

River Valley School District  
Thursday, December 10, 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](mailto:jennings.rvsb@rvschools.org).*

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, McGuire, Bettinger, Cates, Strozinsky  
Absent: Maier, Iausly, Kelsey Olson (Student Representative)  
Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Blakley, Peterson, Radtke, Hegland  
Others: 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. Bettinger moved to proceed with the legal meeting. McGuire seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

#### Public Comments

None.

#### Student Council Report

None.

#### River Valley School District Endowment Fund Grants Awarded to Teachers During "COVID-19 Relief Matching Grant" Initiative

Community donations were given to the Endowment Fund during a \$10,000 matching grant initiative specified for COVID-19 relief. Teachers applied for grants and a list of items valued at \$19,451 were purchased using these Endowment Fund donations.

#### Update on School District Operations from Administration

Glasbrenner noted there was a recent press release and flowchart from Sauk County regarding CDC shorter quarantine options for COVID close contacts. One option is 7 days with a negative test and no symptoms, and the other option is 10 days with no test and no symptoms. Sauk County is still recommending the 14-day option. Glasbrenner and administrators will be joining a conversation with medical advisors on Monday to discuss this topic.

While the middle school, elementary school, and early learning center are still doing in-person learning since December 7, the high school is now moving to virtual learning until January 11, due to multiple COVID cases and close contacts. It is difficult for high school students and staff to go back and forth between in-person and virtual learning, and some students are missing activities due to being positive or being close contacts.

Bettinger asked why we can't move right to virtual learning the following day in those instances where we have to move from in-person learning to virtual learning. Blakely noted that parents need to have time to prep to have kids at home, and kids need time to get materials at school to have at home. Also, contact tracing must be completed to identify who must quarantine and deep cleaning occurs in the building before staff can return to work in their classrooms.

Bettinger also asked about the school schedule for virtual Wednesdays after hearing concerns from some parents. He asked why virtual Wednesdays can't be the same as any other day of the week when kids are doing virtual learning. He feels kids need to be held accountable while the school day is happening, and accountability seems loose on Wednesdays. Young stated she expected more assignments and higher expectations on Wednesday than what is happening. Blakely noted that rigor and pacing won't be the same anytime we are in virtual learning. Also, the current "F list" for failing students is high. Administration has been talking about bringing in more at risk kids to be in person on Wednesdays for additional help. A survey of high school students shows they are overwhelmed when they are virtual and family expectations since they are at home adds to the stress level. There is currently low morale at the high school. Administration will continue to evaluate and discuss how to best utilize virtual Wednesdays.

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

None.

#### Legislative Update

Glasbrenner continues to follow information from various sources regarding COVID and educational standards during this school year. There are grey answers to many questions.

#### Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – November 2020; Open Session Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2020, Regular Meeting and November 19, 2020, Special Meeting

Young moved to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. Strozinsky seconded. Young thanked Wedge for the quality of School Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

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

None.

#### Consideration & Action on Evaluation of Annual Safety Drills at Each School Building

Due to social distancing, many aspects of the safety drills were talked through with students instead of performing the actions. Young moved to approve the evaluation of annual safety drills for each building. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

### Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Strozinsky moved to approve the second 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.

It was noted that a group has approached the district about naming a facility. As recommended by the Committee, Jennings moved to approve the first reading of new Policy 838 Naming District Facilities or Fields. McGuire seconded. After discussion about the suggested criteria listed in the new policy, there will be revisions at the next Policy Committee meeting prior to the second reading by the full Board. Motion carried with Bettinger and Young opposed.

As recommended by the Committee, Jennings moved to approve the first reading of Policy 423 Public School Open Enrollment; Policy 423 Rule Public School Open Enrollment; Policy 362.2 Fines, Loss, or Damage to Materials; and Policy 470 Student Fees and Fines. There were no changes to 423 and 423 Rule. Young seconded. Motion carried.

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

Strozinsky noted that we are fully staffed with custodial employees and the Rettler Company was hired to handle the track and field improvements. The Committee recommended that we bid out the 120-acre Arena school forest property for not less than \$4,000 per acre.

### Consideration & Action on Sale of School Forest Property in Arena

As recommended by the School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee, Strozinsky moved to offer for sealed bids the 120-acre Arena school forest property for not less than \$4,000 per acre. McGuire seconded. There were opposing views among the Board members on whether or not to sell the property. It was noted that it costs the district very little to keep the property but we only get a small revenue from timber sales. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Bettinger, Jennings, McGuire, Young

Against the motion: Strozinsky, Nelson, Cates

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Maier, Iausly

Polled vote was 4-3 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.


### Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Young moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: 20 boxes of surgical masks at \$9.00 per box for a total value of \$180 from Nasco to the district; \$9,500 from Bob Wickman for baseball diamond tune up; \$500 from David and Jody Miller to Fund 21 for food/snacks for high school special education kids and kids in school now during virtual, needing extra help; \$500 from the Hooper Foundation (matching gift from David and Jody Miller) to Fund 21 for food/snacks for high school special education kids and kids in school now during virtual, needing extra help; \$500 anonymous donation to Fund 21 for families in need; \$2,000 from Eric and Irene Rapp to Fund 21 for families in need; \$50 anonymous donation to Fund 21 for families in need; and \$450 from the Athletic Booster Club for HUDL services for wrestling. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator and Administrator Annual Evaluations and Recommendations for Contract Renewals; and 19.85(1)(a) and 19.85(1)(f) for Update on 2019-20 Expulsions

Cates moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:15 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator and Administrator Annual Evaluations and Recommendations for Contract Renewals; and 19.85(1)(a) and 19.85(1)(f) for Update on 2019-20 Expulsions. McGuire seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk