

River Valley School District
Thursday, September 9, 2010
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Taylor, Cates, Bettinger, Ferguson, Cummings, Caraway, Nelson, Crowley, Jenna Hopkins (Student Representative)

Absent: Peach

Admin: Benson, Hegland, Radtke, Kaukl, Hayek

Others: Todd Miller, Lisa Horne, Deb Miller, Tim Harrington, Al McKenzie, Andy Harrah, Matt Snow, Eileen Brownlee (General Counsel), 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. Crowley moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Taylor provided a legislative update regarding one-time funds to be released to schools under the "Education Jobs" law to help save or create educator jobs, development of new computerized state tests for schools, and two bills aimed at reforming the No Child Left Behind law.

Board Training Opportunities

Nelson noted there is an Employment and Labor Law Seminar on September 17, a WASB Fall Regional Meeting in Baraboo on September 29, and the annual Milwaukee Convention on January 19-21, 2011.

Student Council Report

Jenna Hopkins reported that the student council is working on plans for homecoming and on implementing a "super fan" award to be given out at each football and basketball game.

Education Jobs Fund Update

This federal program will provide one year of funding to help save or create educator jobs by the end of the 2011-12 school year. The amount awarded is based on poverty levels for Title I and free/reduced meals. River Valley received \$395,000.

RVSD Involvement in Green TTEC

The Village of Plain has received federal grant money to build a Green Technology Training and Enterprise Center (Green TTEC). Kim Kaukl has represented our district with a Green TTEC Committee to express district interest in high school student involvement in a program. The district has been very clear about the fact that we have limited funds, yet there are options being discussed.

District Slogan

A new district slogan has been implemented based on the top vote choice of district staff members. The new slogan is “Dream. Discover. Achieve.”

Discussion of Referendum Options

After a recap of the lengthy discussion held at the Board’s August 26 meeting regarding referendum options, the Board determined that its general consensus is to hold a November 2, 2010, referendum to exceed the revenue cap. The dollar amount and length of time will be determined when the Board takes action later this same evening. A resolution must be adopted no less than 42 days prior to the referendum vote.

Public Comments/Open Forum

Lisa Horne believes people want to see a commitment of the dollar level of reductions that will be made in conjunction with holding a referendum and would like to see \$1.2 million recurring to get a base. Andy Harrah is concerned if the referendum is held without showing the concurrent cuts to be made.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – August 2010; Open Session Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2010 and August 26, 2010

Ferguson moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Crowley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution(s) Necessary for Referendum

Legal counsel noted that two resolutions are needed to hold a referendum—one for the Board to exceed the revenue limit and a second one to place the referendum question on the ballot.

Cummings moved to adopt a Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$1,200,000 for 2011-12 For a Non-Recurring Purpose. Crowley seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Cummings

Against the motion: Bettinger, Caraway, Cates, Ferguson, Nelson, Taylor

Abstain: Crowley

Absent: Peach

Polled vote was 6-1 against the motion with 1 abstention and 1 absent. Motion failed.

Cummings moved to adopt a Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$1,200,000 Beginning in 2011-12 for a Recurring Purpose. Ferguson seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Caraway, Cummings, Ferguson, Nelson, Bettinger

Against the motion: Cates, Crowley, Taylor

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Peach

Polled vote was 5-3 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Cates moved to adopt a Resolution Providing for a November 2, 2010, Referendum Question of the Approval of a Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$1,200,000 Beginning in 2011-12 for a Recurring Purpose. Cummings seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2010-11 District Goals

Ferguson moved to accept the district goals for 2010-11 as presented. Caraway seconded. Goals include emphasis on financial planning, comprehensive literacy, improving standardized reading test scores, implementing a new virtual school program, and possibly starting a charter school, pending grant approval. Crowley would like to see a measurable goal regarding our literacy initiative. Motion carried.

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

Crowley moved to approve the second reading of Policy #726 Bullying/Cyberbullying, which is a new policy. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Bettinger moved to approve the second reading of Policy #745 Web-Based Parent Access to Student Records and Grades to add “Food Service balance and purchases” to the list of information available to parents via the Family Access program. Ferguson seconded. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to approve the second reading of Policy #743 Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Electronic Mail, and Internet Safety Policy—to pull information from the deleted Policy #524.5 Acceptable Use of Networked Computers by Staff to make one policy that covers all users, both students and staff— and to approve the first reading of Policy # 743-Exhibit 1- Student Agreement/Consent Form-Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Electronic Mail, and Internet Safety Policy to make minor revisions to headings on the student consent form which is now titled “Exhibit.” Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Cummings moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of an anonymous donation of \$100 for the purchase of school supplies. Bettinger seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$200 from Lucinda Yanke to the music department for student instrument rental. Ferguson seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Cates moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts of \$190 in cash for the purchase of school supplies and \$200 in school supplies from the employees of Perkins Cole Company in Madison. Bettinger seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on School Safety Plan Revisions

Crowley moved to approve the School Safety Plan revisions to the “Crisis Phone Chain” and a few other pages with phone numbers revisions. Caraway seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Special Meeting Date

No action taken.

Consideration & Action on Changing October and November Board Meeting Dates

Crowley moved to change the October regular meeting date to October 28 and to move the November regular meeting date to November 18. Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for RVEST Level 4 Grievance Hearing and Deliberation and Action; 2011-13 RVEA Collective Bargaining; 2011-13 RVEST Collective Bargaining; and Discussion of Administrator Contracts

Bettinger moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:00 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for RVEST Level 4 Grievance Hearing and Deliberation and Action; 2011-13 RVEA Collective Bargaining; 2011-13 RVEST Collective Bargaining; and Discussion of Administrator Contracts. Caraway seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:40 p.m.

Consideration & Action on 2010-11 Administration Contracts

Benson noted that the administrative team is requesting a salary freeze for administrator salaries for 2010-11 as part of the type of leadership that is necessary during these difficult economic times. It was noted that concessions may be asked of other employee groups. Crowley moved to freeze administrator salaries for 2010-11 at the 2009-10 level. Cummings seconded. Several comments were made such as administrators do an outstanding job, this is the third salary freeze for administrators in recent memory, and that the size of the administrative team is actually smaller than in past years since not all have a full time contract. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Crowley moved to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige For:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk