

River Valley School District
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:05 pm

- 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.

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

Absent: Bettinger

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Radtke, Blakley, Peterson

Others: Kasey Maxwell, Lisa Scofield, Shawn Duren, Linda Schwanke (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. McGuire moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Per Jennings, no one from the public contacted her prior to the meeting with public comments. Lisa Scofield was present to answer any questions about an email she sent to the Board and all staff with her concerns about how quickly plans were formulated for the start of the school year, how she didn't feel involved, and how there were unrealistic expectations put on teachers. One issue she brought up in her email was "fogging" to disinfect classrooms on Wednesdays while staff is working in rooms, but now understands that was not the plan and that is not happening.

Scofield noted that the students have been great adapting to the new guidelines and there are no issues with kids not following guidelines. However, kids are not social distancing in hallways and outside. While there are no concerns in the buildings about masks, we do have vulnerable staff members and she thinks they should have been asked if they could be given assignments outside of the classroom. She thinks it would be helpful if the district had a plan for substitutes since teachers have to cover for other teachers that are out, and she feels teachers are on edge.

Scofield noted there is frustration in trying to do a good job and connect with kids but online learning makes it difficult. Fred noted we can't replace in-person instruction, but we are doing what we can with technology and striving to do better than last spring. Scofield feels like she is carrying out a promise that she didn't make and can't achieve it with online teaching.

Glasbrenner stated that decisions are made using information we get from Sauk County and specifically by zip code. We also rely on Dr. Furukawa as our medical advisor.

Student Council Report

No report. This will start in October.

Changes to 2020 Homecoming Plans and School Fair Plans

Unfortunately, due to concerns and uncertainty about the spread of COVID-19, most activities related to Homecoming and the School Fair have been canceled. The Homecoming bonfire, pep rally, parade, and dance are all canceled. Additional information will be communicated at a later date regarding the October 1 volleyball game and the October 2 football game.

The October 2 School Fair is canceled and the general public and spectators are not allowed on school grounds on that day. We have modified our Livestock and Dairy Show, Auction, Horse Show, Small Animals, and Home Economics and Creative Arts events, but the general public and spectators are not allowed. We will be live streaming our Livestock and Dairy Show on our YouTube Channel (RVTV), and will also tape delay the horse show on the channel. There is no school on October 2, but River Valley staff members will report to work that day for professional development.

Blakley reminded us all that these cancellations affect our students, and we are discussing ways we can still celebrate Homecoming, such as decorating entryways, outside decorations, getting students involved, boulevard decorations, court with king and queen, dress up days, etc. Iausly agreed that the kids are dealing with a lot of loss this year, especially the seniors. We need to get staff and students involved. Young noted that information and communication are not the same thing. Blakley realizes that people want to be involved but that news spreads fast, so it is difficult to work with one group at a time and also share information with all at the same time.

Krey has been working with Shari Graffunder and Tim Johnson on how to organize the modified Livestock and Dairy Show, Auction, Horse Show, and Small Animals events. Only pre-registered participants and parents will be allowed on site, along with pre-registered auction buyers. For the Home Economics and Creative Arts events, entries will be submitted online via photo or video. These items will not be available for display, but will be judged and then the results will be posted online.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Glasbrenner noted that busing has been a challenge and he has been working with Lamers to find solutions. One new thing this year is that we have assistants riding the buses that transport the littlest kids. We have yet to receive a payment request from Lamers regarding last year's contract. We have put on hold the use of guest speakers and readers and are limiting in-person visitors.

Blakley is proud of what we are doing and noted teachers, support staff, custodians, and food service staff are working hard, going above and beyond, and doing the best that they can. The students have been amazing with masks. About 80% of students are in person with 20% virtual. For seniors, about 90% are in person. Radtke echoed that he is proud of what we are doing. There is anxiety with some staff, but others are happy to be face to face with kids. They are working through issues with scheduling, recess, lunch, and cohorts. There have been no issues

with masks. Peterson agrees regarding the ELC and elementary. She said the little kids are amazing. The beginning of the year has not been smooth, but that is true for any year. The teachers are working hard and students are happy to be back.

Young asked if there is a mechanism for staff to give feedback. There was disconnect this summer and a lot is being asked of staff with not much time to prepare. Strozinsky would like to see some discussion about a plan for substitutes. It was noted this topic is on the September 14 Budget/ERC Committee agenda. Blakley noted building principals have been holding staff meetings, and we need to keep adjusting and be aware of emotions during these unprecedented times, while under timelines. We have a great staff and we need to keep listening. Young noted staff doesn't have power, and it is scary. Maxwell noted teachers are not showing negativity in school buildings. Glasbrenner shared that he has been holding question and answer sessions with staff on Wednesdays. Nelson stated that some staff and custodians have been working in the buildings since last spring and through the summer to adjust to a new normal, but now teachers and remaining support staff are back and it takes time for them to adjust. Maxwell noted that teachers like the Wednesday virtual day for all students, so they can reach out to individual students. Radtke recognized Glasbrenner's positive attitude and intentions as he works in his new role as a first year district administrator during COVID. Glasbrenner thanked the administrative staff for their dedication and noted that everyone in the district is working hard and this is a good place to be.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Jennings referenced an excerpt from the October 22, 2015, Board meeting minutes, which outlines Board member roles and responsibilities. She called attention to two of the bullet points: The Board's function is to set policy language, handbook language, contracts, and job descriptions. The administration administers the language day-to-day—not the Board; and The Board is never the first resort to respond to staff complaints. She encouraged Board members to reach out to staff but to remember the roles and responsibilities.

Legislative Update

We have been reviewing the COVID-19 District Flexibility Application, which offers approximately 65 DPI waivers of school board or school district requirements available to districts for the 2020-21 school year. We held a special meeting for a public hearing earlier this evening and will ask the Board to take action later this evening on 45 waivers.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – August 2020; Open Session Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2020, Regular Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Resolution on Request for DPI Waiver due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency for: Academic and Career Planning, Educational Goals, Reading Instruction, Instruction in English, Human Growth and Development, Special Observance Days, Textbooks, Summer Classes, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Graduation Standards (1 of 2), Graduation Standards (2 of 2), Kindergarten as a Prerequisite for First Grade, Technical Preparation Programs, Admission Standards for K-8 Courses, Curriculum, Length of School Day, University of Wisconsin Tuition, Remedial Reading, Hours of Instruction, Instructional Materials, Texts, and Library Services, Health, Physical Education, Art, and Music, Curriculum Plans, Regular

Instruction, Education for Employment, Pupil Age, Alternatives to Compulsory School Attendance, School Attendance Enforcement, Assessment Periods, Pupil Discipline and Removal from Class, Pupil Participation in School Activities, Child Care in Schools, Child Care Programs, Guidance and Counseling, Education Effectiveness, Staff Development, Personnel Evaluation, Bilingual-Bicultural Education Notice to Parents, Bilingual-Bicultural Program Requirements, Placement in Bilingual-Bicultural Programs, Bilingual-Bicultural Education Requirements, Children-at-Risk/General Requirement, Children-at-Risk Private Contracting, Children-at-Risk/Preference in Funding Allocation, Gifted and Talented Programs, and Public School Transportation

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution to Waive Certain School Board or School District Requirements Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 118.38(1) and (1m). Cates seconded. McGuire asked about offering summer classes. Glasbrenner noted we hope to but it is listed in the waiver in case we can't. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative, with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Sale of Lone Rock School Forest Property

Strozinsky moved to accept the proposal from the Village of Lone Rock for the sale of Lone Rock school forest property for \$5,000. Maier seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Sale and Conveyance of Real Estate. Young seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative, with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2020-21 Madison Area Technical College Dual Credit Contract

Young moved to approve the 2020-21 Madison Area Technical College Dual Credit Contract. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to waive the first reading and approve the second reading of Policy 728 Wearing Masks and Face Coverings. Strozinsky seconded. It was noted that a committee to include Dr. Furukawa would make site visits to monitor compliance of mask wearing, hand washing, and social distancing. It was also noted that although the mask mandate for Wisconsin expires on September 28, the district will continue to follow Policy 728. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Strozinsky moved to waive the first reading and approve the second reading of 411.1 Bullying/Harassment. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

As recommendation by the Committee, Maier moved to approve the first ready of Policy 751 Student Transportation Services, 431 Student Attendance, and 110 Policy Philosophy and Goals and to delete Policy 210 Administration Goals, Policy 310 Educational Outcome Goals and Expectations, Policy 410 Student Policies Goals, Policy 510 Personnel Policies Goals, Policy

610 Fiscal Management Goals, and Policy 710 Support Services Goals. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations

No action was recommended by the Committee. They discussed an Update on Technology Strategies for Synchronous and Asynchronous Instruction and Dede Holverson shared results of testing in classrooms with Chromebooks, cameras, and Zoom and the pros and cons.

They also discussed an Update from Network Administrator on District Technology Capacity and Shawn Duren reported that the network is solid. We are working with WiscNet, Charter, and BadgerNet to make sure we have optimal service but there has been a lack of WiFi in some locations. He noted that there were some Chromebook repairs over the summer, but many more after students returned. Chromebooks are not ideal for hosting and we many want to transition to desktop computers. There have been several technology issues with the start of the year but it is starting to settle down a little. We are now monitoring Google Meet issues and have had some struggles. Other districts are having similar issues. There was some discussion on whether our technology staffing is sufficient for the district's needs. Duren noted it had been nice having a summer helper, but that person will soon be done.

It was noted that technology is a tool and it takes time to learn how to manipulate any tool to be effective and that it doesn't replace in-person learning.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Thanks was given to the community for the continued generous donations. Iausly moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts as follows: \$50 from an anonymous donor to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$100 from Dale and Judy Hottmann to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$25 from Julie Bartlett to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$50 from James and Janice Spredemann to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$25 from John and Margaret Johnson to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$1,000 from Robert Lang to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$200 from Tim and Joannie Harrington to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$25 from Dawn Ingham to Fund 21 for school supplies; \$25 from Clyde Go Getter 4H Club to Fund 21 for school supplies; Hudl Service for 2020 season valued at \$1,250 from the Athletic Booster Club to the volleyball team; 20 N95 masks valued at \$120 total from Sauk Prairie Hospital to the district; and a bike rack valued at \$250 from Village Family Dental to the district. Maier seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk