

River Valley School District
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Minich, Iausly, Jennings, Gauger, Cates, Caleb Drachenberg (Student Representative)
Absent: Bettinger, Maier, Young, Carstensen
Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Knoll, Hegland, Blakley, Radtke
Others: Emily Beck, Bob Willoughby, Shawn Duren, Judy Ettenhofer, (Home News), Luukas Palm-Leis (Valley Sentinel), 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.

Jennings appointed Cates as Acting Clerk in Carstensen's absence. Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Minich moved to approve the agenda items with the Community Spotlight item moved to the end of the meeting. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Caleb Drachenberg, Student Council President, was present and reported that there was a recent fundraiser. The Elementary School held an art show and a "Tournament of Books" with high school readers. The Middle School received first place ratings for solo ensemble entries. Mr. Machovec held a "March Madness" event using amendments. The POPS concert will be held on March 17, with jazz contest, chamber concert, and solo ensemble coming soon. Advanced arts students competed with 9 other schools and 3 of our students will go on to state in April. Mock trial finished at state with a 2-2 record, with a season records of 6-2 with 9 perfect performance scores. FFA attended "Day on the Hill" with state representatives and FFA week was held recently.

Discuss Process for District Administrator Evaluation of Other Administrators

Glasbrenner outlined the process which will be used for annual administrator evaluations in May. The focus will be on building goals, summary of bi-weekly meetings, Educator Effectiveness goals review, School Perception survey results, and projected goals for next year.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Blakley noted that ACT testing was held for juniors and prom is on March 15.

Knoll reported that special ed is focusing on spring testing. The SOS suicide prevention program was shared with middle school students this past month. Pupil services staff offered guidance and students could meet with counselors and representatives from county services.

Hegland noted that winter sports are over and the spring season has started. River Valley had 8 qualifiers for state forensics and school safety drills will be held next week.

Krey reminded everyone of the April 1 operational referendum. He and Glasbrenner have been facilitating community meetings. There was an information flyer mailed out and a postcard will follow before spring break.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Jennings thanked Board members for attending community meetings regarding the upcoming referendum.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner went to the WASB Day at the Capitol session and met with legislators and staffers about the Governor's budget, which will continue to be discussed with ongoing changes.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – February 2025; Open Session Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2025, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Curriculum & Instruction Committee Recommendations

The Committee discussed English Language Arts curriculum renewal and their research of other districts who have school 5 days a week for 4K students, which River Valley will start next year. They also discussed renaming of school buildings due to 2025-26 reconfiguration of grade levels and recommended revisions to the 2025-26 school calendar. Action on both of these items will be taken later during this meeting.

Consideration & Action on Renaming School Buildings Due to 2025-26 Reconfiguration of Grade Levels

Both the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the staff communication committee discussed potential name changes for the schools on the Spring Green campus as we move to a 3-building district starting next year. Cates moved to name them as follows: Elementary School, Intermediate School, and Junior High/High School. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Revisions to 2025-26 School Calendar

Minich moved to approve changes to the 2025-26 school calendar as follows: September 2 start date for 4K-9th students and NEW 10th-12th students; September 3 start date for 10th-12th students; September 8 start date for Early Childhood students; and early release on all Wednesdays with revised dismissal times. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of New Civics Class for 2025-26

Iausly moved to approve a new Civics class for 2025-26. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations by the Committee. They discussed the maintenance projects plan, working within the annual budget, noting that final decisions will be made after the referendum.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 722.3 Rule School Closing Procedure, 443.4 Weapons in the Schools, and 837 Weapons on School Premises. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 347 Student Records; 347 Rule Guidelines for Maintenance and Confidentiality of Student Records; 347 Exhibit 1 Release Form for Student Records Not Considered to be “Student Directory Data”; 347 Exhibit 2 Request for Non-Disclosure of “Student Directory Data”; 451.1 Education for Homeless Children and Youth Policy; (NEW) 451.1 Exhibit Education for Homeless Children – Student Placement Dispute Form; (NEW) 451.1 Exhibit 2 Education for Homeless Children – Notification of Student Placement Dispute Resolution; 411 Student Nondiscrimination and Equal Educational Opportunity; 411.1 Bullying; 411.2 Student Anti-Harassment; 411 Rule/411.2 Rule Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures; 511 Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Employment; 524.3 Employee Anti-Harassment; 511 Rule/524.3 Rule Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures; 443 Student Discipline; 443 Rule 1 Code of Classroom Conduct; and to delete 411 Rule Student Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedures and 524.3 Rule Procedure for Handling Harassment Complaints. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations by the Committee. Similar to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, there was discussion about the maintenance projects plan, working within the annual budget, noting that final decisions will be made after the referendum. There was preliminary discussion of base wages for 2025-26, and it was noted that the Consumer Price Index will be 2.95%. Krey stated that the Department of Education has called for significant changes in the federal agency’s service goals and could be dissolved. The District receives approximately 5% of total revenues from the federal government. There is uncertainty if federal revenues will end or be decreased. Krey and his business manager colleagues are not making any changes in their district budgets at this point.

Consideration & Action on Resignations/Retirements, if any

Iausly moved to approve the retirement of Lisa Scofield, High School English Teacher. Gauger seconded. Scofield was thanked for her years of service. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Accepting Gifts, if any

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$250 from Mark Schwartzhoff, Gemini, Inc., to the River Valley Elementary. Gauger seconded. Polled vote was 5-0 in the affirmative with 4 absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to accept \$100 from Erin Crooks Lynch and \$250 from Carolyn and Chris Fonkert for the Project Lunchbox Fundraiser. Gauger seconded. Polled vote was 5-0 with 4 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, and Performance Evaluations

Minich moved to adjourn to closed session at 7:42 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, or Performance Evaluations. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 5-0 in the affirmative with 4 absent. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:10 p.m.

Community Spotlight

This is a monthly agenda item to recognize an individual, group, or business in our community for supporting River Valley schools. March is “Music in Our Schools Month” and Bob Willoughby, musical accompanist, was present. He was recognized for his role in supporting our musicals, community events, concerts, and solo and ensemble for over 25 years.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk