

River Valley School District
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Bettinger, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Cates, Strozinsky, McGuire

Absent: Iausly, Case

Admin: Wermuth, Krey, Blakley, Hegland, Radtke (arrived 7:54)

Others: Mark Roffers, Michelle Orcutt, Rachel Orcutt, Jessica Knoble, Melissa Bandell, Paul Pustina, Jeremy Eberle, Sue Quale, Noah McVay, Bridget Wyman, Doris Green (Home News), 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. Cates moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Don Brander expressed his view that Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings doesn't follow state statutes, and he would like to see the policy on a future agenda for discussion.

Student Council Report

Lauren Knutson reported that Arena Community Elementary is having a dirt bike presentation on November 10 as part of a lesson on working hard, a Veterans Day Program on November 13, and a Paint Night on November 21. River Valley Elementary held a celebration for performing 100 acts of kindness. Thanks was extended to the Lions Club for recent vision screenings. The Middle School hosted a Halloween dance. The High School held a blood drive and the environmental class tested water at Dick Cates's farm. Second quarter started on November 6 with basketball, gymnastics, and mock trial all starting this month.

Update on Strategic Planning Process

Mark Roffers of MDRoffers Consulting shared a Powerpoint presentation to: 1) Discuss purpose, scope, schedule, and outline for project; 2) Revisit district's beliefs, goals, learner outcomes, assets, and challenges; 3) Discuss proposed approach to community outreach; and 4) Provide public comment opportunity. The goal is for the Strategic Planning document to be complete by April 2018. Community outreach efforts are being set up, including community meetings, social media, and contact with businesses in the community.

A starting point of past efforts (graduate learner outcomes, belief statements, district goals for 2015-19, and the May 2017 Board brainstorming session outcomes) will be integrated into the plan with expansion and additional items. A preliminary list of district assets and challenges was discussed. A thought-provoking exercise asked people to finish this statement: "*The District should not initiate any program or service unless it... (IS or DOES WHAT)?*" Bettinger wants the strategic plan to be tied to financial planning, while keeping student needs first. Cates agrees. Strozinsky wants the plan to be both relevant and affordable.

Strategic Planning Community Workshops have been scheduled as follows: 7:00-9:00 pm on Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at the River Valley Early Learning Center Gymnasium (1370 Cherry Street, Plain); 7:00-9:00 pm on Thursday, November 30, 2017, at the Arena Community Elementary School Gymnasium (314 Willow Street, Arena); 7:00-9:00 pm on Monday, December 4, 2017, at the Lone Rock Elementary Gymnasium (222 W. Pearl Street, Lone Rock); and 7:00-9:00 pm on Monday, December 18, 2017, at the River Valley Middle School Library (660 W. Daley Street, Spring Green). Roffers will facilitate these meetings with Board representation at each. Administration will not be present.

Recap from Community Listening Sessions Regarding Future of Arena Community Elementary School Building

Melissa Bandell provided an overview of two recent community meetings that were held in Arena to discuss the future of the school building. Brainstorming ideas were shared and she expressed an overwhelming theme of wanting to use the building as an asset for the town and village of Arena. There were questions about the process of selling a district building. Wermuth noted that Policy 690 School Properties Disposal will be reviewed at the November 20 School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting and then forwarded to the Policy Committee that will meet on November 27. Bandell noted that the village and township are interested in acquiring the building, but need more information on costs associated with the building and have concerns with the aging building and boiler.

Update on 2017-18 and 2018-19 District Configuration Transition and Transportation

Hegland noted we've heard many positives related to the transition but wants to know about the challenges. He plans to survey students asking what they like about the transition and what they would change. He also plans to survey staff. Collaboration and recognizing differences is an ongoing process.

We are currently looking at enrollments and staffing patterns for 2018-19. There will be more conversations as we move into the future about determining our educational priority at the elementary level. Expectations are high for teaching staff to use rigorous and relevant curriculum with a diverse student population.

Wermuth noted that we are continuing to make progress. There has been a lot of change for a lot of people. Jennings noted that we have quality leadership, teachers, and staff. Grade level teams meet almost monthly but the need for additional common planning time has been a concern.

Review of 2016-17 ACT Test Scores

The ACT test results from this year's senior class were reviewed. River Valley ranks 23rd in the state, 1st compared to 10 other neighboring districts, and 2nd in our conference. Our average is 22.3 compared to the state average of 20.0. It was noted that 100% of juniors are required to be tested and River Valley's student population has a rate of 30.7% economically disadvantaged students. The percentage of River Valley students that met all 4 core areas on the test as college ready was 35.1% compared to the state average of 23%. River Valley attributes four reasons to success on the ACT: increase in graduation requirements, preparation with students for formalized testing; collaboration with the middle school on high school readiness; and offering weekend ACT test prep classes.

Recap of River Valley Board Member and Administrator Presentation Given at Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance Conference

Jennings, Young, Wermuth, Krey, Kjos, and Hegland made a presentation on “Journey to Closing Rural Schools” at the recent Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance Conference.

Board Reminders and Announcements

Jennings noted that not counting Board members and district staff, public attendance at the annual meeting totaled two people.

Legislative Update

Cates reported that Walker announced his re-election bid. In addition, 7 of the 10 referenda questions for Wisconsin schools on the November 7 ballot were passed.

Board Training Opportunities

In addition to the WASB Convention in Milwaukee in January, there is an “Economics for Opinion Leaders” workshop in Green Bay in February and several webinars offered through WASB.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – October 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2017

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

Consideration & Action on Approval of 2017-18 Budget

Bettinger moved to approve the 2017-18 budget as presented at the annual meeting. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$150 anonymous donation to Middle School Shakespeare Group; \$150 anonymous donation to Middle School Art Club; mat board valued at \$500 from Cristl Iausly to the Art Department; and antique book press valued at \$975 from Charles and Jura Silverman to the Art Department. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Teacher Transfer from Middle School Special Education to Arena Community Elementary School Special Education

Kelly Kalscheur, Middle School Special Education Teacher, expressed interest in transferring to the vacant Special Education Teacher position at Arena Community Elementary School. Three people are being interviewed to replace Kalscheur at the middle school. Cates moved to approve Kalscheur’s transfer to Arena Community Elementary School. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Wermuth recommended hiring Jon Novak to return as .40 FTE Business Manager at 2 days per week, starting December 1. Novak does not want a formal contract but a month to month agreement that can be terminated by either party at any time. Novak’s salary would be 40% of

his previous salary with no benefits. Strozinsky moved to hire Novak. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Young moved to approve the second reading of Policy 350 Youth Options Program (Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program) and Policy 351 Summer School Programs. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

It was noted that there were building walkthroughs with potential contractors and representatives from CESA #10 related to our Energy Exemption projects and forthcoming bids.

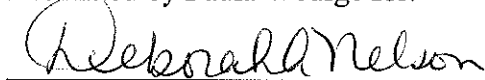
Ferguson and the custodial staff were recognized and thanked for their hard work during the summer transition and the busy fall quarter.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations

No recommendations.

Cates moved to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk