

River Valley School District
Thursday, July 13, 2017
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Bettinger, Nelson, Jennings, Young, McGuire, Case, Cates (8:10 pm)
Absent: Strozinsky, Iausly
Admin: Wermuth, Novak, Krey, Hegland, Radtke, Kjos, Blakley
Others: Monica Reeve, Bridget Roberts, Deb Miller, Rachel Orcutt, Michelle Orcutt, Linda Kettner, Sarah Schaller, Don Brander, Michael Langer, Tara Holfelder, Doris Green (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. Young moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

Case moved to approve the agenda. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Don Brander asked if there is a mold problem in the middle school and it was noted that we have had to remove some mold from the middle school. He also commented about hiring local businesses to do work in the district and it was noted we do hire local if we can.

Michael Langer commented that he thinks the air quality is terrible in the middle school. He asked about the timeline for a new hub school and it was noted that there is currently no plan to build a hub school.

Monica Reeve read a portion of a letter emailed to the Board on July 12 from the Arena Community Elementary School Governing Council. Deb Miller finished the last portion of the same letter read by Monica Reeve.

District General Counsel's Reply to Lone Rock Village Board's Resolution Pertaining to Lone Rock Elementary School

The Lone Rock Village Board declared in a resolution that the Village owned Lone Rock Elementary School. District General Counsel replied that the resolution is a legal nullity since the River Valley School District owns the property. Young suggested that the reply be printed in the Home News since the Village's resolution was printed earlier. Jennings pointed out that the reply states that the district is willing to talk with Lone Rock about the use of the building. Lone Rock has not contacted Wermuth but Arena has made contact about the school building in Arena.

Reply to Inquiries from the Public Regarding Recall Election Costs

To date, the cost of the recent recall election is at \$20,500. There are some municipalities that have yet to bill the district.

Update on Buildings and Grounds Projects

Novak noted that several projects are happening at the high school, including a new entryway with a second set of doors that route traffic through the office, asbestos abatement near furnaces, and installation of air handling units and boiler. There was blacktop replacement at River Valley Elementary and work is being done to change the traffic pattern. Teachers will be able to work in their classrooms after this weekend as the elementary transition plans continue. We are discussing bus routes with Lamers and most 4K and 5K students will be picked up at their homes. A new phone system is being installed on the Spring Green and Plain campuses.

Update on 2017-18 District Configuration Transition

Hegland noted we are ahead of schedule and we continue to work with teachers to make sure they have what they need in classrooms. Districtwide registration day is Monday July 31.

“Autism Engagement Workshop” Professional Development Hosted at River Valley in June

River Valley hosted a two-day workshop in June, which was attended by River Valley staff and other education professionals from 10 districts. River Valley, Richland Center, and CESA 3 received a grant to provide this professional development opportunity.

District Goals Review and Planning

Administration provided an update on the three district goals that have been the focus for the last two years and included planning for 2017-18.

Increase school community connections on an annual basis – We created a district brochure last fall; recognized businesses through WASB Honor Roll; continued sale of “Like a Hawk” banners; and tagged businesses on social media when partnerships occurred. We will continue these initiatives and plan to add community service projects, increase sales of River Valley merchandise, and extend school invitations to families, businesses and community members.

Increase the percentage of students who enroll in a post-secondary institution by 6% and increase the number of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in a post-secondary institution so it is above the state average - High school students visited elementary classrooms to discuss career and college pathways and advantages of performing well in school; middle school students were invited to the High School Career Night; we received a grant to increase offerings of employability skills for students with special education needs; 8th graders attended Career Day at UW Platteville; all 11th graders attended career planning conferences with counselors; and ACT practice exams were offered to all students. We will continue these initiatives and want to begin working with students on academic portfolios in 6th grade and conduct an exit survey with seniors to discuss post-secondary plans.

Increase percentage of students needing only the universal curriculum by 6% - For 2017-18, 10.7% of all students will be receiving interventions, down from 11.1% last year. The use of the Response to Intervention program has benefited students. We have requested more adult literacy volunteers to read with elementary students on a consistent basis; middle school students in reading classes visited elementary classrooms to stress the important of reading; staff utilized inservice time to discuss best teaching practices for reading; and a summer reading incentive program was implemented this summer. We will continue these initiatives and will engage staff in reading by: asking that they post a sign outside their classroom door that says “I am currently reading...” so kids can see what staff members are reading; having staff use a common language for reading techniques; and using technology devices to support or enhance reading.

Update on Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR)

Hegland provided an end of year report regarding reducing the achievement gap for low income pupils in reading and math. For 2017-18, our focus will be to tie the required reading and math goals to the student learning objectives and to address the needs of students through the Response to Intervention program. Our reconfiguration will likely provide additional support to students in need.

Board Reminders and Announcements

Board members and administrators were asked to notify Paula Wedige if they plan to attend the January 17-19 WASB Convention in Milwaukee and need a hotel reservation.

Legislative Update

The amount of per pupil categorical aid is being discussed but no decision has been made.

Board Training Opportunities

No report.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – June 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2017

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

Consideration & Action on Strategic Planning Process and Timeline

Administration talked with other districts and narrowed down the search to two potential consultants and will give contact information to President Jennings. The Board would like to see a brief written proposal from each regarding process and cost. The plan would include the scope of facilities, demographics, curriculum/instruction, and technology and would involve meetings with Board, staff, and community. Bettinger and Young both offered to join administration in the selection process.

Cates arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts of \$100 from Jerry and Deb Nelson for operation of the drone. Cates seconded. Roll call vote:

For the motion: Bettinger, Case, Cates, Jennings, McGuire, Young

Against the motion: N/A

Abstain: Nelson

Absent: Iausly, Strozinsky

Polled vote was 6-0 in the affirmative with Nelson abstaining and 2 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

Bettinger moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Resignation of Lynn Umhoefer, Speech and Language Therapist. Case seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried. Lynn requested that the Board waive her liquidated damages fee of \$750. Bettinger moved to enforce the \$750 liquidated damages fee as outlined in the All Staff Employee Handbook for teacher resignations. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Other resignations include Jen Embretson, Social Worker and Megan Garrelts, Lone Rock Secretary. Also, Sheila Burris is retiring after 31 years of service at River Valley. Thanks was extended to all for their service.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Young moved to approve the hiring of Claire Knoll as a School Psychologist. Case seconded. With the resignation of Jen Embretson, social worker duties will be shared by Knoll and Lisa Kjos, Pupil Services Director. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Academic Standards Notice

Bettinger moved to approve the following annually required notice: "The River Valley School District follows the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as adopted by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as an outline of base expectations. The related accountability and testing is conformed to as appropriate to be in compliance with all state and federal laws. Where appropriate, classroom materials have been aligned to the CCSS. The CCSS being only an outline of base expectations, are exceeded in almost all areas of school offerings." Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2016-17 Restraint and Seclusion Report

Kjos reported that we had 5 instances of seclusion and 11 instances of restraint this past school year. Training is offered to staff every year and we currently have 50 staff members trained. Young moved to approve the 2016-17 Restraint and Seclusion Report. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Annual Meeting Date – Thursday, October 19 or 26, 2017

Cates moved to set October 26, 2017, at 7:00 pm for the annual meeting. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2017-18 CESA #5 Contract

Bettinger moved to approve the 2017-18 CESA #5 contract for online speech and language services. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Nonrenewal of Charter Contract for Arena Community Elementary School After 2017-18 School Year

Bettinger moved to nonrenew the charter contract for Arena Community Elementary School after the 2017-18 school year. Young seconded.

Representatives from Arena Community Elementary referenced a letter that was emailed last evening to the Board and was also read earlier during the public comments section of this meeting. Deb Miller noted they would like to make a presentation to the Board to share what they've done and accomplished. They also want to make sure that STEM is incorporated into River Valley Elementary and be apprised of how that is going to occur. Linda Kettner feels it would be valuable for all elementary staff to hear their report and noted a STEM camp was held in the district this summer.

Wermuth wants to make sure all elementary staff are engaged in planning for the future and transition. He noted that this is the first request for making a presentation to the Board and challenged part of their letter that infers there is no differentiation in the district outside of Arena, which Wermuth said is not true.

Wermuth noted that administration wants to move forward and not delay action on the nonrenewal. Although Arena's governing council has asked about keeping the charter school within the River Valley Elementary or Middle School building, administration feels that would be divisive since our district has made the decision to move toward consolidation.

For the motion: Bettinger, Cates, Jennings, Nelson, Young

Against the motion: McGuire

Abstain: Case

Absent: Iausly, Strozinsky

Motion carried 5-1 with 1 abstention and 2 absent.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations for action.

Consideration & Action on Employee Relations Committee Recommendations

Cates moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to waive the liquidated damages fee for Business Manager Jon Novak's September 1 retirement in exchange for Jon completing several financial reports this fall. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Young moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to approve the Pupil Services Director/School Psychologist Contract at 210 Days. Case seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve the Committee's recommendation for substitute pay rates effective for 2017-18 as follows: \$115 per day for teachers; \$135 per day for a long term teacher without a license; \$200 per day for a long term teacher with a license; and \$11 per hour for support staff. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Bettinger moved to approve the second reading of (NEW) 221 Recruitment and Appointment of District Administrator, 224 Board-Administrator Relations, and (NEW) 842 Grants to the District from Private Sources. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve the second reading of 165 Board Member Code of Ethics. Young seconded. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

Young moved to approve the first reading of: 185 Board Committees and Appointments to separate the roles of convention delegate and CESA 3 representative, to clarify that items that have fiscal impact will be directed to the Budget Committee, and to show the updated language at the bottom of committee meeting notices regarding committee of the whole; and 185 Rule Roles of Board Committee Chairpersons and Appointees to outline the separate roles of convention delegate and CESA 3 representative. Case seconded. Motion carried.

Young moved to approve changes in the Athletic Handbook, Co-Curricular Handbook, and Coaches Handbook as follows: changing the title of Athletic Director to Activities Director; using the term co-curricular instead of extra-curricular; and removing the use of a student representative and Board representative during hearings on due process and code violations since federal and state laws related to student privacy may limit the services of students and community members. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

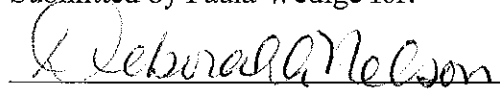
Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations for action.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator End of Year Evaluation and Discussion of Administrator End of Year Evaluations

Cates moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:15 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of District Administrator End of Year Evaluation and Discussion of Administrator End of Year Evaluations. Bettinger seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk