

River Valley School District
Thursday, April 10, 2025
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Minich, Iausly, Jennings, Gauger, Cates, Young, Carstensen, Caleb Drachenberg (Student Representative)
Absent: Maier, Bettinger
Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Knoll, Blakley, Radtke, Peterson
Others: Jasmine Gauger, Kevin Wolz, Emily Beck, Linda Schwanke (Independent Star News), Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

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

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Community Spotlight

This is a monthly agenda item to recognize an individual, group, or business in our community for supporting River Valley schools. Sara Young was recognized for her 10 years of service on the School Board. Jennings thanked Young for her years of service and for being strong, kind and compassionate and for leading many good conversations. Glasbrenner noted Young is not afraid to ask tough questions and appreciated her insight. Gauger respects Young and has had good conversations during her time on the Board.

Student Jasmine Gauger was present and worked with Young when she directed the high school musical and at APT. She noted when Mr. Rogers said “look for the helper,” that is Sara Young. If she says she’ll take care of, she will. Young noted it was an honor to be on Board and is happy to have Emily Beck taking over. She has known Beck through APT and she is organized, has great skills, and cares about community. She wants the Board to ask the hard questions and respect each other and to keep staff and students at the forefront and to communicate.

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Caleb Drachenberg, Student Council President, was present and reported that they held an April talent show, provided a charcuterie board for teacher appreciation week, and are planning fundraising options at the Little Hawks Track Event in May, such as “shout outs” or bracelets. The chamber ensemble will perform on April 21 at Christ Lutheran Church and artwork from high school students is on display in the Spring Green Library in April. In addition, 7th grade students studied Vietnam War exhibits and participated in solo and ensemble.

April 1, 2025, School Board Election and Referendum Results

School Board Election = AREA 3 - Jeff Maier 3,330; AREA 6 - Emily Beck 2,117 defeated Jess Hisel 1,467; and AREA 9 - John Bettinger 3,332. Referendum Vote = YES - 2,275 (50.4%); and NO - 2,238 - (49.6%) The Board welcomed Emily Beck as a new Board member effective April 28, 2025, and thanked voters for passing the referendum. Young hopes that people in the district understand that operational referendums are held because the State of Wisconsin funding formula for schools is inadequate to maintain existing programs, courses, services and class sizes offered to students.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Administration noted that formalized testing is taking place throughout the district at this time of year. We are also involved in an audit of our homeless population program.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Jennings reminded the Board of a free nine-part school finance webinar series through WASB. Also, Board Members are invited to hand out diplomas at graduation on Saturday, May 31, 2025.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that legal counsel and legal teams in Madison are advising districts to pause on signing a document sent from the Department of Education to the DPI regarding antidiscrimination practices.

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

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

Consideration & Action on Resignations/Retirements, if any

We received two resignations—Matt Snow, High School Band Teacher, and Jen Snow, Middle School Chorus Teacher. Blakley and Radtke thanked them for their service and noted that they will both be missed. We also received a notice of retirement from Laura Seybold, ELL Teacher. Knoll thanked her for her work and for being an advocate for kids.

Iausly moved to approve the resignations of Matt Snow and Jennifer Snow and the retirement of Laura Seybold. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Preliminary Notice of Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts

Based on the Board's prior action on reduction in force for 2025-26—and after subsequent transfers, resignations, and retirements in the affected program areas—three teacher contracts were the subject of non-renewal. Iausly moved to approve the preliminary notice of non-renewal of teacher contracts as follows: Business Education Teacher – Cheryl Ross (.25 reduction); Music Education Teacher – Tony Cavagnetto (.75 reduction); and Physical Education Teacher – Jacob Marshall (1.0 reduction). Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Before and After School Program Handbook

Cates moved to approve the 2025-26 Before and After School Program Handbook with a 1.8% rate increase and a revision to state if school and school activities are cancelled, the program will also be cancelled. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Proposed 2025-26 Attendance Areas for District Private Schools K4-4th Grade Students for Transportation Purposes

St. John's and St. Luke's would both like to keep the same attendance areas as 2024-25. Cates moved to approve the 2025-26 attendance areas to be the same as last year. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Unusually Hazardous Transportation Plan

There was a review of maps showing bus pick-up spots in our villages where there are unusual hazardous transportation areas. We will file a report with DPI and notify parents. It was discovered that the maps need to be revised, so there was no action. This item will be on the May Board meeting agenda.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 and 2025-26 Projects

The Board discussed a summer maintenance projects list, which was previously discussed at prior Budget/ERC and Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings, to be funded with regular budget dollars and fund balance. Cates moved to approve the projects totaling approximately \$1.6 million, except for the IT office project, and to look into abatement of one hallway floor in the middle school. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2025-26 CESA #3 Contract

Iausly moved to approve the 2025-26 CESA #3 contract. Cates seconded. There will be an amendment if we use ELL services. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2025-26 CESA #5 Contract

Minich moved to approve the 2025-26 CESA #5 contract. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Wisconsin School Nutrition 2025-26 Purchasing Cooperative

Young moved to approve the Wisconsin School Nutrition 2025-26 Purchasing Cooperative Agreement. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2025-26 SWEEP 1 and SWEEP 2 Cooperative Agreements for Use of Aeration and Top Dresser Equipment

Young moved to approve 2025-26 SWEEP 1 and SWEEP 2 Cooperative Agreements. Minich seconded. These annual agreements cover our costs in a consortium that shares major lawn care equipment. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Based on guidance from our legal counsel, the Committee recommends suspending Policy 413 Gender-Based Harassment and Discrimination to ensure compliance with recent directives from the Department of Education. As recommended by the Committee, Carstensen moved to approve the first and second reading and to delete 413 Gender-Based Harassment and Discrimination. Iausly seconded. Cates noted that she wants to be on record recognizing the impact on families and the emotional and psychological aspect. Motion carried with Young opposed.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the second 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.. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 452.8 Pediculosis (Head Lice Infestation) Guidelines and 251 Exhibit River Valley Organizational Chart, with Business Manager title edited to be Assistant Superintendent/Director of Finance and Operations. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Accepting Gifts, if any

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$1,200 from Alec Bass to River Valley Cross Country; \$3,000 from Athletic Booster Club for baseball team roll away batting cage; and \$250 from anonymous donor to Before and After School Program. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried. It was noted that Nina’s donated school supplies and children’s clothing to the school district upon their store closing.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) – to discuss and take action, if appropriate, considering 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. Specifically to discuss requests from students to opt out of state testing.

Minich moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:10 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) – to discuss and take action, if appropriate, considering 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. Specifically to discuss requests from students to opt out of state testing. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:16 p.m.

Consideration & Action on Requests From Students to Opt Out of State Testing

Minich moved to approve 3 3rd graders, including 2 at RVA, and 4 7th graders for a total of 7 students to opt out of state testing. Young seconded. Motion carried with Iausly opposed.

Young moved to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk