

River Valley School District
Thursday, April 13, 2023
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Minich, Jennings, Iausly, Young, Carstensen, Maier

Absent: Bettinger, Cates

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Peterson, Radtke, Blakley

Others: Kyle Kraemer, Kevin Eipperle, Michelle Orcutt, Shawn Duren, Judy Ettenhofer, 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.

Carstensen moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Leah Drachenberg was present and noted that the student council will provide breakfast and a gift to teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Prom is April 15 with a dance from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. and grand march at 8:00 p.m. The "Project Yellow Art Show" included three area districts that displayed artwork created by students with disabilities.

Update on Facilities Study Group

Kevin Eipperle, FEH Design Architects, and Kyle Kraemer, Kraemer Brothers Construction, were present to provide an update on the Facilities Study and related Advisory Task Force (ATF) public meetings and workshops. Over 50 community members participated. Grade structure and long term vision options were analyzed. The ATF supported going from 4 to 3 school buildings, by closing the Early Learning Center in Plain, and housing 3-year-olds to 2nd graders at the current Elementary with a small addition, 3rd to 6th graders at the current Middle School, and 7th to 12th graders at the current High School.

There were 33 different short term projects presented by community members for consideration and ranking, including required code, maintenance, and ADA items. Proposed options were ranked and costed out until a maximum of \$37 million was reached, with other proposed items costing beyond that amount. The addition of a gym at the Elementary and a performing arts center at the High School is included in the \$37 million. By show of hands, the ATF showed support for \$24 million. When presented as an annual amount, the ATF showed support for \$550, which is actually \$42 million. The next step is an informational community survey with 14 questions. The Board will review a draft survey and provide feedback to Brian Krey by April 21. The process would involve planning an informational campaign and sharing information with the public for two months before an April 2024 building referendum vote.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Blakely reported that high school students are involved in state testing. Prom is this weekend and spring sports are ongoing. The end of the school year is in sight and they are working on scheduling for next year. Radtke noted the middle school is very similar with testing and scheduling and planning for the end of the year. Peterson stated that 3rd and 4th graders are testing. There was a 4K music program last week. Elementary field trips are being planned as well as local historical experiences for kids from community groups.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Board members were asked to contact Paula Wedige if they want to hand out diplomas at graduation. Jennings noted Pam Gauger was elected to serve on the Board for Area 2 Town of Arena. Deb Nelson is resigning after 30 years. Congratulations and well wishes were extended to Nelson. Deb noted she initially only intended to serve for 6 years but there was a large turnover on the Board and she remained. She was able to present diplomas to all 5 of her kids over the years. She noted that River Valley is a great school district and she is proud to live and serve in River Valley. Her advice to other Board members is to remember that the kids are number one and to keep that in mind. That's why we are here. She asked them to keep the staff in mind too since our district employees are awesome people.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that state budget listening sessions are happening around the state with 720 people registered to give comments. Of those, 200 are about the reliance on operational referendums to fund local schools. There is a huge push on funding schools in the state budget.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – March 2023; Open Session Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2023, Special Meeting and March 9, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Revision to 2023-24 School Calendar

Iausly moved to approve the correction to the 2023-24 calendar to remove April 31 (no such thing!) and add April 1 as a school day. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resignations, if any

Carstensen moved to accept the resignations of Quinn Fitzgerald, Middle School Special Ed Teacher; Jack Scully, High School Science Teacher; and Jordyn Wendhausen, School Nurse. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Carstensen moved to hire Kevin McGivern as a High School Phy Ed Teacher. Young seconded. McGivern comes highly regarded from Dodgeville School District. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Proposed 2023-24 Attendance Areas for District Private Schools K4-4th Grade Students for Transportation Purposes

Young moved to approve the 2023-24 Attendance Areas for District Private Schools K4-4th Grade Students for Transportation Purposes to be the same as last year. Maier seconded. It was noted that St. Johns will no longer be offering 5th grade. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2023-24 CESA #3 Contract

There are no changes from last year. Maier moved to approve the 2023-34 CESA #3 Contract. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2023-24 SWEEP 1 and SWEEP 2 Cooperative Agreements for Use of Aeration and Top Dresser Equipment

There are no changes from last year. Iausly moved to approve the 2023-24 SWEEP 1 and SWEEP 2 Cooperative Agreements for Use of Aeration and Top Dresser Equipment. Young seconded. With the new turf field, this equipment will still be used on baseball, softball, and soccer practice fields. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommended to the Budget/ERC Committee to create Fund 46 for long term maintenance of facilities to include a resolution approved by the Board, a separate checking account, and a long term maintenance plan. Funds cannot be withdrawn for the first 5 years. The Committee is holding on discussion of solar panels with the future potential of other construction on school grounds.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Mark Roffers of MDRoffers Consulting attended and shared results of stakeholder interactions and common trends for the 2023-28 Strategic Plan. The Committee will review a draft of the plan at the May meeting.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the second reading of the following policies: 671.1 Expense Reimbursements; 342.2 Gifted and Talented Program; 421 Entrance Criteria for 4K, 5K, and First Grade; 421 Rule Guidelines for Entrance Criteria for 5K/First Grade; 421 Exhibit 1 Application for Early Admission to Kindergarten/First Grade; 352 Field Trips and Overnight School Trips; 352 Exhibit 1 Student Health Information Form for Overnight School Trips; 352 Exhibit 2 Field Trip and Overnight School Trip Checklist; (NEW) 352 Exhibit 3 Overnight School Trip Itinerary Modification; 452.1 Emergency Nursing Services; 452.4 Administering Medication to Students; 452.4 Rule 1 Administering Medication Procedure; 452.4 Exhibit 3 Self-Administration of Medication on Overnight School Trips - Health Care Provider and Parent Permission Form. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

The new policy (NEW) 834.1 Therapy Animals will be reviewed by the Committee again before a second reading.

As recommended by the Committee, Minich moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: 834 Service Animals; 836 Animals on School Premises; 860 Visitors to Schools; 751.3 Bus Rules and Regulations; and (NEW) School Forest. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Policies 751.4 Use of Cameras or Recording Devices on School Buses or other Authorized Vehicles and (NEW) Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring will be reviewed by the Committee again before a first reading.

Consideration & Action on Budget/Employee Relations Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Maier moved to accept the 2023-26 contract with CMS of Madison to provide 8.25 FTE employees for cleaning services. Young seconded. This is 2 employees less than our current contract with DASHIR. These employees will be strictly cleaners. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Young moved to approve the hiring of 2.0 FTE buildings and grounds employees beginning July 1, 2023. Carstensen seconded. As we do

now with DASHIR, we will have 10.25 custodial staff with these 2 hired as district employees and 8.25 FTE with the CMS of Madison contract. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Young moved to approve a 4.0% base wage increase for current RVEA (teachers) and supplemental increases as presented. Iausly seconded. Total average is 4.5%, with some above 4.5% for teachers on the lower end of the pay scale and some below 4.5% for teachers on the higher end of the pay scale. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Young moved to approve a 4.5% base wage increase for current RVEST (support staff), Non-Union, and Administrative employees and supplemental increases as presented. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Iausly moved to approve a 3.5% increase for 2023-2024 base salaries for new teachers and co-curricular salary schedules as presented. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Minich moved to approve the Quartz Health Insurance renewal with a 6.0% increase for 2023-2024. Budget projections included a 5% increase for health. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Iausly moved to approve the Delta Dental renewal with a 4.0% increase and the Delta Vision renewal with a 0% increase for 2023-2024. Minich seconded. Changes to the dental plan include routine preventative care not applied to the annual maximum and dependent age for orthodontics changed from 25 to 26. Motion carried.

As recommended to the Budget/ERC Committee by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Budget Committee recommends the creation of Fund 46 and the adoption of the Resolution Establishing a Long Term Capital Improvement Trust Fund and a long term maintenance plan. Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Establishing a Long Term Capital Improvement Trust Fund and a long term maintenance plan. Maier seconded. Young noted she is glad we are creating a long term maintenance plan to be used for more than just football field upkeep. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Minich moved to approve the 2023-2024 WI School Nutrition Purchasing Cooperative Agreement. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Budget/ERC Committee, Maier moved to approve a 4.0% salary increase for substitute employees. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$425 to Fund 21 for unpaid school lunch balances from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers – Local 965 (Madison) – Women’s Committee; \$1,000 for Career Connections and Alumni Network Website Creation from Jennifer Kraemer; and \$2,406.72 from Athletic Booster Club for Volleyball Team uniforms (\$1,075.20) and warm up jackets (\$1,331.52). The alumni network would connect current students with alumni. Carstensen seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Requests From Students to Opt Out of State Testing

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:09 pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Requests From Students to Opt Out of State Testing. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:12 p.m.

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

Iausly moved to approve requests from 9 students to opt out of state testing. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Nelson moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Carstensen seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk