 500 lunch) once per week during the summer. There is no monetary loss when expense is compared to reimbursement the district receives.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – April 2021; Open Session Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2021, Regular Meeting and April 19, 2021, Special Meeting

Iausly moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Cease the use of Temporary Policy for Board Member Attendance and Voting Method During the Emergency Order

Due to an emergency order, a temporary policy was put in place last April to allow Board members to attend meetings virtually. Young moved to cease the temporary policy. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Reinstate the use of River Valley Board Policy #183 - Board Member Attendance and Voting Method

Cates moved to reinstate Policy #183, which states that Board members must attend and vote in person. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Board Organizational Meeting

President – Young nominated Jennings. Cates moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Jennings as President. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Vice President – Cates nominated Bettinger. Young moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Bettinger as Vice President. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk – Cates nominated Nelson. Young moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to accept Nelson as Clerk. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer – Cates nominated Iausly. Young moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Iausly. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Date, Time, and Place – Bettinger moved to hold regular Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Library. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of Legal Counsel – Bettinger moved to appoint Boardman and Clark as legal counsel. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of Depository of Funds – Bettinger moved to appoint Peoples Community Bank as depository of funds. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Appointment of News Media – Young moved to appoint Home News as news media. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Board President Appointment to Fill Area 4 Board Seat Vacancy Due to Resignation

None. Since no eligible candidates from Area 4 (Village of Lone Rock) filed a letter of interest by the due date and 60 days have passed since the vacancy occurred, Board policy allows the Board President to appoint an eligible candidate, but no one has expressed interest.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on 2020-21 Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Transcribed Credit Contract

Bettinger moved to approve the 2020-21 annual Transcribed Credit Contract with Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2021-22 SWEEP 1 and SWEEP 2 Cooperative Agreements for Use of Aeration and Top Dresser Equipment

Young moved to approve the 2021-22 SWEEP 1 and SWEEP 2 Cooperative Agreements. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2021-24 Contract With Upland Hills for Physical Therapy Services

Bettinger moved to approve the 2021-24 contract with Upland Hills. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations from the Technology Committee. It was noted that the Committee name will be changed to Curriculum and Instruction Committee to broaden the scope of the Committee to include the various aspects of curriculum and instruction, including technology.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 834 Service Animals; 836 Animals on School Premises; 836 Exhibit Animals in the School Request Form (NEW); 422.1 Foreign Exchange Students (NEW); 861-Exhibit 1 – Confidentiality Agreement; and 861-Exhibit 2 – Disclosure Statement – Volunteer. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the first reading of Policy 185 Board Committees and Appointments. Maier seconded. Two Board Committee names have been changed—Technology is now Curriculum and Instruction and School Forest/Buildings and Grounds is now Buildings and Grounds. Motion carried.

Jennings noted that in June, the Committee will begin working through the recommendations in the WASB Policy Manual "Quick Check" Report.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

The Committee discussed a recommendation from school nurses not to return to school after Memorial Day since there are concerns about Memorial Day gatherings and the potential for COVID spread and quarantining that could affect summer school attendance where kids receive necessary credit recovery and educational services. The Committee did not make a recommendation so they could discuss with the full Board.

Glasbrenner reached out to Dr. Furukawa to ask about concerns for potential COVID spread the days after Memorial Day. Dr. Furukawa did not recommend to close or go virtual after Memorial Day if data remains the same regarding positivity and testing rates. It was noted that after Spring Break, we did not allow additional virtual days as a preventative measure against COVID spread but that we did after Winter Break.

Glasbrenner also shared that some districts are either finishing school the Friday before Memorial Day or are only requiring students who are behind to return during the last week. Daycare might be a concern if school ends earlier than planned, but we could give parents advance notice. There was also discussion that Chromebook turn-in the end of the week before Memorial Day would affect services during the last Wednesday virtual day, but it was noted that this issue could be dealt with.

When asked to give more information from his conversation with Dr. Furukawa, Glasbrenner noted that Dr. Furukawa stated that, if exposed, COVID symptoms appear an average of 5 days later.

Building principals each gave an estimate of the number of students in summer school—100 at elementary level, 40 to 50 at high school, and 30 to 40 at middle school. When asked if the nurses would recommend ending early for most and just bringing in students who are behind, Kjos said that was not a recommendation from the nurses. Radtke expressed concern about just bringing in students who are behind that last week of school. He's not sure that is practical with transportation and some might not come anyway if others students are allowed to finish early.

The discussion continued regarding not returning to school after Memorial Day, weighing the learning loss this school year vs. taking preventative measures to avoid potential COVID spread and affecting summer school attendance.

Cates moved to have the last day of school for students be Friday, May 28, 2021. Jennings seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Cates, Jennings, Minich, Young
Against the motion: Bettinger, Iausly, Maier, Nelson
Abstain: N/A
Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 4-4 in the affirmative. Motion failed. The calendar will remain the same.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the 2021-22 Preliminary Budget. Iausly seconded. There is a budget surplus for next year, which is the last year of the referendum. Motion carried.

There has been discussion about not having school on school fair day. It was noted that many students already don't report to school on this day, with only about 25% in attendance. Supervision is difficult when students report and then walk around the fair while there are many other people on site. The School Fair Committee is in favor of changing the school fair day to a non-school day and making the parade start time be 3:00 p.m. instead of 2:00 p.m. Nelson is not in favor of this change since she feels some students won't be able to come to the school fair since parents can't bring them.

Glasbrenner stated that we want students and families on campus and plans to work with the School Fair Committee to have more offering during the fair. Our staff will be available to help with the aspects of running the fair. Peterson noted we could have offerings for all students at school during the week of Homecoming so those who can't attend on school fair day aren't left out.

As recommended by the Committee, Jennings moved to make school fair day, Friday, September 24, 2021, a non-school day for students. Iausly seconded. Motion carried with Nelson opposed. All staff will report as a district inservice day. The parade start time will change to 3:00 p.m.

The Committee recommends moving the gifted/talented role from the Elementary Interventionist position and no longer having Yearbook as a class due to low class enrollment, and making both

paid co-curricular activities. The Elementary Interventionist and the teacher for Yearbook would remain as full time teachers.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to make gifted/talented a part of co-curricular activities starting with the 2021-22 school year at 6% of base pay each for an elementary advisor and a middle school advisor. Cates seconded. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to make the Yearbook a part of co-curricular activities starting with the 2021-22 school year at 14% of base pay. Young seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Cates, Jennings, Minich, Young
Against the motion: Bettinger, Iausly, Maier, Nelson
Abstain: N/A
Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 4-4 in the affirmative. Motion failed.

It was discussed that the outcome of this vote means that Yearbook is not a co-curricular activity nor will it be a class due to low enrollment. We will make sure there is a yearbook and can outsource the production.

Cates moved to make the Yearbook a part of co-curricular activities starting with the 2021-22 school year at 14% of base pay to be reviewed after the 2021-22 school year. Young seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Cates, Jennings, Maier, Minich, Nelson, Young
Against the motion: Bettinger, Iausly
Abstain: N/A
Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 6-2 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

The Committee also discussed Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II and III Funds and how those funds could decrease the amount needed in a future referendum. They will continue discussions regarding the athletic complex and were told that 2021-22 special education staffing may result in reducing two instructional assistants and adding one special education teacher.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any
None.

Maier moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

 Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk