

River Valley School District
Thursday, January 11, 2024
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Maier, Young, Jennings, Carstensen, Cates, Iausly, Gauger, Bettinger, Leah Drachenberg (Student Representative)

Absent: Minich

Admin: Glasbrenner, Moore, Knoll, Peterson, Radtke

Others: Kyle Kraemer (Kraemer Brothers), Shawn Duren, Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

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

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Leah Drachenberg was present. The student council sponsored a “Family Feud” assembly and clothing order and are now talking about fundraiser ideas for spring. Semester final exams were over before winter break this year and students liked this schedule. Glasbrenner will be meeting with student council officers to talk about the referendum and plan time for him to speak to the entire high school student body.

Work is being done by elementary guidance for a mental health family resources page. At the high school, 5 students participated in an art show and River Valley brought home 2 of the top 6 awards and will move on to the state show this spring. Also, there are several nominations for Jerry Awards related to our high school musical.

Community Referendum Information Sessions

Glasbrenner will be presenting information about the April 2024 referendum at various Town and Village Board meetings and these information sessions are also scheduled: (Tuesday) February 27, 2024, at 5 pm River Valley High School - Cafeteria Area; (Monday) March 4, 2024, at 6 pm River Valley High School - Cafeteria Area; and (Thursday) March 21, 2024, at 5 pm River Valley Middle School – LMC.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Glasbrenner noted that we cancelled school on 2 days due to inclement weather so any more cancelled days this year will be virtual learning days.

Peterson noted that virtual learnings days at the elementary level would consist of homework sent home ahead of time. It would be a combination of paper homework and younger learners using Seesaw and 3rd and 4th graders using Google Classroom, if they have connectivity. Depends on connectivity and who is home with them, but it could also be a parent/child activity and then submit a picture of them doing the learning together.

Virtual learning at the middle school will consist of teachers prepping information by 9:30 and then using Google Meet to take attendance at 10:00 am. Students would work throughout the day and connect with teachers if they have questions.

The high school will be similar to the middle school with 10:00 am Blackhawk daily announcements and then students working independently at home with assignments from teachers.

Moore noted that the CPI is 4.15% and we planned for 4%. We will be reviewing 2 bids for lawn care and snow removal at Monday's Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. The January pupil count is scheduled for tomorrow, but with our planned school cancellation, we will use January 15 as our count date.

Knoll has been researching special education student needs and staffing in the district for an agenda item later this evening related to 2024-25 open enrollment spacing limitations for special ed students. She noted that any current open enrolled students would continue as our students, receiving special ed services. We are the only district in the area that does not limit open enrollment. When looking at special ed services, she looked at staffing and caseload time and counted students using weighted caseload. This item will be discussed later this evening.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

The Board was reminded to turn in their Campaign Finance Registration forms by January 15 and their Board self-evaluation forms for the special Board meeting discussion on January 29.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that they are behind schedule in making curricular and testing decisions related to Act 20 and early literacy.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – December 2023; Open Session Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Special Meeting Date – Monday, January 29, 2024 (Closed Session)

Iausly moved to set a special meeting for Monday, January 29, at 7 pm in the Middle School Library to discuss the Board self-evaluation. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Authorizing Board Convention Delegate to Act on WASB Convention Resolutions

Young moved to authorize Jennings to act on the Board's behalf at the WASB Convention. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on New Course Proposals

Cates moved to approve Mechatronics I and II for the 2024-25 school year. Iausly seconded. The equipment is part of a grant for our current Fab Lab, which would make us a regional hub in the future for other districts to use. All expenses are covered in the current budget. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Amending Open Enrollment Policies 423 and 423 Rule

Knoll stated that in the past, we have chosen not to limit the number of open enrollment students coming into the district, but she is requesting to limit special ed open enrollment students for 2024-25. After researching special ed student needs and staffing, we are at full capacity. She noted we are the only district in the area that is not limiting open enrollment students. Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Amending Open Enrollment Policies 423 and 423 Rule. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative, with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on Open Enrollment Space Designations for the 2024-25 School Year

Knoll is recommending that we limit the number of special education open enrollment students coming into the district for 2024-25. There would be no limit on regular ed open enrollment students. When looking at special ed services, she looked at staffing and caseload time and counted students using weighted caseload. She noted that any current open enrolled students would continue as our students, receiving special ed services. Resident students will receive services as needed. Bettinger noted inconsistency when determining open enrollment spaces for regular ed compared to special ed students. Maybe we should be looking at staffing.

Iausly moved to approve the open enrollment space designations for 2024-25. Cates seconded. Iausly noted that if we desire to provide services to a larger population, should we instead be looking at increasing staff instead of limiting students? Maier feels taking this action is a good tool to use right now as Knoll is new to the position and looking at teacher morale and workload. Also, revisions to open enrollment policies must take place before the open enrollment period starts in February. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 746 Records Retention Policy, 872 Administrative Procedures for the Investigation of Complaints Against School Personnel, 722.3 School Closings -452.2 Student Immunization, 428/528 Exhibit Periods of Exclusion from School with Infectious Conditions, 690 School Property Disposal, 345.53 High School Equivalency Diplomas, and 345.53 Rule Criteria for Admittance Into The High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) Program. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Policy 423 Public School Open Enrollment and Policy 423 Rule Public School Open Enrollment were approved earlier on this agenda, waiving the first reading. There were no policies for first reading.

Consideration & Action on Curriculum and Instruction Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve a new "Portrait of a Graduate" document related to Academic and Career Planning. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

District enrollment, projections, and staffing for 2024-25 were discussed. Also discussed was the expectation of staff for virtual learning days during 2023-24 if we cancel school more than two days.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to approve revisions to the teacher job description. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

While reviewing the current and next year's budgets, it was noted that we will need to begin in depth discussions on seeking an operating referendum in the near future.

Consideration & Action on Pre-Selection of Kraemer Brothers LLC as General Contractor

Kyle Kraemer, representing Kraemer Brothers LLC, proposed that based on past relationship and pricing, the district forego the bid process and pre-select their company as general contractor in the event one or both referendum questions pass in April. They have been working alongside FEH Design, architect, throughout the facilities study which would allow construction to move forward quicker once approved. Glasbrenner studied the selection process and pricing in other districts regarding recent referendums. He noted that Kraemer Brothers is offering 1.25%. Kraemer noted that as general contractor, Kraemer Brothers would bid out to subcontractors with the Board and administrative staff being part of the review process, with flexibility during the competition and bidding. Glasbrenner noted that Kraemer and Kraemer Brothers LLC have been responsive and integral so far and he is confident in the relationship and their proposal. Young moved to pre-select Kraemer Brothers LLC as general contractor in the event one or both referendum questions pass in April. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$316.49 from Athletic Boosters for annual subscription for Fastdraw and Fastscout Bundle for boys basketball; \$500 from Ridge Top LLC to welding classes; trumpet valued at \$100 from Jaime Hisel to the music department; saxophone valued at \$500 from Jaime Hisel to the music department; and \$250 from The Peoples Community Bank from "School Spirit Debit Card" Initiative. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Maier moved to accept the Project Lunchbox donations as follows: Manning Properties Property Management Services - \$25; Jennifer Kraemer - \$500; and Construction and General Laborers Union Local 464 - \$250. Gauger seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk