

River Valley School District
Thursday, January 9, 2025
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Jennings, Minich, Cates, Iausly, Carstensen, Bettinger, Young, Maier, Gauger, Grady Graham (Student Representative)

Absent: N/A

Admin: Glasbrenner, Blakley, Knoll, Peterson, Radtke, Hegland

Others: Jennifer Moore-Kerr, Robby Jacobsen, Linnea Jacobson, Shari Graffunder, Carla Carmody, Tom Martin, Michelle Orcutt, Michelle Weiss, 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.

Iausly 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. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Community Spotlight

This is a monthly agenda item to recognize an individual, group, or business in our community for supporting River Valley schools. The CESA #3 Career and Life Ready Program was recognized and Tom Martin, CESA #3 Coordinator assigned to River Valley, was present. River Valley teachers involved in this program are Pat Mahoney, TJ Wunnike, Carla Carmody, Robby Jacobson, and Shari Graffunder. Carmody, Jacobson, and Graffunder were also present and expressed thanks to Martin for his 23 years of working with them to grow a successful youth apprenticeship program for our students.

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Grady Graham, Student Council Vice President, was present and reported that the student council hosted a family feud assembly at the high school and fundraising events are being planned for February. He noted that a few River Valley students will be involved in the Dorian Honors Choir on January 13.

Update on Board Development Goal - Staff Input by Engaging Staff Regarding Culture and Issues

Young and Gauger met with staff groups over the summer and communication became a Board development goal. A staff communications team was formed and has been meeting monthly with Glasbrenner. Young and Gauger joined the group on Monday of this week and reported that staff appreciate an opportunity to have a voice and to have these meetings.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Radtke noted that I-Ready assessments will be taking place and the end of the first semester is on January 17. Hegland gave a school safety update and said we are looking to replace the

reporting app that students use. Activities and athletics are busy with events. Peterson reported on the holiday swap shop for elementary students where kids select donated items for gifts for family members. They have been revisiting expectations and rules and I-ready assessment and Act 20 testing is taking place. Blakley reported that semester exams will take place next week and gave thanks to the teachers in our Career and Technical Education Department, including their work with the youth apprenticeship program. Knoll stated that a recent hygiene drive by the Spring Green Chamber of Commerce provided supplies for families and student services staff organized getting the items distributed. There was also coordination with the police department for Kops for Kids. In addition, Special Education Teacher Lisa Pipkorn is working with the county on a transition program for kids at MATC in Reedsburg. Glasbrenner reported that Traders Bar and Grill hosted a free holiday meal and raised \$6,000 in donations for the Arena food pantry, which supports our students through the backpack food program.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

There will be a Special Board Meeting on Monday, January 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Middle School Library.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that legislative committees have been announced.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – December 2024; Open Session Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2024, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommended to the full Board the District Reconfiguration of Grades, School Buildings and Staff and a List of Cost Reductions. The Committee asked for revisions to the referendum amounts prior to seeking action by the full Board on Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit in the 2025-2026 Through 2027-2028 School Years and Resolution Providing for a Referendum on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit in the 2025-2026 Through 2027-2028 School Years. See next four agenda items below for Board action on these items.

Consideration & Action on List of Cost Reductions

There have been multiple lengthy discussions regarding cost reductions, including the savings from the closure of the Early Learning Center in Plain. As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, but with a revision to reduce a music education teacher by .75 FTE instead of 1.0 FTE, Maier moved to approve the list of reductions as follows: at the end of 2024-25, \$286,502 in various savings from the closure of the Early Learning Center in Plain and \$673,690 in savings from reduction in force of .75 Business Education Teacher, 1 Elementary Teacher (Regular Education), 1 Librarian, .75 Music Education Teacher, 1 Physical Education Teacher, 1 English Language (ELL) Teacher, 2 Secretaries, and 1 Speech and Language Teacher (Reduce Outside Contract) and the elimination of one bus route; and at the end of 2025-26, \$137,00 in savings from reduction in force of 1 Elementary Teacher (Regular Education) and 1 Cleaner when the current CMS contract expires. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on District Reconfiguration of Grades in Three School Buildings Starting with the 2025-26 School Year

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Iausly moved to reconfigure all grade levels to our three remaining schools starting with 2025-26 as follows: PK-2 in the current elementary; 3-6 in the current middle school; and 7-12 in the current high school. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit in the 2025-2026 Through 2027-2028 School Years

Cates moved to approve the Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit in the 2025-2026 Through 2027-2028 School Years. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Providing for a Referendum on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit in the 2025-2026 Through 2027-2028 School Years

Cates moved to adopt the Resolution Providing for a Referendum on the Question of the Approval of a Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit in the 2025-2026 Through 2027-2028 School Years. Gauger seconded. Young noted that fund balance is still in good shape. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Calling Primary Election, if needed
No action needed.

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. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resignations/Retirements, if any

Iausly moved to accept the retirements of Marie Schwingle, High School Math Teacher; Lori Baryenbruch, 5th Grade Teacher; and Tera Hollfelder, 4th Grade Teacher. All were thanked for their years of service. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any
None.

Consideration & Action on Resolution for Open Enrollment Policies 423 and 423 Rule
Young moved to adopt the Resolution for Open Enrollment Policies 423 and 423 Rule. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 8-1 in the affirmative with Bettinger opposed. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on Open Enrollment Space Designations for the 2025-26 School Year
Knoll is recommending that we limit the number of special education open enrollment students coming into the district for 2025-26. 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. Minich moved to approve the open enrollment space designations for the 2025-26 school year. Gauger seconded. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$200 from Nathan and Deborah Stiemke to the FFA; \$500 from an anonymous donor to mock trial; \$100 from an anonymous donor to the FFA; \$500 from an anonymous donor to school fair; \$340 from Mary Jo Wilson to high school music program; fitness equipment worth \$15,000 (3 Matrix t7xi treadmills at \$4000 each; 1 Precor Elliptical at \$2000, and 4 Spin Bikes at \$250 each) from Shem Heiser and Nick Berry of RV Lexington Fitness to the high school; and \$50,000 from Athletic Booster Club for replacement of weight room equipment. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Maier moved to accept the following donations to Project Lunchbox for families with food insecurity: Construction & General Laborers Attn: Dean Hackl, \$250; Gerard/Susan Gundlach & family, \$900; Spring Green Chamber (community collection), \$153.43; Royal Bank (donations from employees and customers), \$210; Anonymous, \$500; \$100 from Dawn Ingham; \$100 from Erin Crooks Lynch; and \$250 from Centurians, Inc. Minich seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 7:44 pm. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk