

River Valley School District
Thursday, December 8, 2022
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Carstensen, Minich, Jennings, Cates, Iausly, Maier, Bettinger

Absent: Young

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Peterson, Blakley, Radtke

Others: Dede Holverson, Eileen Brownlee (General Counsel), 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. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

In the absence of the student council representative, student council advisor Dede Holverson was present to give the report and thanked the Board for student support and for having a student representative serve on the Board. There is a positive balance in their account after selling cotton candy on Halloween and the turkey bowl assembly for students. There will be a “Family Feud” themed assembly in December and the annual classroom door decoration contest is happening as well as dress up dates. January 28 will be the winter formal.

Elementary students made up school “families” and participated in an Amazing Race activity. Students in 4th and 5th grade participated in small groups for gratitude and service learning activities. The high school and Ms. Radel were recognized for financial literacy and received a blue star school award and a gold star teacher award.

Review of 2021-22 District and School Report Cards

Glasbrenner gave an overview of handouts showing our 2021-22 school report cards on state testing results. Our district is in the “meets expectations” category and was very close to the “exceeds expectations” threshold. Most schools in the state are in the “meets expectations” category. Only 22 districts are either above or below this category. We did fairly well compared to our neighbors. Glasbrenner noted this is one test on one day and should be used as a systems overview. Results show that our economically disadvantaged students struggle to be proficient or advanced and we need to focus on that group. We are involved in a comprehensive curriculum review and looking at standards while learning to meet student needs with small group instruction.

Update on Facilities Study Group

Krey noted the group’s first planning meeting was on November 28 to set goals and timelines. The district will be putting together an advisory task force made up of community members. Key dates are March 14 and 15 when architects will be on site for public input. If community members are interested in this process, they should email Brian Krey.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Peterson noted that the Blackhawk Bolt was held on October 7. The fundraising goal challenge was met, so Peterson dyed her hair purple. The money is used for student school supplies and newsletters and field trips are fully paid. Some money was used to update the look of the front of the building. There was a safety drill last week at each school building. The middle school visited Cardinal Glass and UW Richland. Honor roll certificates were given to students that earned them. The high school music concert was held, winter sports are ongoing, and the musical will be in December.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

The Board was reminded of the special meeting to be held on Monday, December 12, to discuss filing a request with the DPI for an early start to the 2023-24 school year. Nelson noted she will not be running for re-election in April. She will be ending 30 years of service on the Board and noted she enjoyed her time over the years. She encouraged Board members to attend the WASB Convention in Milwaukee each year. Nelson was thanked for her years of service.

Legislative Update

None. Not in session.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – November 2022; Open Session Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2022, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Resignations, if any

There are no teacher resignations. It was noted that two instructional assistants are retiring in January 2023—Pam Brander and Julie Meixelsperger.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

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

It was noted that Hegland is now tasked with overseeing safety in the buildings. Hegland provided a school safety update which listed that emergency flipcharts for classrooms and the Crisis Response Plan were updated. Hegland and Officer Kurek work with Sauk County for safety training. Bettinger moved to approve the bi-annual safety drills at each school building. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Minich moved to approve the language proposed by the family of Carie Graves to be printed on a memorial plaque at the high school. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Iausly moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 362 Library Media Centers; 524.4 Staff/Student Relationships; 722.5 Sudden Death or Suicide (Prevention and Response); 722.67 Public Access Defibrillator Program; 727 Concussion Management; 744 Creating and Placing Web Pages; 760 Food Services Management; 761 Free and Reduced Price Food Services; 762 Automated Lunch/Breakfast Program; 762.1 Food Service Collection and Non-Payment; and 762.1 Rule Food Service Collection and Non-Payment. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Jennings moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 831 Public Conduct on School Property; 852 Distribution of Electronic and Printed Material; 423 Public School Open Enrollment; 423 Rule Public School Open Enrollment; 347 Exhibit 2 Request for Non-Disclosure of “Student Directory Data”; 452.4 Rule 1 Administering Medication Procedure; and 822 Rule Procedures for Access to Public Records. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

The Committee discussed the idea of starting the 2023-24 school year prior to September 1. Wisconsin Statute states that a district must file a waiver request with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by January 1 of the year in which an early start is being requested. A survey was sent to staff and parents and, so far, a majority want to start prior to September 1 and want to start the week of August 21. School would end before Memorial Day weekend. It was noted that many students are already involved in school-related activities by mid-August. The Board will hold a special meeting on December 12 to consider sending a waiver request to DPI.

As recommended by the Committee, Bettinger moved to accept the proposal from Lamers for a 5 year transportation contract, pending negotiation of contract details. Minich seconded. Lamers bid had a 0% increase and GoRiteway’s bid was significantly higher per route. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$5,000 to the River Valley Middle School received from the children of Berneice Murphy in her memory; \$2,000 to Fund 21 for families in need from Eric and Irene Rapp; \$3,100 towards a competition wrestling mat for the wrestling team from the Athletic Booster Club; and \$75 to Fund 21 for families in need from Steve and Amanda Olson. Carstensen 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 financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, for the purpose of discussing an investigation related to a district employee and taking action, if any is required, related to such investigation; and 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator Evaluation and Recommendations for Administrator Contract Renewals

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 7:55 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Discussion of financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, for the purpose of discussing an investigation related to a district employee and taking action, if any is required, related to such investigation; and 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator Evaluation and Recommendations for Administrator Contract Renewals. Maier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk