

River Valley School District
Thursday, November 12, 2020
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 pm

- The public was able to view this meeting live on our River Valley YouTube Channel.

- Anyone who attended the meeting in person was required to wear a mask and follow social distancing.

- Public comments were to be shared without attending this meeting in person by contacting Kathy Jennings, Board President, prior to the meeting at 608-588-4737 or at jennings.rvsb@rvschools.org.

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Maier, Iausly, McGuire, Bettinger, Cates, Strozinsky
Absent: Kelsey Olson (Student Representative)
Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Radtke, Blakley, Peterson, Hegland
Others: Andy Mueller, James Cooper, Kasey Maxwell, Jordyn Wendhausen, Shawn Duren, Judy Ettenhofer, 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. Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Kasey Maxwell, High School Art Teacher and RVEA Co-President, thanked administration and the Board for offering Blackhawk childcare to district employees while schools are operating virtually but employees are reporting to work. There are 10 to 17 kids per day at the elementary school and routine COVID precautions are used in addition to temperature checks upon arrival. Offering childcare to district employees also helps from a human resources perspective since employees would be allowed to take two weeks of Family First CoronaVirus Relief Act (FFCRA) leave at full or 66% pay (depending on the situation), due to the school closure.

Andy Mueller and James Cooper, representatives from Equitable, provided information regarding a scholarship for high school seniors.

Student Council Report

None.

Discuss Process for District Administrator Annual Evaluation and Administrator Annual Evaluations

Each Board member was asked to complete an evaluation form for Glasbrenner and return to Paula Wedige by December 4 for compilation for the December Board meeting. Glasbrenner will fill out a self-evaluation using the same form and reference the corresponding areas in the

Strategic Plan. He will also evaluate all administrators and provide an update to the Board in December. He summarized the process for setting goals and evaluation by referencing the Strategic Plan, annual academic and climate goals, annual evaluations of administrators to include self-evaluations, employee evaluations, and job description review.

Update on Contact With New Open Enrollment OUT Families

Glasbrenner contacted families with new students open enrolled OUT this year. Reasons for open enrollment out of the district included proximity to another district, having older siblings already OUT, and wanting a district with experience with virtual teaching.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

A letter was sent to the district expressing concern regarding a potential home on Kennedy Road to house a sex offender. Glasbrenner reached out to Senator Marklein who was already aware of the issue and had written a letter to the Sauk County Courthouse requesting that this not occur.

Sauk County has provided a new tracking tool for school districts to use to log data about student and staff with COVID symptoms, positives, and close contacts. This allows us to identify hotspots and react to a building instead of the entire district. We will communicate this data weekly with staff and Board using aggregate districtwide numbers, and this data will also be posted weekly on our district website.

Peterson noted that the Early Learning Center and Elementary are both doing all virtual learning for the first time this year and teachers are doing a great job. She stated that teachers are hard on themselves and some are working from home. Yesterday was Veterans Day and we delivered 110 goodie boxes of treats, pictures, and letters to area veteran homes. One veteran wrote a letter back to one of our students.

Radtke noted that the middle school is doing all virtual learning for the second time this year. Teachers are doing a great job and reaching out to families that are struggling with virtual learning. The middle school held an annual safety drill last week. Parent/Teacher conferences were done using summary sheets for parents and students with some virtual meetings.

Blakley agrees with Peterson and Radtke that teachers are doing a great job. Parent/Teacher conferences were held virtually, including some phone conferences. He noted that some special education and at-risk students are still attending in person, even during virtual learning.

McGuire noted that his daughter thinks our teachers are doing a great job with virtual learning, but has some complaints with using Chromebooks for students.

There was discussion about activities/athletics continuing during districtwide virtual learning. The musical is still rehearsing and mock trial will start practice virtually. Football and swimming are nearing the end of their seasons, and winter sports will all start practice on November 23. It was noted that these activities are important to kids, are non-compulsory, and don't offer a virtual option. With these smaller groups, we are able to use additional screening, cleaning, and distancing protocols. Data suggests that kids in activities are not transmitting COVID and the adherence to rules may be higher since kids don't want to lose these privileges.

Young noted that while staff are appreciative to be able to come to work, some would rather be working virtually from home. She asked why it's safe for staff to report but not for kids. It was noted that while there are a few special education and at risk kids that still do report in person, there are fewer people in the buildings, staff can isolate in their classrooms, cleaning and safety measures are in place, there is accessible technology and support, and there are not the distractions of trying to work from home.

CDC guidelines state that temperature and symptom checks should be done by parents at home. In order to keep schools open, we need families to follow protocols. We rely on families to report symptoms, positive cases, and close contacts since it is estimated that only half of the cases are being reported at the county level. When we return on November 30, we will use our data and react quickly if needed.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Board members and administrators were asked to please contact Paula Wedige if they want to register for the virtual WASB Convention in January.

Legislative Update

There is a new state order from Governor Evers regarding social distancing over the holidays. The nation may have a new focus with a new incoming president.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – September 2020; Open Session Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2020, Regular Meeting and October 26, 2020 Special Meeting
Iausly moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

Cates moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Resignation of Janelle Sivam, school nurse. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Cates moved to approve the hiring of Brittney Belche, registered nurse. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to approve the second reading of Policy 345.53 Rule Criteria for Admittance into the High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) Program, with HSED acronym spelled out, and Policy 771 Printing and Duplicating Services (Copyright). Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the first reading of Policy 131 School Board Elections, Policy 131.1 Board Member Qualifications, Policy 132 Board Member Resignations, and Policy 151.2 Policy Dissemination. Cates seconded. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations

Iausly noted that the Committee recommends acquiring laptops for teaching staff, to replace their Chromebooks and desktop computers. This item will be discussed later tonight during the Budget/ERC Committee update.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the lease of laptops for teaching staff as presented. Cates seconded. Krey noted that the cost to lease laptops would replace the cost for Chromebooks and desktop computers for teaching staff. Duren noted that our order would likely not be filled until the beginning of 2021. Motion carried. Kasey Maxwell thanked the Board and noted that this would be a positive change for teaching staff.

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to approve a \$35 per day stipend for support staff who have a substitute teacher license when they substitute for a teacher. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the hiring of Kelly Deterding to serve as our Disease Investigation Specialist at \$2,500 for the year. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to approve the hiring of a 20 hour per week custodian for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year at \$10,000 for the year. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to extend the snowplowing contract with J&J for the 2020-21 school year at the same rate. Iausly seconded. The contract will be bid out next summer for future years. Motion carried.

It was noted that we have spent \$116,000 of \$141,000 of CARES Act money, our revenue limit amount has not changed since the annual meeting, we are moving forward with the budgeted item of repairing the athletic complex, and we are still waiting for a response from Lamers to our questions about last year's transportation contract.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$500 from Upland Hills Health Foundation for two tables for students and staff for outdoor use; \$500 from Upland Hills Health for two tables for students and staff for outdoor use; \$100 from Derrick and Janet Gee to Fund 21 for families in need; \$288.77 from Bailey's Screen Printing and Embroidery to Fund 21 for families in need; 50 Lands' End backpacks valued at \$2,000 total from Steve and Mary Esch and Deb Tichenor to the district; \$1,350 from the Athletic Booster Club for HUDL software for girls basketball; \$1,350 from the Athletic Booster Club for HUDL software for boys basketball; \$290 from the Athletic Booster Club for Fast Model Services software for boys basketball; and \$750 from the Greater Sauk Community Foundation toward the elementary tent rental. Young seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk