

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

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

Absent: Cummings

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

Others: Mike McDermott, Dan McGuire, Kasey Maxwell, Tootie Pulvermacher, Howard Orcutt, Pat Christianson, Nancy Baenen, Harper Baenen, Jen Kannenberg, Theresa Strine, Stacy Hauden, Lori Baryenbruch, Erin Blakley, Tonia Hatfield, Riley Hopkins, Julie Hopkins, Terri Smith, Linda Kettner, Andrea Sullivan, Sarah Dilley, Justin Dilley, Sharon Jeardeau, Bridget Roberts, Cyndie Rasmussen, Bernie Stuntebeck, Jordana Stuntebeck, Michelle Orcutt, Jeremy Eberle, Jeri Eveland, Jessica Knoble, Pam Gauger, Erik Johnson, Deb Miller, Jean Alt, Carla Carmody, Lynn White, Michelle Weiss, Sue Quale, Doris Green (Home News), Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. She noted that there was an amended agenda and 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. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Cates moved to approve the amended agenda. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Jessica Knoble stated she is a River Valley graduate and is running as a write-in candidate for School Board Area 4. She thanked administration and the Board for their time and responsiveness to questions. She noted that information is out there on the district website and DPI website if you look for it or call and ask for it.

Senior Harper Baenen shared her positive experiences through extra-curricular activities and noted she has earned college credits while attending River Valley High School. She wants to see these opportunities remain for younger kids. She expressed that all students are from one place—River Valley.

Board Member Sara Young apologized to Board Member John Bettinger after a letter to the editor appeared in the *Home News* from a community member who took offense to a comment Young made to Bettinger at a prior Board meeting. Bettinger noted he took no offense to Young's comment at the prior Board meeting and accepted Young's apology.

Student Council Report

Baylee Shifflet provided an update on district events. At the elementary level, various elementary literacy initiatives took place during Dr. Seuss's birthday week and for March

Madness and Arena hosted guest speakers on the topics of snakes and architecture. The middle school students read books to elementary classes on “Read Across America Day” and are holding a food drive for local food pantries. There is a “Go Fund Me” page for cameras for middle school biology classes and outdoor adventure club. The high school solo/ensemble is on April 8; the mock trial team is going to state; Elijah Alt, Dustin Hatfield, and Shane Liegel won state wrestling championships and three more qualified for state; Caroline Iausly qualified for state gymnastics; the POPS concert was held this week; middle school and high school students did well at the SWC Math Competition; the ACT test was taken last week; and post high school options night is being held this evening.

River Valley Hawk Talk Podcast

Technology Coach Mike McDermott noted we continue to expand the district’s presence on social media and provided an overview of a new “audio newsletter” in the district, utilizing podcasts on our district website. McDermott interviews students and staff on various topics and would like to see students be more involved in production of these podcasts.

River Valley Technology Education Teacher Appointed to State Superintendent SkillsUSA Advisory Council

Technology Education Teacher Carla Carmody was recognized for her appointment to serve on the State Superintendent SkillsUSA Advisory Council. Carmody thanked the Board and administration for their support of technology education and SkillsUSA, noting she is proud to be a teacher at River Valley and is proud of the students and the program. Wermuth praised Carmody for her work with students.

Elementary Staffing Configuration and Preliminary Plan for the 2017-18 School Year

Hegland outlined the elementary staffing configuration for 2017-18. He noted that the administrative team focused on creating dynamic teams in the school buildings next year. It was noted that Stacy Hauden was inadvertently left off of the configuration, but that she will continue as Elementary Guidance Counselor. The district website has a new tab which shows this staffing configuration and lists frequently asked questions and answers.

Board Member WASB Member Recognition Program

Jennings was recognized for reaching Level 1 of the WASB Recognition Program for attending training events. Jennings noted it is an honor to serve on the School Board.

Board Reminders and Announcements

Jennings shared that the *Home News* apologized for not including tonight’s meeting notice in the paper.

Legislative Update

Cates noted a bill has been introduced that would change the current requirement that districts must wait until after Sept 1 to start school. Another bill would allow staff members to administer an opioid anecdote to students. There is also discussion about alternative ways districts might be allowed to provide the public with meeting minutes in lieu of publication.

Board Training Opportunities

The annual WASB Day at the Capital event is on March 15.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – February 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2017

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

Consideration & Action on Resolutions to Nonrenew Four Teacher Contracts for the Ensuing Year

Last month the Board approved the reduction of the Elementary Education and Special Education Programs and the issuance of preliminary nonrenewal notices to teachers in those programs.

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution to Nonrenew a Teacher's Contract for Mary Hoof. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Cummings absent. Motion carried.

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution to Nonrenew a Teacher's Contract for Paige Gubbrud. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Cummings absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution to Nonrenew a Teacher's Contract for Meghan McCall. Bettinger seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Cummings absent. Motion carried.

Young moved to adopt the Resolution to Nonrenew a Teacher's Contract for Cheri Jacobson. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Cummings absent. Motion carried.

All four teachers were thanked for their service.

Consideration & Action on Administrative Configuration for 2017-18

Last month the Board approved a .5 FTE reduction of administrative staff for 2017-18. Cates moved to approve the administrative configuration for 2017-18, which includes Wermuth serving as Arena Community Elementary Principal, the .5 FTE reduction of Associate Elementary Principal role for Brian Krey, and the .5 FTE addition of Activities Director role for Brian Krey. Iausly seconded. Motion carried. It was noted that the end of the 2017-18 school year will end Eric Briehl's 15 years of service to the district. Briehl was thanked for his service.

Consideration & Action on Student Activity Account for Environmental Club

Erik Johnson requested a student activity account for a new Environmental Club that would share ideas about the environmental impact inside and outside of school. Some items of interest are a compost pit at the high school, the level of use of styrofoam plates, and cleaning up land behind the science classroom at the high school. Johnson has also been working on conservation efforts with the Dick Cates Family Farm. Strozinsky moved to create a student activity account for the Environmental Club. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Potential Change to Remainder of 2016-17 School Calendar

It was noted that if there are any further delays or cancellations this year, they will need to be made up to be in compliance. Bettinger moved to extend the school year if there are any more cancellations. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Renewal of Carl Perkins Grant

Cates moved to approve the renewal of the Carl Perkins consortium grant with CESA 3 as the fiscal agent. McCauley seconded. This grant gives us \$7,500 in federal money for Career and Technology Education courses. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Changing April Regular Board Meeting Date

Wermuth noted that neither Wermuth nor Wedige will be present at the April 13 Board meeting. McCauley moved to change the April regular meeting date to April 20. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

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

Strozinsky moved to set a special meeting for Board member goal setting and strategic planning on May 18, with meeting time to be determined. Iausly seconded. Wermuth will contact a trained Board facilitator to attend this meeting. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts of the following: \$300 from the Athletic Boosters for softball equipment; \$81 from the Athletic Boosters for baseball uniforms; \$200.68 from the Athletic Boosters for football state runner up banner for the gym; \$2,450 from the Athletic Boosters for wrestling equipment; 25 computer mice from Logitech valued at \$25 each for a total of \$625 to the district IT department; \$10,000 from Sauk Prairie Healthcare to the phy. ed. department for Heart Zones Fitness Technology Software; \$25 from Alison Graves to Arena Community Elementary School to purchase craft items for the Arena Crafty Crew; and 2 boxes of school supplies valued at \$200 from the Richland County Chapter of Wisconsin Retired Educators Association. Young seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

Strozinsky moved to accept the retirement of JoEllen Kraemer effective at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Iausly seconded. Thanks was given to Kraemer for her 33 years of service in the district. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Young moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 166 Board Member Electronic Communication (new); 330 Curriculum Development; and 333 Curriculum Evaluation; and to delete Policy 331 Curriculum Guides. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Strozinsky moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 310 Instructional Goals; 322 School Day; 332 Parent Rights and the Curriculum; 840 Public Gifts to the School; and 850 Public Solicitation on School Premises. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

Cates moved to approve the recommendation from the Budget Committee to pay off \$350,000 of our State Trust Fund Loan with the highest interest rate. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to approve the recommendation from the Budget Committee to award a three-year contact with Wipfli Accounting Firm for our annual audit. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Novak stated that we continue to work with Lamers on bus routes for 2017-18. A preliminary review shows the average ride time is reduced with the same number of total routes.

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

Strozinsky moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a HVAC Evaluation at the Middle School. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Strozinsky moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to replace the middle school dust collector, including an electrical upgrade and duct work cleaning. McCauley seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations


Young moved to approve the Technology Committee's recommendation to establish the Technology Coach position as a permanent position, and to no longer review and approve the position on an annual basis. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

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

19.85(1)(c) and 118.22 for Discussion on Nonrenewal/Resignation of a Teacher

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:14 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) and 118.22 for Discussion on Nonrenewal/Resignation of a Teacher. Strozinsky seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk