

River Valley School District
Thursday, December 14, 2017
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Cates, Strozinsky, McGuire, Iausly, Case

Absent: Bettinger

Admin: Wermuth, Hegland, Blakley, Krey

Others: Brice McCauley, Gavin McCauley, Jessica Knoble, Mason Hare, Peter Gates, Linda Kettner, Ryan Elliott, Michelle Orcutt, Cole Schaffer, Jeremy Eberle, Jess Hisel, Lisa Ladsten, Aaron Holverson, 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. Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Don Brander noted that a group comprised of two School Board members, two Village Board members, and five citizens has formed to discuss the future use of the Lone Rock Elementary School building. Strozinsky and McGuire agreed to be part of this group.

Wermuth noted that several boy scouts were present to work on earning a communication badge, which includes attending a public meeting to hear various points of view on topics.

Student Council Report

Caroline Iausly reported that Madeline Ouimet, Isaac Lange, Kylie Brownlee, and Halle Cole displayed artwork in the Regional High School Art Show. Ouimet's self-portrait was given an excellence award and will be moving on to the next level. The high school musical is being performed this weekend. Winter sports teams had recent success and a FAFSA event was held at the high school. Alternative education students visited Taliesin and there was a fundraising drive for Passages shelter in Richland Center. Student council is planning an assembly before winter break. The middle school choirs will be performing a "Holly Jolly Jukebox" program.

Elementary students are involved in a "Be the Change" campaign with acts of kindness and will hold a "swap meet" on December 20 for kids to donate items from home and then swap items to re-gift for the holidays. Arena's holiday program is on December 18 with a PTO bake and craft sale. Upcoming field trips include holiday movies and a visit to the state capital.

Overview of Food Service Program

Cindy Eby, Food Service Director, gave an overview of our food service program. There are many food regulations that we must follow, such as a fruit and a vegetable serving must be included with the regular lunch option. When asked how much meal prep is done at school versus prepared foods, Eby noted that the lowest count days are those that involve more meal prep. Balancing regulations with the type of food students want to eat is challenging. Cindy's goal is to serve 65% of students. We currently serve 53%.

Farm to School, co-op programs, and grant opportunities were discussed. Eby noted they use items from the school garden when available. There is a garden bar offered at lunch at every school. We have made some changes such as adding a second lunch line at the high school to make the line move quicker and changing the set-up of the cafeteria to be more inviting. After an outside assessment a few years ago, we reduced the number of food service staff based on enrollments to improve efficiency.

We want to work on educating students and parents that the cost of a regular lunch (which includes a protein, grain, starch, fruit and vegetable) is more cost effective than purchasing these items individually. We are contemplating serving breakfast items during Blackhawk period at the high school, since mornings can be a rushed time for students. In addition, there are plans to involve middle school and high school students in a student focus group. One idea at the middle school is to have food offerings related to what they are studying in the curriculum.

Sauk County Broadband Survey

Iausly is working with others to submit a grant by January 28 to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission for funding to start a broadband fiber optic service to homes. The Sauk County Development Corporation conducted a recent survey, and results will be submitted with the grant. If the grant is awarded, the town and village will have to cover half of the cost of the project.

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

The elementary staffing in the transition plan approved in January 2017 was reviewed. The proposal versus actual is accurate, except instead of reducing four teachers this year, it was five, so next year instead of reducing four, it will be three. Enrollment projections for next year have fluctuated, so we will have the same number of teachers as shown in the transition plan but will reduce the number of 2nd grade teachers and increase the number of 5K teachers. Average class size for 4K and 5K next year will be 16 per class, 22.4 for 1st through 4th grade, and 19.5 for 5th grade.

Wermuth noted the plan remains the same to move 5th graders to the middle school next year. They would remain in their own classrooms. Playground equipment needs are being assessed for the early learning center, elementary school, and the middle school. Two administrators and one Board member who have 5th grade children next year answered questions about parental concerns. Several staff visited other schools with a 5th-8th configuration. Curriculum would be pertinent just to 5th graders and new opportunities could be available such as science lab and possible music/band/choir experiences. McGuire asked about capacity at the high school. Blakley noted there are a few rooms open but a large addition of students would strain the entire high school.

Discuss Forward Exam Results and 2016-17 School and District Report Cards from the Department of Public Instruction

River Valley continues to do well on standardized exams. Out of 376 districts, we rank 37th on the State Report Card. Iausly noted we are always compared to districts to our east and only one of those schools is also in the top 40. Our score ranks as the top compared to neighboring districts and second in our conference. Our Forward Exam scores are also favorable compared to neighboring districts and our conference.

Review Process for District Administrator Mid-Year Evaluation in January

Board members were asked to fill out the District Administrator Mid-Year Evaluation form and bring it to the January Board meeting for discussion in closed session.

Board Reminders and Announcements

Board members were asked to turn in expense forms for 2017 by the end of the year.

Legislative Update

Cates noted some rural schools were given sparsity aid for 2018-19, but River Valley didn't qualify. A new Rural Education Commission has been formed with Dan Rossmiller, WASB, and Senator Marklein as part of this group. We can expect significant changes in tax reform at the federal level. Wermuth noted that millions of local Wisconsin tax dollars get sent out of state for out of state property owners.

Board Training Opportunities

There is a WASB Legal and Human Resources Conference in Wisconsin Dells on February 21 and 22 and the WASB State Education Convention is in January 2018.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – November 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2017

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

Consideration & Action on Request for New Computer Programming Class for Second Semester 2017-18

Aaron Holverson, Professor at Southwest Tech, explained there is a grant that allows Southwest Tech to offer this class to high school students online either during real time or a recorded version in the evening. There are five current River Valley students interested for next semester. There was general consensus that this be a pilot program for 2nd semester and the students pay any associated district costs. Iausly moved to approve the new computer programming class for 2nd semester 2017-18 as a pilot program with the district's per student cost to be paid by each student. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$5,000 anonymous donation to Fund 21 for families in need; \$850 anonymous donation to Fund 21 (\$200 for families in need and \$650 for outstanding lunch account balances); \$100 donation from Derrick and Janet Gee to Fund 21 for families in need; lumber valued at \$600 from Jeff Haylock to High School Building Trades Program; \$1,200 donation from "Smoke in the Valley" event for regrading and new limestone for the high school softball diamond; a trumpet valued at \$600 from Kerri Williams to the Music Department; a flute valued at \$200 and a cornet valued at \$100 from Joe Roessler to the Music Department; \$500 anonymous donation to Fund 21 for middle school outstanding lunch account balances; \$500 donation from Christ Lutheran Women of the ELCA to Fund 21 for families in need; and \$2,000 donation from Eric and Irene Rapp to Fund 21 for families in need. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Case moved to approve the hiring of Bethany Payne as a Middle School Special Education Teacher. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on WASB Convention Resolutions

Young moved to approve Dick Cates, as the Board's convention delegate, to vote as he feels necessary at the State Education Convention Delegate Assembly. Case seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Young moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 361 Selection of Instructional Materials and 361 Rule Selection Guidelines. Case seconded. Motion carried.

Strozinsky moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 690 School Property Disposal; 861 Exhibit 2 Disclosure Statement-Volunteer; (NEW) 533 Exhibit Disclosure Statement-Employee; 362 Library Media Centers; (DELETE) 362.3 Disposal of Library Instructional Materials; and 443.6 Student Use of Personal Communication Devices. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

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

No recommendations for Board action. Information from two prior meetings was shared including a recommendation forwarded to the Policy Committee on Policy 690 School Properties Disposal and a recommendation forwarded to the Budget Committee to select Complete Control, Inc. as the qualified provider for upcoming Energy Exemption projects. In addition, a study on mold levels in the middle school showed there is no mold and the air quality was rated better than outside air.

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

A recommendation from the School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee to select Complete Control, Inc. as the qualified provider for upcoming Energy Exemption projects was discussed and will be acted on by the full Board later on this Board agenda.

Consideration & Action on Entering a Performance Contract

Young moved to enter into a performance contract with Complete Control, Inc. totaling \$1.62 million for energy exemption projects during 2018-19 and 2019-20. Strozinsky seconded. It was noted that the option to use this program will end on January 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution to use the Revenue Limit Exemption for Energy Efficiencies in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 in the 2018-19 school year

Cates moved to adopt the Resolution to use the Revenue Limit Exemption for Energy Efficiencies in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 in the 2018-19 school year. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

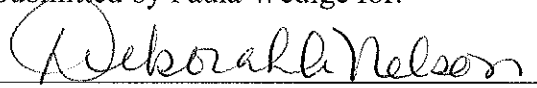
Consideration & Action on Resolution to use the Revenue Limit Exemption for Energy Efficiencies in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 in the 2019-20 school year

Strozinsky moved to adopt the Resolution to use the Revenue Limit Exemption for Energy Efficiencies in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 in the 2019-20 school year. McGuire seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f)
for Discussion of Complaint Against School Personnel

Cates moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:13 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for discussion of complaint against school personnel. Case seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk