

River Valley School District
Thursday, October 14, 2021
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Minich, Maier, Iausly, Bettinger, Carstensen, Kate Hanson (Student Representative), Morgan Brickl (Student Representative)

Absent: Cates

Admin: Glasbrenner, Radtke, Blakley, Krey

Others: Tia Walsh, Lynn White, Jenafer Humphries, Derek Miller, Michelle Orcutt, Dan Machovec, Shari Graffunder, Dr. Furukawa, Shawn Duren, Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. She 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. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Iausly moved to approve the agenda. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Derek Miller, Spring Green resident and ambulance chief, challenged the Board and administration to go further to meet the needs in our community. He referred to a CDC study that states schools with universal masking have less than half as many COVID cases and another CDC study that states the number of outbreaks is 3.5 times higher at schools without universal masking. This information is regardless of vaccination status. He mentioned his neighbor who wrote a letter to the editor and was close to having a child hospitalized. He is urging more aggressive masking and testing and thinks current policies should be strengthened. He feels if we are lax with our standards on masks and testing, we will see more cases.

Lynn White, Spring Green resident, requested that when under a mask mandate due to thresholds, that masking end when the instructional day ends. She noted that masks slide off faces of wrestlers and basketball players need to move masks to catch their breath. Both of these sports affect her children. She added that WIAA released guidelines and does not require masks at school. No college or professional players mask when playing sports. Also, kids gather together unmasked in the parking lot at school, in cars, at team dinners, and during team bonding. She assumes there is good air quality control in the gym since she feels a cool breeze while in the bleachers. If air quality isn't good, then we need to fix that.

Jenafer Humphries, Spring Green resident, has two children in the district. She sent a letter to the editor and to the Board regarding her son that tested positive for COVID and was on the edge of hospitalization. Her daughter is immunocompromised. She feels that the Board did not make the right decision regarding masking and should have listened to the medical experts. She noted that her attorney is urging her to sue the Board, but she is not going to. She doesn't want tax dollars used for a lawsuit that is easily preventable, but stated that another parent may not have the same attitude. She feels there is an increase in bullying in school regarding masks since her son said most kids don't wear them and some kids hassle him, so he took it off a couple of times. She believes all of these problems could be resolved with a universal mask mandate.

Student Council Report

Kate Hanson and Morgan Brickl were present and introduced themselves. Jennings encouraged them to share opinions on agenda items from their student perspective. They shared that the ELC has been discussing fire safety and that there is an open house at ELC on October 18. Some 4th grade students have been studying bugs. Jennifer Moore-Kerr thanked assistants for their work with the elementary before/after school program. High school teachers Holverson, Synnes and Scofield took a group of students to a performance at APT. There is a choir concert on Oct 26. The musical “Newsies” will be performed December 17 through 19.

Review of Homecoming and School Fair Activities

Shari Graffunder reported that there were a lot of positive comments regarding the fair. She thanked Ron Fruit, WRCO, for promoting the fair, auctioneer Jeff Paulson, and Lisa Ruhland at Peoples Community Bank. She also thanked the Home News and Valley Sentinel for their written communication and Equity and Straka Meats for their time and efforts. She noted that the FFA officers did a great job and thanked all who volunteered to make the fair a success. She highlighted the alumni show that was a new part of the fair this year. The Board passed along kudos for a good job.

Blakley noted that Homecoming week was successful with a few adjustments for student safety. The Thursday night pep rally was outside and kids were active and had fun. Friday’s parade had good energy and there was a really good atmosphere with students and community. He thanked the Village of Spring Green for allowing the fireworks.

WASB Business Honor Roll Awards Presented to Area Businesses

The district nominates area businesses to WASB on an annual basis to recognize them for their support of the school district. Of the 55 businesses recognized in the state, 5 were from River Valley. This year’s recipients were: River Valley Clinic/Sauk Prairie, Spring Green Fire & EMS, Jewell Associates Engineers, M&W Fabrication & Repair, and Meadows Assisted Living and Memory Care.

Enrollment Information

Enrollment information is as follows: Third Friday Pupil Count Report = 1,127 head count and 1,203 after adjusted count; Third Friday Open Enrollment In/Out = 63 IN and 130 OUT; and RVA@RVSD (full time virtual learning students under agreement with Medford) = 13. We have contacted 12 families that registered as home school last year but haven’t registered by the deadline this year and are not attending school.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

The ELC and elementary school held the Blackhawk Bolt fundraiser and raised \$25,668. Thanks was extended to families and the community for their generosity.

Radtke noted that there was good attendance at the fair, parade, and pep rally by middle school students. Team meetings are being held to look at student data and need for intervention in addition to department meetings to work on curriculum and small group instruction. Middle school students took the Youth Risk Behavior Survey today which will help to evaluate our climate at the middle school. All 6th grade students visited Upland Woods in WI Dells for youth conversation. Parent/Teacher conferences are next week.

High school students also took the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Staff is working on essential standards and building curriculum. Parent/Teacher conferences were last week.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Jennings recognized the time and efforts of Board members since October 3-9 was Wisconsin School Board Week. She reminded Board members that October 25 is the annual meeting with a special meeting to follow.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner recognized our nutrition staff since National School Lunch Week is October 11-15. He noted that a requirement of ESSER 3 funding is to provide a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. He will discuss this with the Curriculum and Instructional Committee on October 18. He stated that last week we received our school report card data from DPI but the data is still embargoed from the public at this time.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – September 2021; Open Session Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2021, Regular Meeting and September 22, 2021, Special Meeting

Young moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Iausly seconded. Young complimented Wedge on the quality of Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Jennings noted there are no recommended changes to Policy 728 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings. As recommend by the Committee, Iausly moved to provide district administrator guidance to staff to not have to mask during a mandatory masking if they are alone in the office or building. Maier seconded. Young stated she brought up this idea at the last Board meeting. Motion carried with Bettinger and Minich opposed.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to approved the 2nd reading of the following policies: 752 District Vehicle Use; (NEW) 752.1 Exhibit Student Transportation Agreement (Alternative Transportation); 352 Field Trips; 370 Co-Curricular Activity Program; 836 Exhibit Animals in the School Request Form; 840 Gifts to the District; 452.4 Administering Medication to Students; 452.4 Exhibit 3 Self-Administration of Medication on Overnight Field Trips - Health Care Provider and Parent Permission Form; 523 Exhibit Periods of Exclusion from School with Infectious Conditions; 172 Special Board Meetings; and 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings. Jennings seconded. There were several pages added to Policy 352 between the 1st and 2nd reading regarding overnight field trips. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approved the 1st reading of Policy 838 Naming District Facilities and Policy 413 Gender-Based Harassment and Discrimination. Jennings seconded. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations from the Committee. It was noted that the Stadium Upgrade Project fundraising amount is just under \$300,000. There has been positivity from the community with the project encompassing the needs of many co-curricular groups. The focus of 2021-22 maintenance projects will be seal coating, asphalt, and curb and walk replacements.

Consideration & Action on Budget/Employee Relations Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to levy \$3 million for 2021-22 from the operational referendum. Maier seconded. This is \$213,000 less than was passed by the 2019 referendum. Motion carried.

The Committee will discuss an April 2022 referendum, which will need action by the full Board at the January 2022 meeting or earlier.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to increase the Before/After School Director hours to 5.75 per day at \$18.50 per hour. Iausly seconded. The total cost is approximately \$2,000. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to add a special education assistant position at the elementary school. Minich seconded. The estimated cost is \$40,000 for salary and benefits. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the following 2022-23 School Calendar revisions: remove On-site Districtwide Registration Day; reduce one Student Contact Day and add One District Inservice Day by changing School Fair Day to a NO SCHOOL day for students and to an All Staff District Inservice Day; reduce Parent/Teacher Conferences by 8 hours; and add 8 hours of Professional Learning. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to remove the following language regarding Credit Advancement Policy from the 2022-23 Employee Handbook: remove expired language regarding Professional Development Plan (PDP); and remove language regarding Continuing Education Units (CEU). Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: wood valued at \$1,500 from Jeff Haylock to the Tech Ed Department; \$300 from Athletic Boosters to track team for uniforms; \$500 from David and Jody Miller to High School Special Education Department; \$500 from Kathy Kinney (in memory of David J. Mancinie) to Middle School English Department; \$500 from Kathy Kinney (in memory of David J. Mancinie) to Middle School Library; and 27 donations for the Stadium Upgrade Project—\$500 Class of 2002 (in memory of Chris Kraemer); \$122 anonymous (in memory of Parker Kruse); \$5 Keaton Kuykendall; \$50 Caleb Radtke; \$30,000 Marty and Linda Kraemer; \$2,500 Spring Green Vision Center – Dr. Jeff Vodak; \$50,000 Kraemer Brothers; \$1,500 Fred and Tami Gruber; \$250 Ben and Jessica Knoble Family; \$250 Ted and Teresa Bindl; \$100 Justin Kramer; \$250 Philip and Cindy Kersten; \$10,000 Marc Kraemer; \$30,000 Eric and Irene Rapp; \$1,000 Arena Cheese; \$1,000 Donald and Marcy Billington; \$1,000 Kevin Billington and Taylor Gruber; \$1,000 James and Jaime Radtke; \$500 Maureen and James O’Neill; \$10,000 Terry and Suzanne Shifflet; \$300 Class of 1990; \$500 Terry and Sue Maxwell; \$1,000 Cole and Kristen Brunson; \$300 Charles and Lois Birch; \$50,000 Athletic Boosters; \$250 Luke and Brittany Thatcher; and \$10,000 Village Family Dental. Carstensen seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts and the Donation Acceptance Agreement for \$75,000 from Gauger Salvage. Maier seconded. The Donation Acceptance Agreement notes that \$15,000 will be paid each year for 5 years and earns them football field naming rights for the life of the turf. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Carstensen, Iausly, Jennings, Maier, Minich, Nelson, Young
Against the motion: N/A

Absent: Cates
Abstain: Bettinger

Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 1 abstention and 1 absent. Motion carried.

Maier moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk