

River Valley School District  
Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Regular Meeting  
Middle School Library  
7:00 p.m.

*- The public was able to view this meeting live on our River Valley YouTube Channel.*

*- Anyone who attended the meeting in person was required to wear a mask and follow social distancing.*

*- Public comments were to be shared without attending this meeting in person by contacting Kathy Jennings, Board President, prior to the meeting at 608-588-4737 or at [jennings.rvsb@rvschools.org](mailto:jennings.rvsb@rvschools.org).*

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Cates, Bettinger, Strozinsky, Iausly, Maier

Absent: N/A

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Blakley, Hegland, Peterson, Radtke

Others: Montana Schauf, Dalton Schauf, Jared Ziebarth, Kristy Ziebarth, Michelle Orcutt, Kasey Maxwell, Shawn Duren, Judy Ettenhofer (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. Maier moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

#### Public Comments

None.

#### Student Council Report

None.

#### Equity Conversation and Future Steps

Glasbrenner noted that he presented the DRAFT Equity Statement to staff at 3 of 4 schools this week and some staff will be joining the group so the district can decide on professional development ideas related to equity. Dalton Schauf asked to engage in conversation based on an email he sent to Jennings, and Jennings said she would read the email and respond to Schauf.

#### Update on District Operations from Administration

School was closed on Thursday, April 8, since Lamers Bus Service, our transportation provider, couldn't provide enough drivers to cover the routes. Lamers sent an apology today and committed to preparing for future situations. When asked why April 8 wasn't changed to a virtual school day instead of closing, it was noted that administration made the decision after late notice from Lamers on Wednesday evening. They felt that kids would not have the necessary items at home nor the opportunity to get those items to be ready for a virtual day on Thursday

morning. Bettinger expressed that we need to be better prepared for a switch to virtual when necessary and that we need to return kids to in-person schooling on Wednesdays as soon as we can. Iausly and Maier agreed.

Radtke noted that statewide student assessments start next week. Plans are being made for virtual students to come in on Wednesdays to take exams. The middle school is also working on class scheduling for next year.

Blakley said that assessment and scheduling are also being done at the high school. An outside ceremony is being planned for graduation and scholarship night will be at Wisconsin Riverside Resort with limited attendance without sponsors. He noted some classes are being held outside as we get warmer weather.

Peterson echoed that student testing will start soon. Since we did not have testing last year, this will be the first year of annual testing for students in two grade levels. Virtual students will come in on Wednesdays to take exams. Virtual meetings are being held for new 4K students and parents for next year. Scheduling and homeroom placement is being planned. Outside classes are being held as often as possible.

Hegland shared that the conference has been discussing mask requirements for spring sports. While the season will start later and will be shorter, a similar amount of contests will still be held.

#### Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Young, Iausly, Cates, and Jennings expressed interest in handing out diplomas at graduation on Saturday, May 29, 2021.

Jennings congratulated Iausly and Cates on their re-election to the School Board. She welcomed Elisabeth Minich who will replace Strozinsky and thanked Strozinsky for his service on the Board and committees.

Iausly updated the Board on broadband access in our area, which keeps expanding with the approval of grant dollars.

#### Legislative Update

Glabrenner announced that Jill Underly, Pecatonica, won the election for state superintendent. The WASDA Annual Education Conference will be held virtually in a few weeks and state budget hearings start tomorrow. Sauk County is reminding all that COVID spread is high again and to not let our guard down.

#### Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – March 2021; Open Session Meeting Minutes March 11, 2021, Regular Meeting and March 17, 2021, Special Meeting

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

#### Consideration & Action on Resolution on Request for DPI Waiver due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency for Hours of Instruction and Educator Effectiveness

The Board took action in September 2020, but DPI instructed us to revise our application at this time for these two specific items from the prior longer list. Cates moved to adopt the Resolution to Waive Certain School Board or School District Requirements Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 118.38(1) and (1m). Iausly seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Against the motion: Bettinger, Maier

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 6-2 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Reinstatement of Use of District Outdoor Facilities by Non-School Groups

Cates moved to reinstate the use of district outdoor facilities by non-school groups. Strozinsky seconded. It was noted that groups must follow our guidelines and protocols regarding screenings and wearing masks. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Proposed 2021-22 Attendance Areas for District Private Schools K4-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students for Transportation Purposes

Glasbrenner noted that St. Johns and St. Lukes are annually required to submit K4-5<sup>th</sup> grade attendance areas for transportation purposes that do not overlap inside the district. Since there is no duplication of private school services for grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, we are required to transport all in our district to St. Lukes. Bettinger moved to approve the 2021-22 attendance areas for district private schools K4-5<sup>th</sup> grade students for transportation purposes. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on 2021-22 CESA #3 Contract

Bettinger moved to approve the 2021-22 CESA #3 contract for vision services. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

#### Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Iausly moved to hire Tia Roscovius as a high school Spanish teacher. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried. Iausly moved to hire Brianne Johnsrud as a high school special education teacher. Maier seconded. Motion carried. Both positions will start with the 2021-22 school year and are replacements for vacated positions.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolution Authorizing 2021-22 Teacher Contract Renewals

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing 2021-22 Teacher Contract Renewals. Young seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

The Board discussed making an exception to wearing masks and face coverings if a group of staff is convened and all have been vaccinated or have declined to be vaccinated. If students are present, staff must wear masks. Maier moved to approve adding the exception language to

Policy 728 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings. Strozinsky seconded. Comments by building principals were not in favor of changing the language and favored keeping masks through the end of the school year. It was noted that staff members might not know if fellow staff members are vaccinated. There might be student resentment if staff are allowed to remove masks in some instances. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Maier

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

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 7-1 against the motion. Motion failed.

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Cates moved to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the following policies: 743 Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Electronic Mail, and Internet Safety Policy; 733 Energy Management; 733 Rule Energy Management; and 373 Fundraising Activities. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Strozinsky moved to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the following policies: 834 Service Animals; 836 Animals on School Premises; 836 Exhibit Animals in the School Request Form; 422.1 Foreign Exchange Students; 861-Exhibit 1 – Confidentiality Agreement; and 861-Exhibit 2 – Disclosure Statement – Volunteer. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Bettinger moved to approve the 2021-22 co-curricular salary schedules with a 1.23% increase to the base wage and to replace Madrigal with POPS Concert and FFA Support with FFA/School Fair Support. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve 50% payment to the post prom advisor and SADD advisor for the 2020-21 school year. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee will continue discussion of how to use Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II and III Funds, which have specific allowable costs, and will take a survey to gauge interest in the reinstatement of the late bus.

#### Consideration & Action on Special Board Meeting Date – Monday, April 19, 2021

Young moved to set a special meeting date for Monday, April 19, 2021, at 6:00 pm in the Middle School Library. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

#### Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$30,000 anonymous donation for student and staff wellness; \$500 donation from Petro-Oil, Inc. towards high school math and science; and \$1,000 donation from Smoke in the Valley for North Park maintenance. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Maier moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk