



Hawk Talk

**From the Desk of
Jamie Benson,
District Administrator**

Financial Challenge

Simply stated, our district is currently facing financial challenges like never before. The 2010-11 school year will long be remembered as a time of significant and far-reaching financial decisions made by the community, staff, administration, and Board. To be clear, our district begins 2010-11 as the final year of our \$1.2M current referendum allowance. After this year, future deficits are projected as follows:

2011-12	\$1.6M
2012-13	\$2.0M
2013-14	\$2.5M
2014-15	\$3.0M

NOTE: Deficit amounts subject to changes in enrollment and/or state aid.

Planning Process

In looking toward the future, the Board solicited broad public input through a series of "Resource Planning Team" (RPT) meetings, which began this past January.

As part of this six-month public input and idea sharing process, the RPT developed a community survey and received 900 returns to help guide their thinking. Analysis of this survey was done by the "Team of Ten" (sub-committee of the RPT), which presented their recommendations to the Board on August 12. The Board will take these recommendations into

consideration as they review options for balancing our district's future budget(s).

District Goals

In spite of our financial challenges, we will continue to focus on goals such as K-12 literacy and the newly established Graduate Learner Outcomes (GLOs), which were developed with community input. These GLOs place a strong curricular emphasis on 21st Century high school graduate skills, such as understanding various perspectives in society; being able to articulate and defend one's point of view; developing global and cultural awareness; improving technology literacy; enhancing collaboration and communication skills; and developing creative thinking skills—all designed to bring college and career readiness skills to our graduates.

Additional goal areas include working with a new set of "common core standards" (issued by the state to more closely align curriculum to a national set of standards), developing "virtual school" course offerings, and developing detailed plans to open a 2011-12 elementary charter school that would be largely funded through grant monies, if approved.

Local Pride

We all know that River Valley is an incredible place to live, grow, and learn. Our rich

pride in traditional family values, working hard, helping neighbors in need, and our belief in maintaining high quality schools will help us in finding financial solutions that are not detrimental to our children's education.

Clearly we—the Board, administration, staff, and community—have our work cut out for us. Yet, even in the midst of serious financial decisions, I remain confident that we will find opportunity and innovation as we work together to balance financial means with maintaining quality schools for our kids. ♦

**Home News
"Back to School" Issue**

A mid-August issue of the Home News will feature the annual "Back to School" supplement. This supplement provides legal notices, policies, and other information that can be referred to throughout the school year. Don't miss getting your copy! ♦

**Daily School
Start/End Times**

Arena, Lone Rock and Plain
Grades K-5 8:05-3:20

Spring Green Elementary
Grades K-5 8:05-3:10

Middle School
Homeroom/1st Hour 8:05-9:14
9th Hour 2:30-3:14

High School
1st Hour 8:05-8:49
9th Hour 2:11-2:55
Activity Period 2:59-3:19 ♦

Two-Hour Delayed Starts

Our K-12 district, St. John's, and St. Luke's will continue the delayed start program on the first Wednesday each month, October through May, except November and January, and on school fair day—Friday, September 24.

Students will arrive at school two hours later than usual while teachers attend inservice activities before students arrive. Therefore, bus pick-up will also be delayed by two hours. ♦

School Picture Dates

Lone Rock	August 26
Arena	August 30
Spring Green	August 30
Plain	September 2
Middle School	September 2
High School	September 3 ♦

Open Houses

Middle School
Tuesday, August 24 – 4:00 for 6th graders; 6:15 potluck; 7:00 open house

Freshman Orientation
Wednesday, August 25 –
5:15 cookout; 5:45 orientation

Lone Rock Elementary
Thursday, August 26 – 4:30-7:00 pm

Arena Elementary
Monday, August 30– 5:30-7:00 pm

Spring Green Elementary
Monday, August 30 – 6:00-7:00 pm

Plain Elementary
Tuesday, August 31 – 3:30-5:30 pm ♦

Staff Transfers/New Hires

Transfers

James Radtke
from High School Dean of Students and Elem Principal – Plain and Arena to Middle School Principal and Plain Principal

Heather Terrill Stotts
from Creative Learning Facilitator to Creative Learning Facilitator and half time Arena Principal

Darby Blakley
From High School Spec. Ed. Teacher to High School Dean of Students and half time High School Spec. Ed. Teacher

Jackie Kalscheur
from High School Spanish Teacher to Middle School Spanish/ESL Teacher (replacing Laura Seybold)

Megan Hebgen
from part Time AODA Coordinator to High School Guidance Counselor (replacing Jeff Sawyer)

Jo Kraemer
from Middle School Library Assistant to Spring Green Elem. Library Asst. (replacing Rosetta Bauer/Jackie Passant)

New Hires

Brittany Thatcher
Speech/Language Pathologist (replacing Deidre Lueneburg)

Andrew Mayer
Middle School Library Media Specialist (replacing Linda Thering)

Stacie Nelson
Early Childhood Teacher (replacing Jackie Frost)

Nicole Bailey
Occupational Therapist (replacing Joyce Christen)

Ryan Leonard
High School Social Studies Teacher (replacing Dan Kettner)

Martina Been
Middle School Language Arts Teacher (replacing Rachel Digman)

Lindsey Becker
Part Time AODA Coordinator (replacing Megan Hebgen)

Russell Simonsen
High School Spanish Teacher (replacing Jackie Kalscheur)

Lucas Thatcher
High School Math Teacher (replacing Whitney Swenson) ♦

Thank You/Farewell to Retired Staff Members

* Jackie Frost - Early Childhood Teacher

* Linda Thering - Middle School Library Media Specialist

* Mary Zavada - Plain Elementary Teacher

* Dan Kettner - High School Social Studies Teacher

* Rosetta Bauer - Spring Green Elem. Library Assistant ♦

“Under the Sea” is Homecoming Theme

The class of 2011 has chosen “Under the Sea” as the theme for Homecoming, scheduled for the week of September 20 – 25, 2010. Plans for Homecoming/School Fair activities will be finalized after school starts and will be published in the Home News and on the RV School District website at www.rvschools.org.

Wednesday, September 15 –
School Fair Entries are due

Thursday, September 23 –
Homecoming King and Queen announced at the Pep Rally/Bonfire

Friday, September 24 -
School Fair

Friday September 24 –
Homecoming Parade at 2:00 p.m.

(Beginning September 7, local businesses and organizations that would like to participate in the parade are asked to contact Jason Hollenberger at 588–3244, ext. 291 or Brent Johnson at 588–3244, ext. 293. If your float has horses, scoopers will be required or the float will be placed at the end of the parade. For the safety of our children, the district asks that each float planning to distribute candy or other items, have “candy walkers” rather than throwing the items from the vehicle.)

Friday, September 24 –
Homecoming Football Game at 7:00 p.m. vs. Dodgeville

Saturday, September 25 –
Homecoming Dance ♦

High School Student Parking Fees

Students parking at the high school will be required to pay a \$50.00 annual parking fee. Students must have a completed parking application and an assigned stall number to park on the high school lot during school hours. Applications are available at the high school office. ♦

Athletic and Co-Curricular Fees

Students in grades 7-12 who wish to participate in athletics and co-curricular activities are required to pay the following fees:

- Middle school = \$40 per sport
- Freshman (even if playing on JV or Varsity) = \$60 per sport
- JV and Varsity = \$80 per sport
- Co-curricular = \$15 per activity

The coach/advisor for each sport/program will explain when, where, and how to pay these fees during one of the initial team practices or group meetings.

There are funds available for families that have difficulty paying these fees. The district will use the same criteria used for eligibility for free/reduced meals to determine which students can use these funds. Please contact your child's building principal. ♦

Food Service Program

Food service prices for 2010-11 are as follows:

(Prices as of 6/17/08)

Breakfast

K-12	\$1.40
Adult	\$1.55
Reduced Price	\$.30

Lunch

Elementary	\$2.50
Middle School	\$2.75
High School	\$2.75
Adult	\$3.50
Reduced Price	\$.40

Milk Everyone (1/2 pt.) \$.30

The River Valley School District uses an automated food service system where families prepay into an account and students "spend" the money as they use the food service program each day.

Accounts that had a negative balance at the end of the 2009-10 school year need to be paid in full. Any funds remaining in your account will be carried over into the 2010-11 school year unless you request a refund.

If you have questions specifically regarding your family account or eligibility for free or reduced prices, please contact Diane Vossekuil at 588-2551. ♦

2009-10 State Test Results

WKCE

Annually, our students are required by state law to take various standardized tests. These tests are referred to as the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination - Criterion-Referenced Tests (WKCE-CRT).

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, the federal No Child Left Behind Act required all states to annually test students in reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and in grade 10. As part of a state requirement, students in 4th, 8th, and 10th grade are also tested in other subject areas.

The table below shows the percent of students scoring *proficient or advanced* (the top 2 scoring categories out of 4).

2009-10 WKCE Test Results – 3rd - 8th and 10th Grade Students (Students who took the test and who were also enrolled for the full academic year)

(% Scoring Proficient or Advanced)

3 rd Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	91	78
Math	84	75
4 th Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	86	80
Language	84	76
Math	88	80
Science	88	76
Soc. Stud.	92	92
5 th Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	79	79
Math	74	77
6 th Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	88	84
Math	81	77
7 th Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	90	85
Math	86	80
8 th Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	85	83
Language	66	64
Math	82	77
Science	83	79
Soc. Stud.	83	80
10 th Grade		
	RV	State
Reading	79	76
Language	70	67
Math	72	69
Science	74	71
Soc. Stud.	80	74

ACT

	RV	State
2003-04	22.4	22.2
2004-05	23.4	22.2
2005-06	22.0	22.2
2006-07	21.7	22.3
2007-08	21.4	22.3
2008-09	21.5	22.3
2009-10	22.0	22.1

Policy Review

The following policy statements are summaries only. For a copy of the full policy, please see our district web site or contact the district office.

#112 - Nondiscrimination

The River Valley School District is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or any other factor provided for by state and federal laws and regulations. Complaints regarding the interpretation or application of this policy shall be referred and processed in accordance with established procedures.

#452.2-Immunization

The Wisconsin immunization law requires students through grade 12 to be immunized according to their age/grade level by the beginning of the school year. Immunizations are required against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, pertussis, and chicken pox.

Students/Parents must present written evidence of completed basic and booster immunizations, including the month, day and year. Exemptions may be obtained for medical, religious, or personal conviction reasons.

#452.4 – Medication

Medications should be administered to school children at home rather than at school whenever possible. School personnel, designated by the principal and/or school nurse, may administer medications to students under established conditions.

Before any prescription medication may be administered to a student, school personnel must receive written parental consent and written instructions from the child's physician, dentist, or podiatrist.

Asthmatic students, while at school, at a school-sponsored activity, or while under the supervision of a school authority, may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler if the student has the written approval of his or her physician and of his or her parent or guardian.

#347-Exhibit 2 - Request For Nondisclosure of "Student Directory Data"

As allowed by law, the district provides student records considered "Student Directory Data" to interested persons, unless the student or parent specifically requests that the directory data may not be released. Such request for nondisclosure must be made prior to October 1 of each academic year or if a student enrolls after October 1, within 14 days after enrollment. ♦

River Valley School District
660 W. Daley St.
Spring Green, WI 53588

2010-11 “Calendar of Events” Inside This Newsletter!

This 2010-11 Calendar of Events was printed as of August 16, 2010. Check the on-line DISTRICTWIDE Calendar at www.rvschools.org for any changes made after this date.

This 2010-11 Calendar of Events (printed as of August 16, 2010) is available as a PDF file to view and print on our district website at www.rvschools.org. **Copies will be sent home with students on the first day of school.** Calendars will not be mailed to households this year. However, copies will be available to pick up at all schools and the district office after the first day of school.

August

- 26 Inservice – Teachers
- 27 Inservice – All Staff
- 30 Inservice/Workshop
- 31 Workshop

September

- 1 **Students Report!**
- 6 Labor Day (**no school**)
- 24 Two-Hour Delayed Start
for Students
(Homecoming/School Fair)

October

- 6 Two-Hour Delayed Start
for Students
- 28-29 Teachers' Convention
(no school)

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