

River Valley School District
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Gauger, Minich, Young, Carstensen, Jennings Bettinger, Maier

Absent: Cates, Iausly

Admin: Glasbrenner, Hegland

Others: Shawn Duren, Linda Schwanke (Home News), 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. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

None.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Glasbrenner has been attending meetings of area town and village boards to share information on our strategic plan and results of our community facilities survey.

Hegland provided a comprehensive report on last year's activities and athletics. He noted 780 participants throughout the school year, with an average of two per student in the high school, noting some do more and some do none. We are up in participation even with lower enrollment—last year was 92% and we are up this year. We have great offerings and many options for students, considering our size district. He provided highlights from each season.

Summary of Staff Survey Results

Glasbrenner provided results from a survey regarding teacher morale. 66 of 76 teachers responded. A support staff survey was also done with similar results. Districtwide areas to grow: staff feel cared for by school site but not by district; staff don't always feel valued although they report pride and fair treatment; staff do not feel recognized; and staff may need more materials and resources. The next step is to break out data by grade level, building level, etc. and then focus on what those groups need for improvement. A follow-up staff survey will be done again half way through the year.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Glasbrenner and Jennings are the only ones so far that have requested lodging for the January 2024 WASB Convention in Milwaukee.

Legislative Update

The budget bill was passed through 2025. There was a revenue limit increase and an increase to \$325 per pupil for the next 2 years.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – June 2023; Open Session Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2023, Regular Meeting and June 19, 2023, Special Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Special Meeting Date – Monday, July 24, 2023

Young moved to set a special meeting for July 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for Business Manager interviews. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2023-24 Staffing Changes, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Retirements, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Resignations, if any

Bettinger moved to accept the resignation of Savannah Curtis, High School Phy Ed Teacher, pending receipt of liquidated damages. Curtis took a different job so will not be starting at River Valley in the fall. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Maier moved to approve the hiring of the Joseph Woodhouse, High School Phy Ed Teacher. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Young moved to approve the hiring of Lara Pawelski, Middle School Special Ed Teacher. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Minich moved to approve the hiring of Jarica Heiser, Elementary Special Ed Teacher. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Academic Standards Notice

Young moved to approve the following annual notice: The River Valley School District follows the Wisconsin Academic Standards as adopted by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as an outline of base expectations. The related accountability and testing is conformed to as appropriate to be in compliance with all state and federal laws. Where appropriate, classroom materials have been aligned to research and standards. These academic standards serve as an outline of base expectations, which are exceeded in almost all areas of school offerings. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Academic and Career Planning (ACP) Document Approval

Bettinger moved to approve the annual ACP document. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Annual Meeting Date – Monday, October 23, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Bettinger moved to set the annual meeting for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Special Meeting Date – Monday, October 23, 2023– 7:00 p.m.

Young moved to set a special meeting for Monday, October 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Gauger seconded. The agenda will include the approval of the budget, potential action to commence the school term early for 2024-25, and training by General Counsel Eileen Brownlee regarding Board roles and responsibilities and expulsion hearings. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2023-24 Handbooks

Bettinger moved to approve the following handbooks as presented: Elementary Student, Middle School Student, High School Student, Special Education, At Risk, Athletic Code, Activities Code, and Coaches. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2022-23 Restraint and Seclusion Report

Glasbrenner summarized this annual report prepared by Lisa Kjos and highlighted that we have 60 staff members trained in non-violent intervention. Young moved to approve the annual report. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Curriculum and Instruction Committee Recommendations

Cates was elected as Chairperson by the Committee.

As recommended by the Committee, Minich moved to approve the appointment of Tracy Frosch as our district Reading Specialist. Young seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Bettinger moved to approve the textbook list for the 2023-24 school year. Young seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the Before and After School Program and forwarded the item to the Budget/ERC Committee for discussion.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

Young moved to remove language from the Employee Handbook regarding a mandatory wellness screening for staff with health insurance since it is no longer required. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

The Before and After School Program item was reviewed by the Curriculum and Instruction Committee before being discussed by the Budget/ERC Committee. There was no recommendation from the Budget/ERC Committee so the Board discussed as a whole. Program Director, Jennifer Moore-Kerr, is requesting a full-time position with benefits and an increase to the hours for one program assistant. There was a lengthy discussion about the program inception, purpose, growth, and providing a community service. It was noted that the program has operated and will operate at a loss, even with the increase in participants.

Young moved to increase the Before and After School Director to a full-time exempt position with a 184.5 day contract at 8 hours per day with benefits and to increase the hours for one hourly program assistant. Jennings seconded. Glasbrenner noted that this person hires, evaluates, oversees, and supervises, but that we do need to remain competitive and review other non-union and support staff positions in the district. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Minich moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of a \$5,000 anonymous to the girls soccer team for warm ups. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Maier moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedge for:



Young Acting
Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk