

River Valley School District
Thursday, June 10, 2021
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Minich, Maier, Cates, Iausly, Carstensen (appointed at 7:55 p.m.)

Absent: Bettinger

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Radtke, Blakley, Peterson

Others: Dana Sanftleben, Michelle Orcutt, Dan Machovec, Brittiney Belche, Jordyn Wendhausen, 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. Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Jennings suggested moving action item #10 to be action item #2 in order to address Policy 728 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings earlier in the meeting. Maier moved to approve the agenda and move action item #10 to be action item #2. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Dana Sanftleben expressed that she is not in favor of masking any longer. She feels that policies are happening behind closed doors. She believes administrators are not wearing masks but kids are having to mask and asks for more transparency. She is not in favor of the vaccine or of contact tracing. She asked if we are going to do virtual learning if we quarantine.

2020-21 School Health Services Annual Report

Jordyn Wendhausen and Brittiney Belche summarized the report. Most of the nursing staff time this school year was spent dealing with COVID-19. The district had 57 positive cases reported during the year, with the majority from October to December. When the county could not keep up with contact tracing, our nurses took on that role for our district.

There is a code blue team in each building with at least one person trained to give CPR and AED. Secretaries are trained by the nurses to help give student medications. There will be expanded training for next year for staff working with students with complex medical needs.

Staff health screenings will resume this year as well as student vision and hearing checks and dental screenings. The nurses are planning increased health education activities for the coming year. Student immunizations are at 99 percent compliance for routine vaccines.

The Board thanked the nurses for their work this year and for all years. When asked if additional nursing staff is needed, the nurses responded that they were both new this year and with this unusual year due to COVID-19, they will assess needs after one more school year. The nurses thanked Heather Olson, the secretaries, code blue teams, and CPR-trained staff for their help. Glasbrenner thanked the nurses for their work while taking into consideration both health and educational needs.

End of Semester Review of Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) Program

Peterson noted that the percent of students that achieved goals this past year was lower than usual. The same goals were used this past year but it was difficult for K-3rd graders to learn virtually. The information will be used to determine where we need to start in the fall. Summer school starts on Monday with 107 elementary students attending for remedial math and reading. Then intervention needs for next year will be looked at to make sure we have enough personnel at the elementary and middle schools in an interventionist role.

Summary of 2021-22 Open Enrollment Applications

Glasbrenner noted that we received applications from 20 new students to open enroll OUT for the upcoming school year and applications from 13 new student to open enroll IN. In addition, we have approximately 5 students interested in attending the Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) under our new partnership with Medford School District. We would be able to count the RVA students as our own students.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Blakely noted there are approximately 55 high school students coming for summer school to earn credits. They will be in small groups.

Radtke noted there are approximately 35 middle school students coming for summer school for reading and math support. They will be in small groups.

Peterson noted there are 107 elementary students coming for summer school with a few coming from the private schools. They will be in small groups.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Jennings thanked administration and staff for the success of the graduation ceremony.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner noted that we won't get some federal funding in Wisconsin if the Joint Finance Committee doesn't spend a specified amount, and the amount they have allocated is still not enough.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – May 2021; Open Session Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2021, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

The Policy Committee recommended changes to Policy 728 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings to make masks optional for everyone indoors and outdoors on the River Valley campus. This change is being considered for the summer months. The Committee will review this policy again before school starts in the fall.

Comments in favor of making masks optional were that vaccines are more readily available, mandates are being lifted around us, and there is more resistance to wearing masks. Some concerns about making masks optional for all is that elementary students are not yet eligible for vaccines, the potential effect on summer school, and the difficulty of reversing this action in the event we find the need.

Iausly noted the process for creating and adopting policies is done in an open forum in a transparent manner as agendas are always posted and meetings are open to the public. He stated that if there are questions about enforcement of policies, then that is a different matter.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to approve the changes to Policy 728 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings to make masks optional. Cates seconded. Motion carried with Nelson opposed. The policy change took effect immediately. Numbers were provided from the nursing staff regarding how many students and staff have been vaccinated.

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the second reading of Policy 185 Board Committees and Appointments. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve the first reading of the following policies: (NEW) 852 Distribution of Electronic and Printed Material; 345.4 Academic Honors and High School Laude System; 345.4 Exhibit Laude Chart; 320 Organization for Instruction; 322 School Day. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee reviewed Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings with no suggested revisions. It was noted that an opportunity for public comments is provided at the beginning of each regular Board meeting.

Consideration & Action on Appointment of Medical Advisor for 2021-22

School nurse Jordyn Wendhausen recommended Dr. Furukawa as our medical advisor. Iausly moved to appoint Dr. Furukawa as our medical advisor for 2021-22. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Board President Appointment to Fill Area 4 Board Seat Vacancy Due to Resignation

Per Policy 133 Filling Board Vacancies, President Jennings appointed Sara Carstensen to fill the vacant Area 4-Lone Rock board seat until April 25, 2022. The candidate elected at the April 2022 election will serve the remaining year of this board seat term. Carstensen took her oath and her seat on the Board.

Consideration & Action on 2021-22 Board Committee Assignments

Young moved to approve the Board committee assignments as presented by President Jennings. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Reinstatement of Use of District Indoor Facilities by Non-School Groups and Visitors

Young moved to reinstate the use of district indoor facilities by non-school groups and to allow visitors. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Resignation of Hayley Rognholt, Middle School Art Teacher. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with Bettinger absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Increasing .6 FTE Science Teacher Position to 1.0 FTE

Young moved to increase the .6 FTE science teacher position to 1.0 FTE. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Iausly moved to hire Claire Eno as a 1.0 FTE High School Science Teacher. Maier seconded. Eno has also accepted the vacant gymnastics coach position. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

No recommendations for action. Elementary and middle school windows are being replaced and drainage projects will be started after July 4. ESSER funds updates are being given at each meeting. The Budget/ERC Committee will meet on June 28 (not Buildings and Grounds) to discuss the potential athletic complex project.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

None.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk