

River Valley School District
Thursday, September 12, 2024
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Young, Jennings, Minich, Gauger, Cates, Iausly, Carstensen, Caleb Drachenberg (Student Representative)
Absent: Bettinger, Maier
Admin: Glasbrenner, Knoll, Peterson, Blakley
Others: Dr. Masaru Furukawa, Shawn Duren, Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. Jennings noted that there was an amended agenda and 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. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Community Spotlight

This is a monthly agenda item to recognize an individual, group, or business in our community for supporting River Valley schools. Dr. Masaru Furukawa was recognized. He serves as the district's medical advisor and provided much support during the pandemic and works with our nursing team. Upcoming initiatives include student handwashing training in October, hearing and vision testing at ELC, and talking to wrestlers about hygiene to avoid bacterial infection. With Covid cases going around, he recommended getting a vaccine now before winter and also a flu vaccine.

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Caleb Drachenberg, student council president, was present. Other officers are Grady Graham (Vice President), Jasmine Gauger (Secretary), Isaac Ziebarth (Treasurer), and Josie Mahoney (Exponent), with Dede Holverson serving as the advisor. Homecoming fundraisers are being planned. FFA members are preparing for the school fair and some participated in the recent Richland and Iowa county fairs. River Valley's Mock Trial team will compete at Yale on September 14-15. The team is mostly sophomores and they will compete against many private schools. The high school musical, "Mean Girls" will be performed at the Touchstone Theatre on December 13-15. It was noted that AP students scored well during last year's testing.

Update on Board Development Goals

The Board set two goals earlier this year. For the first goal—onboarding for new Board members—Gauger compiled the Board's work and the New Board Member Onboarding document is now ready for use with new Board members.

For the second goal—staff input by engaging staff regarding culture and issues—Gauger and Young held several meetings with staff regarding climate and morale. They also met with

administration as a group and individually. The process highlighted all the challenges staff and administration have gone through over the past decade. Every person was clear that they care about this district and the students. There were four main areas of concern with student behavioral issues and communication being the top two. The other two were schedule/workload/burnout and engagement. The Board will discuss how to follow up to measure progress in these areas. A summary document that was given to all staff at the August inservice was shared with the Board.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Blakley stated that homecoming week is in a few weeks and there is a lot of positive energy at the high school. There has been positive feedback regarding new staff at the high school. The Pre-ACT testing is coming up for 9th and 10th grade students.

It was noted that Radtke is in the middle school part time while he is recovering from surgery but he is available online.

Peterson reported that structures and routines are being built at the ELC and elementary as the school year starts. A repeated reminder to the students is to be calm and kind.

Knoll noted 4K screening was done last month. She noted that the school supply drive for students, which was coordinated by the Spring Green Area Chamber, was a success and extra items were given to teachers to use in their classrooms. Professional development time has been spent with new special education teachers, St. Lukes and St. Johns, and instructional assistants, as well as all special education staff regarding evaluations, behavior, billing for Medicaid, and entering time off.

Brian Krey has been working on the 2024-25 budget prior to him starting in person as Business Manager on September 23. Jon Novak has been helping with 2023-24 budget wrap up as Krey finishes his final two weeks with his current employer.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

Iausly, Gauger, Cates, and Carstensen will be present at the September 27 homecoming football game for WASB Business Honor Roll awards.

Legislative Update

Peterson gave a detailed overview of Wisconsin Act 20 that affects early literacy instruction and requires schools to assess early literacy skills for students in grade 4K-3. There are 3 areas of focus—teacher training, use of curriculum programs that are acceptable with the state, and the use of a required early literacy screener.

An amendment to Act 20 signed in March 2024 delays the first administration of the reading screener in 2024-2025 to allow for adequate training time, so the first required administration of the reading screener will likely be in January 2025. There is no opt out for this testing.

If results show a child below a certain percentile, then we proceed with a different diagnostic assessment and must create a personalized reading plan. For some special ed students, the reading plan would be part of an IEP. Reading interventionists will be used but classroom teachers will have to be involved.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – August 2024; Open Session Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2024, Regular Meeting, and September 4, 2024, Special Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Hiring a Business Manager

Krey accepted the Board's offer of employment and signed a contract on September 6, 2024. Carstensen moved to hire Brian Krey as Business Manager. Young seconded. Motion carried. Krey will start in person on September 23, 2024.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 Annual District Goals

Cates moved to approve the 2024-25 annual district goals. Minich seconded. Glasbrenner noted that building goals line up to district goals. Young noted that 100% for middle school and high school climate goals is admirable but feels unrealistic. Jennings feels that we should shoot high. Iausly shared that we should see continued progress toward 100% and address those students if we aren't moving forward. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resignations/Retirements, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 Teacher Transfers, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve the second reading of 341.1 Reading Instruction; 342.3 Programs for Children at Risk; 345.3 Promotion and Retention Policy; 422.1 Foreign-Exchange Students; and 763 Healthy Kids Policy (Wellness Policy). Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to approve the first reading of 375 Interscholastic Athletics; 370 ~~Co-Curricular Activity Program~~ **Activities Programming**; 371 Student Organizations; 372 Student Social Events; and 722.6 Planned Responses for Emergencies for Use in River Valley School District. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Curriculum and Instruction Committee Recommendations

There were no recommendations from the Committee. They discussed 2024-25 District Goals, Act 20, AI in schools, Work Based Learning Handbook, a Technology Audit to be scheduled in the near future, and the Reading Corps Program that will start next year.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to pay the retainer fee to grant writer, Jordan Buss, to pursue the FEMA BRIC Grant. Iausly seconded. This grant is for facilities that would also be used as "safe zones" for rural communities in the event of an emergency. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Cates moved to approve the purchase or lease of a dishwasher for River Valley Elementary. Young seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to approve changes related to Title IX in the Equal Opportunity Employment and Work Rules sections of the 2024-25 Employee Handbook. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

After Krey starts as the new Business Manager, a budget update will be provided at the October Committee meeting.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Gifts as follows: construction costs for summer projects valued at \$5,090 from Kraemer Brothers; and \$500 from Rose Ellen Schneider to Fund 21 for families in need. 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)(c) for Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, and Performance Evaluations; and 19.85(1)(f) for Discussion on Enrolling a Student Expelled From Another District

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 7:48pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation, and Performance Evaluations; and 19.85(1)(f) for Discussion on Enrolling a Student Expelled From Another District. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:



Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk