

River Valley School District  
Thursday, February 9, 2017  
Regular Meeting  
Middle School Library  
7:00 p.m.

Present: Bettinger, Strozinsky, McCauley, Cates, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Iausly, Cummings, Baylee Shifflet (student representative)

Absent: N/A

Admin: Wermuth, Novak, Krey, Blakley, Hegland, Radtke, Kjos

Others: Approximately 55 audience members, 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. Young seconded. Motion carried

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Strozinsky moved to approve the agenda. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

#### Public Comments

Riley Hopkins shared her support for the consolidation of elementary schools, noting she has taught at multiple locations in the district and her commitment and passion has remained the same. She noted that her current classroom has kids from every town in the district and every student can expect the same feeling of support no matter where they attend school.

Sharon Jeardeau noted that the Board's agenda for this meeting includes an item for preliminary nonrenewal of some teachers. She expressed her love for children and learning during her 17 years of teaching.

Ann Nelson expressed her concern about preliminary nonrenewal of teachers at Arena and provide positive support for her colleagues.

Jessica Knoble shared her support for the consolidation of elementary schools, noting that she did vote for the November referendum to pass but now supports the decision to consolidate.

#### Student Council Report

Baylee Shifflet provided an update on district events, including: the Kindness Day event for all district elementary students at Spring Green Elementary; the production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by the Middle School Shakespeare Group and February 16 high school registration day to include 8<sup>th</sup> graders; and upcoming events at the high school to include the FFA sectional, solo/ensemble, POPS concert, and music student auditions for Wisconsin Honors Choir and Band. Skills USA students placed well at competition and five students displayed art at a regional show.

#### February 16, 2017, High School Student Registration Day Activities

On February 16, current 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students will spend the school day working on next year's course registration and attending various presentations. There will be no school for current seniors on that day.

#### River Valley Mobile App

River Valley now has a mobile app as the use of technology continues to evolve in the district. Within the last year, the district's website was revamped and a Facebook page was created.

#### Update from WASB Convention

Several Board members and administrators attended the annual WASB Convention in January and provided a summary of sessions they attended.

#### Board Reminders and Announcements

Board members were reminded that discussions that take place in closed session need to remain confidential. A reminder was given for the upcoming February 21 School Board primary election.

#### Legislative Update

Cates noted that the Governor's budget is out and seems to want to increase funds to rural schools. However, River Valley will not benefit from sparsity aid additional funding or high cost transportation aid.

#### Board Training Opportunities

Cates noted that March 15 is the annual WASB "Day at the Capitol" event. There is a School Law Seminar on February 27 in Wisconsin Dells.

#### Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – January 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2017

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

#### Hearing on Petition to Detach Property from the River Valley School District and Attach Said Property to the Wisconsin Heights School District (Small Parcel Detachment; Town of Arena)

Mark and Tamara Sander presented a petition to detach their property from River Valley and attach it to Wisconsin Heights. They noted that their children are currently open enrolled out of River Valley to Wisconsin Heights and that their property is closer to Wisconsin Heights than River Valley. It was noted that this property is not on the border between the districts but is a half mile into River Valley. Approval of this land transfer would create an "island" of Wisconsin Heights property within the River Valley School District. In addition, there is no other property transfer being considered at this time which would offset River Valley's loss of this property and equalized value.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolution Authorizing Issuance of an Order Relating to School District Boundaries

McCauley moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing Issuance of an Order Relating to School District Boundaries, which would allow property owned by Mark and Tamara Sander to be detached from River Valley and attached to Wisconsin Heights. Bettinger seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: McCauley

Against the motion: Bettinger, Strozinsky, Cates, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Iausly, Cummings

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 1-8 in the affirmative. Motion failed.

Consideration & Action on Special Meeting Date for Board Member Goal Setting and Strategic Planning

Jennings shared the idea of a Board Member goal setting and strategic planning session. Some Board members expressed positive feedback. Cates moved to set a special meeting date for Board member goal setting and strategic planning. Young seconded. Bettinger noted he supports a strategic plan for the district but not this type of retreat. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

A meeting date will be set in the near future after seeking a facilitator to attend the meeting.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Ordering Reduction of the Elementary Education Program

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Ordering Reduction of the Elementary Education Program. Strozinsky seconded. This will result in the nonrenewal of four elementary teachers. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Bettinger, Strozinsky, Cates, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Iausly, Cummings

Against the motion: McCauley

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 8-1 in the affirmation. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Ordering Reduction of the Special Education Program

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Ordering Reduction of the Special Education Program. Strozinsky seconded. This will result in the nonrenewal of one special education teacher. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Bettinger, Strozinsky, Cates, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Iausly, Cummings

Against the motion: McCauley

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 8-1 in the affirmation. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Business Manager Retirement

Young moved to accept Business Manager Jon Novak's retirement effective September 1, 2017. Iausly seconded. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed. Weirmuth noted he has known Novak for 37 years and thanked him for serving our district well during his tenure at River Valley. Others shared positive remarks about Jon and his service.

Consideration & Action on .5 FTE Associate Elementary Principal Reduction

Strozinsky moved to reduce the Associate Elementary Principal position by .5 FTE for 2017-18. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Common Threads Contract – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016-17

Bettinger moved to approve a contract for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2016-17 with Common Threads for services for one special education student. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2017-18 Academic Alliance Memorandum of Understanding

Iausly moved to approve the 2017-18 Academic Alliance Memorandum of Understanding with UW-Richland. McCauley seconded. We offer Math 4 (5 college credits) and Anatomy (3 college credits) classes at the high school and students earn college credits through UW-Richland by paying \$99 per credit, while earning high school credits at the same time. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Cates moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts of the following: a scoreboard and partial cost of installation valued at \$250 from Judi Diehl to Plain Elementary; \$1,000 from the Music Boosters toward the cost of the fan bus for football playoffs; \$1,990 from the Athletic Boosters for equipment for the weight room; \$575.95 from the Athletic Boosters for softball equipment; and \$800 from the Athletic Boosters for track uniforms. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Revision to High School Daily Schedule for Remainder of 2016-17

Due to the school cancellations this winter, the high school needs to add some minutes to its school day to be in compliance. The revised schedule would add 8 minutes to the high school daily schedule and give a buffer moving forward, allowing for another 4 hours, if needed. Iausly moved to approve adding 8 minutes to the high school daily schedule for the remainder of 2016-17. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Young moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 722 Emergency Plans; 722.7 Hazardous Material Incidents; 725 Privacy in Locker Rooms; 470 Student Fees and Fines; 362.2 Fines, Loss or Damage to Materials; 743 Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Electronic Mail, and Internet Safety; 423 Public School Open Enrollment; and 423 Rule Public School Open Enrollment. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 166 Board Member Electronic Communication (new); 330 Curriculum Development; and 333 Curriculum Evaluation. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to delete 331 Curriculum Guides. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Employee Relations Committee Recommendations

The Committee met on February 8. No recommendations for Board action. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 22 with tentative plans to discuss salary and benefits.

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

The Committee met on January 24. No recommendations for Board action. Cates noted the high school fitness trail may be refurbished next year through partnerships with Spring Green Lions and Boy Scouts. The condition of the Spring Green Elementary playground equipment will be assessed and discussed at the next meeting. The school forest parcels and locker room facilities will be reviewed with future discussion on both of these topics. A Request for Proposal for HVAC evaluation at the middle school will be developed. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 28.

#### Consideration & Action on School Crisis Plan Appendix

Radtke presented the final pages of the School Crisis Plan Appendix, which included maps and gas valve locations for each building and on campus, off campus, and shelter in place evacuation routes. Young moved to approve the School Crisis Plan Appendix. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes

19.85(1)(c) for District Administrator Mid-Year Evaluation; 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Four Elementary Teacher Preliminary Non-Renewals; and 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of One Special Education Teacher Preliminary Non-Renewal

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:52 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for District Administrator Mid-Year Evaluation; 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Four Elementary Teacher Preliminary Non-Renewals; and 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of One Special Education Teacher Preliminary Non-Renewal. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 10:00 p.m.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolution Considering Nonrenewal of Four Elementary Teacher Contracts and the Issuance of Preliminary Nonrenewal Notices

Bettinger moved to adopt a Resolution Considering Nonrenewal of Four Elementary Teacher Contracts and the Issuance of Preliminary Nonrenewal Notices to Meghan McCall, Paige

Gubbrud, Sharon Jeardeau, and Mary Hoff. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Considering Nonrenewal of One Special Education Teacher Contract and the Issuance of a Preliminary Nonrenewal Notice

Bettinger moved to adopt a Resolution Considering Nonrenewal of One Special Education Teacher Contract and the Issuance of a Preliminary Nonrenewal Notice to Cheri Jacobson. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 10:03 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

Deborah Nelson Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk