

River Valley School District  
Thursday, October 10, 2024  
Regular Meeting  
Middle School Library  
7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: N/A

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

Others: Shari Graffunder, Tiffany Neuheisel, Rachel Eberle, Shawn Duren, Julie Kuhse (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.

Maier moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Iausly moved to approve the agenda items as submitted. Minich 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. School Fair Leadership was recognized and Rachel Eberle, Tiffany Neuheisel, and Shari Graffunder were present. Glasbrenner commended the hours that this team puts in and everything they do behind the scenes to make the school fair a success. Eberle and Neuheisel credited their 5-6 years of working together on the fair as a reason for the success. Graffunder also acknowledged the leadership of the stellar group of seniors and alumni providing valuable information to underclassmen.

#### Public Comments

None.

#### Student Council Report

Caleb Drachenberg, student council president, was present. Student Council raised \$575 selling cotton candy and boba tea and running the ring toss during homecoming. Dress up days have been organized for Halloween week. Student Council will sell boba tea on October 31 with additional sale dates being considered. Special thanks to Arcadia Books for providing boba tea at cost. Winter Break activities are being planned.

Elementary and ELC students participated in the Blackhawk Bolt last week as a fundraiser for their schools. The high school Mock Trial team, under the leadership of Jason Hollenberger, participated in the Bulldog Invitational at Yale University on September 14-15, compiling a 1-2-1 record. David Van Hallgren was named Outstanding Witness at the tournament. Ms. Graffunder's high school classes submitted entries in the school fair, FFA officers attended the fall leadership conference in Fennimore, and Dairy Food and Dairy Cattle teams participated in the World Dairy Expo in Madison,

#### Review of Homecoming and School Fair Activities

Neuheisel recapped the fair and auction. There were 8 dairy cattle, 11 beef, 50 swine, 4 sheep, and 17 goats, in addition to chickens, turkey, and ducks, some of which were sold at auction. Also exhibited were rabbits and cats. There were 62 registered bidders for the auction, with \$66,000 awarded to winning exhibitors. The silent auction baskets brought in \$954 which goes to FFA alumni to support students and \$2,650 from the paddle raffle is split between the school fair and FFA scholarships.

Shari Graffunder provided a review of the 61<sup>st</sup> school fair. She thanked Lisa Ruhland, Diane Kraemer and Peoples Community Bank for assistance with the auction and auction transactions. Pre-fair donations from community and business of \$5,740 supported the fair ribbons and supplies for the agriculture interactive stations. She also thanked WRCO for coming and promoting the day, Gavin Brothers for the donation of auctioneer services, former ag teachers who helped out with the interactive stations, Jordan Gauger for building the milk house station, Wyatt Nachreiner and independent ag students who built the art support boards for exhibits, the officer team, the chamber of commerce, judges, FFA members, alumni, maintenance staff, school fair committee members, teachers, and her family for food stand and clean up help. FFA was awarded a \$2,000 community betterment grant from Corteva which supported the t-shirts for completion of the interactive stations. FFA also provided Culvers gift cards as a promotional item. Next year's school fair is scheduled for September 26, 2025. Graffunder welcomes all feedback.

Blakley commented on Homecoming activities including dress up days, student involvement in activities, pep rally with fireworks, fair, parade, and games and activities on campus on Friday and the Homecoming dance on Saturday. Thanks to Ms. Graffunder and team and our staff that contributed to a positive week.

#### WASB Business Honor Roll Recipients

This year we recognized the following businesses during the homecoming football game: Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce; Arena Food Pantry; Arcadia Books, The Gard Theater; and Trader's Bar and Grill.

#### Enrollment Information

Enrollment information is as follows: Third Friday September Pupil Count = 1,162 and Third Friday September Open Enrollment = 52 non-residents enrolled in, and 158 residents enrolled out. There are 19 home school families with 36 students as of 10/2/24 with a filing deadline of 10/15/24.

#### Update on School District Operations from Administration

Knoll reported on the start of special education evaluations and the special education audit. The improvement plan for seclusion and restraint has been approved as well as test participation and classroom inclusion for special education students.

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students wrapped up their bike riding unit with a ride to Bakkens Pond. Staff started training on the Act 20 literacy screener. The Blackhawk Bolt on October 4 raised approximately \$20,000 and it was noted that iReady testing is complete.

At the high school, Miller Electric spoke with students interested in electrical or linemen field about apprenticeship opportunities. Pre-ACT scores are being reviewed. Deb Nelson donated apples to the Apple Crunch Day, which was celebrated districtwide.

Hegland shared information on school safety meetings being held at 4:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month and issues to be improved on, including notification systems that need upgrading. Initial evacuation drills were conducted. The Visitor Management System has arrived and hardware is in each building. Timeline and process for rollout is being discussed, which will most likely be the first of the year. Hegland noted that there is an upcoming winter sports meeting and possible conference realignment.

Radtke reported that staff is reviewing iReady, Forward Exam, and school report card data. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders went to APT, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders experienced Youth Conservation Days, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are going to Bethel Horizons for team building, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are going to Kickapoo Valley Reserve on October 24.

#### Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Annual meeting – October 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Special meeting – October 21, 2024 to follow annual meeting

#### Legislative Update

Glasbrenner attended a WASDA meeting where the school funding formula was discussed. There is a record number of districts going to operational referendums in November. As the new state budget is set, group input is an emphasis on special education funding.

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

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

#### Consideration & Action on Resignations/Retirements, if any

None.

#### Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

#### Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

None. Policy meeting of October 7 was cancelled.

#### Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

Iausly reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting on September 16 and the discussion on safety and security equipment—cameras, PAs, clocks, phones, exterior doors, and fire alarms resulting in needed upgrades of \$380,000. Initial discussion was had with Fred Peterson, onsite manager with CMS. The Committee also discussed an overview of the five year plan for the school forest, including removing diseased and dying trees, inclusion of prairie, and changes to the fitness trail area on the north end of district campus.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to choose FEH Design as the design firm for the FEMA BRIC Grant. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

Bettinger reported on the Budget/ERC meeting of October 7 and discussion on the estimated budget and expected equalized value increase of 7.61%. Parameters for lowering the mill rate

and use of fund balance if necessary were discussed and will be presented at the annual meeting on October 21. This is dependent on the final revenue limit numbers expected on October 15.

An addition to the Employee Handbook was presented to reference several pay rates in one area. As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the addition of Figure 3 – Pay Schedule for Other Pay in the Employee Handbook. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Renewal of Rural Virtual Academy Charter School Contract with Medford School District

The 3-year contract with Rural Virtual Academy with Medford School District has expired. School year 2023-24 finished with 15 students enrolled and 2024-25 started with 12. Enrollment of 4-5 saves the district money versus an alternate online program.

Young moved to renew the contract with RVA for 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 Madison Area Technical College Dual Credit Contract –  
Bettinger moved to approve the 2024-25 Madison Area Technical College Dual Credit Contract. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts as follows: \$600 from Jason and Cynthia Hollenberger to mock trial. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 7:43 pm. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Julie Kuhse for:

Sara Carstensen Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk