

River Valley School District  
Thursday, December 12, 2024  
Regular Meeting  
Middle School Library  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Jennings, Minich, Cates, Iausly, Carstensen, Bettinger, Isaac Ziebarth (Student Representative)

Absent: Young, Maier, Gauger

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Blakley, Knoll, Peterson

Others: Julie Jensen, Michelle Orcutt, Kevin Wolz, Jean Wolz, Shawn Duren, Judy Ettenhofer (Home News), Paula Wedige (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.

Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Cates moved to approve the agenda items as submitted. Iausly 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. The Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce was recognized and director Julie Jensen was present. Julie has been an integral part of Operation Hygiene, Breakfast with Santa, The Holiday Light Parade, our new teacher luncheon, as well as coordinating connections between local businesses and classrooms.

#### Public Comments

None.

#### Student Council Report

Isaac Ziebarth, student council treasurer, was present. He noted that he plays football and is in band, jazz band, and NHS. Student council is looking at the process for student government elections. They did a turkey bowl in November and are planning a holiday assembly and dress up days for December. Several students attended a Math 24 contest and four rounds were won by our students. Recent FFA events included wreath and poinsettia sales, Kops 4 Kids donations, cheese box sales, donations for the cookie walk, and a visit to Brewhaha.

#### Review of 2023-24 District and School Report Cards

Glasbrenner reviewed the District and School Report Cards from DPI. We received an “Exceeds Expectations” rating, are in the top 5 of 31 districts in CESA 3 overall and in meeting needs of kids with the most needs, and are the top district in growth. This marks 4 years in a row with steady increases in our overall score. We are working on 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading performance. This is a systems evaluation more than a student evaluation and we have good results with initiatives we have been using.

#### Update on School District Operations from Administration

Blakley noted that the craft fair hosted by the basketball team was a success. There is focus on fun holiday activities at school, but also care and support for students who find this time of year challenging. The high school musical “Mean Girls” is happening this weekend.

Peterson shared that the ELC participated in a food pantry drive and the Elementary School enjoyed a movie at The Gard before Thanksgiving break. Staff are now getting ready for January testing.

Knoll stated that there is focus on support for special education kids and staff during this time of year. She helped to identify families in need for participation in Kops 4 Kids and other organizations that donated items for families. She thanked our generous community for being a role model for kids for giving.

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

None.

#### Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that an increase in special education dollars is a topic of discussion for the annual state budget.

#### Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – November 2024; Open Session Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2024, Regular Meeting and November 26, 2024, Special Meeting

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

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

Iausly moved to approve the bi-annual safety drills. 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

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 345.3 Promotion and Retention; 452.2 Student Immunization; 341.3 ~~RVeSchool Policy~~ **Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) Online Courses**; 341.3 Exhibit ~~RVeSchool~~ **Online Learning** Contract; 345.5 Graduation Requirements; 345.52 Graduation Exercises; 345.5 Rule Alternative Diploma Requirements; 345.52(a) Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program; and 164 Board Member Compensation and Expenses. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 470.1 ~~Co-Curricular~~ User Fees. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

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

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the Agricultural Land Lease for 2025 with J&J Ranch, LLC. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Budget/ERC Committee to support the closure of the Early Learning Center in Plain after the 2025-26 school year. Action on this item will be taken later during this meeting.

The Committee also discussed 2024-2025 projects and long term maintenance and facilities plan, school forest five year plan, and the FEMA BRIC Grant application process.

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

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the 2023-24 Auditor Report. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommend by the Committee, Cates moved to approve changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act language in the Employee Handbook as presented. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Budget/ERC Committee supported closing the Early Learning Center in Plain. After discussing the budgetary effect, they recommended closing after the current 2024-25 school year instead of the following year. Action on this item will be taken later during this meeting.

Savings are \$300,000 by closing ELC and another \$700,000 by being efficient with staff and resources. This savings will decrease the amount of the April operational referendum. Administration met with all staff regarding closing at the end of this year and there has been discussion about how to utilize the space in the remaining three buildings for all students and staff. The Board plans to take action at the January 9 Board meeting regarding grade and building configuration and referendum resolutions.

The Committee also discussed potential language for an April 1, 2025, operational referendum, similar to the 2022 referendum wording. They also met in closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(c) for Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, or Performance Evaluations.

#### Consideration & Action on Timeline to Close the Early Learning Center in Plain

Both the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Budget/ERC Committee recommended closure of the Early Learning Center in Plain. Many staff were here with the prior closures in Lone Rock and Arena. Discussion has been focused on minimal impact on courses and class sizes. Cates noted this was not a light decision as it affects families, staff and students and has been talked about since last year. Iausly noted it makes sense to close ELC and make other reductions prior to the referendum as doing so reduces costs by one million dollars. Iausly moved to approve the closure of the Early Learning Center in Plain after the 2024-25 school year. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

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

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$2,400 from the Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair to the high school musical; \$500 from Barb Baxter to families in need; \$258.48 from the Athletic Booster Club for Fast Model software package for boys' basketball; and \$2,000 from Eric and Irene Rapp to families in need. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 6-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Thanks was given to Julie Jensen at the Spring Green Chamber of Commerce for her work coordinating Operation Hygiene donations for families in need.

Cates moved to accept the following donations to Project Lunchbox for families with food insecurity, for a total of \$10,194.40: Emily Liegel \$100.00; Mary/Richard Stellick \$50.00; Chris/Carolyn Fonkert \$200.00; Class of 1964 LaVonne Pulvermacher \$314.40; Tom & Soni Kraemer \$5,000.00; Paul Zillgitt/Patrice Peltier \$200.00; Gordon/Mary Neeffe \$50.00; Michael Derks/Terry Kerr \$100.00; John Bradley \$50.00; Erin Crooks Lynch \$100.00; Anonymous \$500.00; Jim/Jan Spredemann \$1,000.00; Julie Bartlett \$250.00; Kari/Eric Gribble \$500.00; Jacqueline/Nicholas Luther \$500.00; Donn/Laurie Lind \$30; Christ Lutheran Church CLC Women \$1,250. Minich seconded. Polled vote was 6-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, and Performance Evaluations; 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator Annual Evaluation; and 19.85(1)(c) for Recommendations for Contract Renewals/Nonrenewals for Administrators  
Minich moved to adjourn to closed session at 7:44 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, and Performance Evaluations; 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator Annual Evaluation; and 19.85(1)(c) for Recommendations for Contract Renewals/Nonrenewals for Administrators. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 6-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk