

River Valley School District
Thursday, December 14, 2023
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Minich, Jennings, Carstensen, Cates, Iausly, Gauger, Bettinger, Grady Graham (Student Representative)

Absent: Maier, Young

Admin: Glasbrenner, Moore, Knoll, Peterson, Radtke

Others: Kyle Kraemer (Kraemer Brothers), Kevin Eipperle (FEH Design), Michelle Orcutt, Shawn Duren, 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

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

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Grady Graham, president of the sophomore class and on student council, was present. He thanked the Board for allowing a student council report. The student council held a “Turkey Bowl” event and a “Family Feud” assembly at the high school, lead by Leah and Caleb Drachenberg. There are student dress-up days planned during the week of finals. Dancers from Elevation Dance Academy danced in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the high school musical “Bright Star” will be performed this weekend at APT’s Touchstone Theatre. ELC celebrated the holidays themed around the book “Pete the Cat.” A nonperishable food donation drive was held.

Update on Facilities Study, Advisory Task Force, and CORE Planning Committee

Recent meetings have held discussions regarding projects and various scenarios with the dollar amount noted in the community survey results, 5 year forecasting, impacts of capital referendum, and future operational referendum needs. If approved by the Board tonight, the April 2024 referendum questions would include closing the ELC in Plain and moving those grades to the elementary, moving grades 2-4 to the middle school with grades 5-6, and moving grades 7-8 to the high school with grades 9-12. There would be the need to add a full size gymnasium since we would be losing the one at Plain. FEH Design and Kraemer Brothers have been crucial to guiding this process. There are posters in the district office to view the recommended facilities changes. Work going forward will be communication including community meetings and, if approved, most construction would start in early 2025 to be done for the 2025-26 school year. Entryways might be completed in summer and the new gymnasium might be completed during the fall of 2024. The auditorium would take a year to complete. Student council rep Grady Graham noted that the arts area really needs the auditorium since they do such a good job and we have a new stadium so this group deserves the auditorium.

Review of 2022-23 District and School Report Cards

Glasbrenner walked through the district report card details. Our annual district score is “Exceeds Expectations.” We are 1 of 19 districts that moved up a category from last year out of 423 districts. Glasbrenner noted that we would like to see chronic absenteeism improve even more.

Discuss Process for Board Self Evaluation

In November, Board consensus was to do a self-evaluation. Board members will fill out an evaluation and a special meeting date will be set during the January Board meeting. CESA 3 administrator, Jamie Nutter, will be invited to serve as a facilitator.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Glasbrenner noted there was an open house last week for our new Fab Lab at the high school and we received advanced manufacturing equipment using a grant for robotics, hydraulics, air compressing, metal lab, and engineering to be a tech ed leader in our region. Iausly and Cates both attended and commented that they were impressed and excited for the students, whether going into a career in trades or not. Businesses there spoke about the need for a trained work force. Glasbrenner noted that Blakley and Hegland were attending an SWC principals and athletic directors meeting tonight and Blakley was recently elected the leader of the SWC principals group.

At the middle school, Radtke noted they held parent/teacher conferences along with grade level and department team meetings. There was a band/choir concert this past Monday. There are some fun activities planned for students next week leading up to the holiday break.

At the elementary level, Peterson noted they held parent/teacher conferences and saw a movie at the Gard Theater before Thanksgiving. Holiday dress up days started at the elementary and there will be a swap meet where students select used donated items and give gifts to their family members. Students are using the “Blackhawk Code” philosophy. Elementary staff continue to do science and reading training as required by Act 20. There is a teacher inservice planned for January 2 and I-Ready student testing will take place in January.

Per Knoll, there is SOS training scheduled for January 23 at the high school with outside counselors to help. She is working with special ed staff with targeted interventions and IEP goals and starting to work with regular ed staff for essential standards. She worked with the Kops for Kids program in our community for help during the holidays and Century 21, Richland Hospital, and our staff helped to fill needs.

Moore posted an ad for lawn care and snow removal service for 3 years. Bids are due January 3 and will be reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee for a recommendation to the Budget/ERC Committee.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

The middle school and high school will be recognizing “Around the World in 80 Trays” during lunch the week of January 15-19. If Board members want to help serve lunch, contact Paula Wedige or Jaime Hisel.

Legislative Update

No report.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – November 2023; Open Session Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

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

Cates moved to approve the bi-annual safety drills. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Annual Pupil Nondiscrimination Report

Knoll filed this annual report with data from 2022-23. It was noted that Glasbrenner, Knoll and Moore received Title IX training this year. Iausly moved to approve the report. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Revisions to Resolution to Appoint Human Growth and Development Committee for 2022-23 and 2023-24

This committee will be meeting in the near future and there are new committee members. Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution to Appoint Human Growth and Development Committee. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried 7-0 with 2 absent.

Consideration & Action on Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 223.1 Administrator Evaluation; 342.2 Gifted and Talented Program; 822 Rule Procedures for Access to Public Records; and 443.1 Student Dress Code. Minich seconded. Bettinger asked about administrator evaluations being moved to May in relation to contract extensions. Glasbrenner noted discussions about contracts will still occur in the fall with the formal review at year end. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Carstensen moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: (NEW) Records Retention Policy; 872 Administrative Procedures for the Investigation of Complaints Against School Personnel; 722.3 School Closings; 452.2 Student Immunization; 428/528 Exhibit Periods of Exclusion from School with Infectious Conditions; 690 School Property Disposal; 345.53 High School Equivalency Diplomas; 345.53 Rule Criteria for Admittance Into The High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) Program. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

The FFA alumni group asked for permission to expand the school fair shed during the summer. Cates moved to approve the FFA alumni group to expand the school fair shed and for the group to cover costs. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

It was noted that Karl Nicks has been hired by the district to work 10 hours per week as a buildings and grounds staff member as part of current budget costs. The Committee also discussed the status of several 2023-24 projects.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Bettinger moved to approve a revision to the Employee Handbook Activities Salary Schedule to increase the pay for the middle school gifted/talented position. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 School Calendar

DPI denied our request to start the 2024-25 prior to September 1 so the Board is being asked to consider a new option, which includes staff input, and starts on September 3. It was noted that, if needed, we could revise the calendar during the 2024-25 year in order to end the year earlier. Minich moved to approve the 2024-25 school calendar as presented. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Initial Resolution Number I Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$19,500,000

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Bettinger moved to adopt the Initial Resolution Number I Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$19,500,000. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Initial Resolution Number II Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$14,500,000

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Bettinger moved to adopt the Initial Resolution Number II Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$14,500,000. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of Initial Resolution Number I Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$19,500,000 and Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of Initial Resolution Number II Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$14,500,000

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of Initial Resolution Number I Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$19,500,000 and Providing for a Referendum Election on the Question of the Approval of Initial Resolution Number II Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$14,500,000. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Minich moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$1,000 from Kenneth and Toni Jo Rochon for Middle School Enrichment; Havrion Temperature Kiosk valued at \$2,500 from Camera Corner Connecting Point to the school nurse; \$1,500 from Athletic Boosters for gymnastics warm up jackets; \$2,000 from Sauk Prairie Healthcare for AED equipment; and \$2,000 from Eric and Irene Rapp to Fund 21 for families in need. Gauger seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Bettinger moved to approve an additional \$2,500 from Prem Meats for the VideoBoard at the High School, for a total of \$7,500 from them. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to approve an additional \$5,000 from Cardinal Glass Industries for the VideoBoard at the High School, for a total of \$10,000 from them. Minich seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to accept the following donations to Project Lunchbox, for a total of \$13,525: Dick and Kim Cates \$100; Alan Ikeler and Joan Kilian Ikeler \$150; Floyd and Leeandra Bartow \$200; Beth Novak for Marnel Raatz \$400; Foster Plumbing and Repair LLC \$100; Gary and Marcia Kraemer \$100; Kendra and Jason Schluter \$100; Carolyn and Chris Fonkert \$100; Lois Fitzsimmons \$50; Mary Jo Fortney \$50; Tom and Sue Porter \$50; Gerald and Cathryn Sherrill \$100; Gerard and Susan (Pletzer) Gundlach, Meghan Gundlach, Dan and Allison (Gundlach) Bindl, Stella and Leo Bindl \$400; Jim and Jan Spredemann \$5,000; Brandon and Megan Bateman \$1,000; Barbara Baxter \$500; David and Jody Miller \$500; Jacqueline and Nicholas Luther \$500; Klaus and Marita Hartig \$1,000; Aaron Demenge (in memory of Sally Strozinsky) \$1,000; Holly Schulze (in memory of Bill Gruber) \$50; Shirley Gruber (in memory of Bill Gruber) \$500; Anonymous \$25; Anonymous \$500; Anonymous \$1,000; Anonymous \$40; and Anonymous \$10. Gauger seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) and (f) for Discussion of Employee Performance and Potential Discipline Matters; 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator Annual Evaluation; and 19.85(1)(c) Recommendations for Administrator Contract Renewals

Cates moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:18 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) and (f) for Discussion of Employee Performance and Potential Discipline Matters; 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator Annual Evaluation; and 19.85(1)(c) Recommendations for Administrator Contract Renewals. Minich seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk