

River Valley School District  
Thursday, February 13, 2020  
Regular Meeting  
Middle School Library  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Strozinsky, Nelson, Jennings, Bettinger, McGuire, Iausly, Young, Cates, Maier (left at 8:20 p.m.)

Absent: N/A

Admin: Andres, Krey, Peterson, Kjos, Radtke, Blakley, Hegland

Others: Justine Myers, Jason Myers, Mike Nelson, Rachel Orcutt, Michelle Orcutt, Loren Glasbrenner, 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. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Strozinsky moved to approve the agenda, with a change to move action item #5 to #3. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

#### Public Comments

Dan McGuire presented an IOU for \$500 from Lone Rock to the River Valley Little League, a community-based, non-school group. He challenged School Board members to work with their village and town Boards to match this \$500.

#### Student Council Report

Rachel Erb reported that the middle school recently attended the SWTC math contest. At the high school, the RV Market now has a partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank. Adult volunteers will work 1:00 to 4:00 each Thursday. Thanks was given to the River Valley community for support. A choral concert will be held on February 19 and the POPS concert will be held on March 9. The mock trial team won their ninth regional championship and are going to state for the seventh time. They are undefeated this year. Taryn Hanson was honored as the most decorated trial lawyer in school history. All current seniors in mock trial have won all four regionals during their high school years. Several students participated in Skills USA events and River Valley graduate Nick Ringelstetter was a guest speaker for art students.

#### Update from WASB Convention

Jennings, Nelson, Young, and Krey attended the convention. Nelson noted all resolutions were passed by the delegate assembly except the resolution requesting the retirement of Native American mascots. All noted the convention offered great sessions and learning opportunities. Community connections and student engagement were the main themes of the convention.

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

A video of elementary kids expressing acts of kindness was shared with the Board. As part of School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, the Board thanked school bus drivers for their service.

### Legislative Update

The district contacted the Village of Spring Green to request an ordinance that would allow school bus operators to use the flashing red lights any time busses are stopped. The Village plans to follow through with this request.

There is a new bill that would allow students that do not attend a district's schools (private, open enrollment, home school) to be allowed on sports teams. Also, retired teachers would be allowed to be rehired 45 days after retirement instead of the current 75 days.

Baraboo is asking that property tax bills show the amount being allocated to voucher schools, separate from the amount allocated to public schools.

The Governor's proposal on how to use surplus money was turned down in committee. Federal dollars are being slashed by 20% for public education. Also, there are some changes to the procedure for calling a special meeting.

### Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – January 2020; Open Session Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2020

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

### Hearings on Petitions to Detach Property from the River Valley School District and Attach Said Property to the Wisconsin Heights School District (Small Parcel Detachment; Town of Black Earth), which includes School Board Consideration and Action on Resolutions Relating to School District Boundaries

Jennings called the hearing to order. Justine and Jason Myers were present. Evelyn Roessler was not present. Justine Myers noted that they have open enrolled their student to Wisconsin Heights since 2014 when they bought property. She stated that historical documents seem to show that Myers' two parcels are in Wisconsin Heights, and she is concerned there may have been a surveyor error. Iausly noted that the DPI sets district boundaries and if the petition were to be denied, there is an appeals process through DPI. It was noted that past unilateral requests to alter school district boundaries have been denied by River Valley.

Iausly moved to deny the request of the petition filed by Jason and Justine Myers for parcels #0806-192-8040-7 and #0806-192-8060-3 to detach property from River Valley School District and attach it to Wisconsin Heights School District. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 8-1 in the affirmative with Strozinsky opposed. Motion carried to deny petition.

Iausly moved to deny the request of the petition filed by Evelyn Roessler for parcel #0806-192-8090-7 to detach property from River Valley School District and attach it to Wisconsin Heights School District. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 8-1 in the affirmative with Strozinsky opposed. Motion carried to deny petition.

Young moved to adjourn the hearing. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

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

The Committee is asking the Board for feedback on whether to keep or sell the school forest properties in Arena and Lone Rock. Neither of these school forests is being used for school learning.

Regarding the school forest property in Arena, the Committee feels it is worth \$3,000 to \$4,000 an acre and has future tax revenue for the school district. There is the potential sale of 120 acres. Maier feels with our financial challenges that we should utilize our assets or gain some monetary value by getting it on the tax roll. Nelson noted several Arena taxpayers have said not to sell it unless it is costing the district money. They are concerned about future use and it's not going to become worth less money. Maier noted we have a liability exposure. Krey added that "No Hunting" signs will be put up on all school forest land. It was noted that there is commercial value for a third of the property. The Arena Planning Commission seems to be in favor of the district selling the land and zoning for development.

Regarding the school forest property in Lone Rock, it is the size of four city blocks with no sewer, water, or electricity. The Committee feels it has a market value of \$15,000, but discussed offering the property to the Village of Lone Rock with right of first refusal for \$5,000 to cover the cost of the timber value on the property. McGuire said the Village of Lone Rock is interested in getting the property and suggested it be given to the village to improve community relations with the district. Bettinger would like to give the village the right of first refusal but at market value.

Krey added that any money from the sale of school forest property would go into Fund 49 for building maintenance and grounds.

A third property that was mentioned was 19 acres south of Spring Green. Strozinsky recommended that it could be offered to the DNR to become part of the WI Riverway and stay within public domain. This would be a one-time purchase with no tax benefit to the district.

Some Board members are interested to hear from the community on whether to keep or sell the Arena and Lone Rock properties. A future School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting will include an agenda item for this purpose.

Maier left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Blakley wants to seek the opinion of high school staff regarding keeping or selling the school forest property in Spring Green. Radtke noted there is some learning there now within the current curriculum, but it could be utilized more.

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

Young moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$100 from Tri County Building Supply to the gymnastics program; \$50 from FRS Design Group LLC to the gymnastics program; \$100 from American Family Insurance-Michael D. Olson Agency to the gymnastics program; school supplies valued at \$300 from the Sauk County Retired Educators Association to the district; \$650 to softball for replacement batting cage net from the Booster Club; \$522 to baseball for catcher's gear and chest protectors from the Booster Club; donation of 110 chairs and 6 chair carts valued at \$5,050 from Kraemer Library to the district; and

donation of new children's clothing valued at \$50 from Ellen Radel and Kathy Compty to the district. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Strozinsky moved to approve the second reading of 832 Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices Possession and/or Use on School Premises, 841 Equipment Donations, 881 District Support Organizations, and 883 Relations with Health Authorities and to delete 820 Public Information and 821 News Media Relations and move language to 810 School Community Relations. Young seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Young moved to approve the first reading of 724 Exhibit Accident/Incident Report, 810 School Community Relations, 823 Family Responsibility and Communication, 882 Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities, and 151 Board Policy Development, Adoption, Amendment, and/or Revision. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the district calendars for 2021-22 and 2022-23. Cates seconded. It was noted that the August inservice days for these two years are being held earlier, similar to the 2020-21 calendar. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve a 1.81% base wage increase, which is the CPI, for RVEA, RVEST, non-union employees, and administrators for the 2020-21 school year. Strozinsky seconded. There will be future discussion regarding potential supplemental pay. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to extend the temporary part-time special education assistant for 4.5 hours per day, 4 days per week until the end of the school year at the administration's discretion. Young seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to reduce two special education assistants beginning 2020-21 and hire one elementary special education teacher. Cates seconded. It was noted that the vacant special education teacher at the high school will also be posted to be filled. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve a contract with J&J Total Lawn Care LLC for lawn mowing services for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 seasons. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Strozinsky moved to approve a contract with DASHIR through the 2022-2023 school year. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

It was noted that Rick Ferguson is retiring in June 2020 and Jeni Meuer has been hired as his replacement.

Young moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

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Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk