

River Valley School District
Thursday, September 14, 2017
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Bettinger, Nelson, Jennings, Young, Case, Cates, Strozinsky, Iausly, McGuire

Absent: N/A

Admin: Wermuth, Radtke, Kjos, Krey, Blakley

Others: Andy Kurek, Erica Dederich, Kasey Maxwell, Linda Kettner, Lori Baryenbruch, Brittany Rincon, Mark Roffers, Christa Quinn, Noah McVay, Richard Brander, Bridget Wyman, 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. Iausly moved to proceed with the legal meeting. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Consideration & Action on Hiring Consultant for Strategic Planning

Mark Roffers of MDRoffers Consulting provided a summary of his proposal and experience with school districts for consulting services for strategic planning. Cates moved to hire MDRoffers Consulting to lead district strategic planning efforts at a cost not to exceed \$16,600. Case seconded. Funding will come from prior school forest timber sales. Wermuth would like to have the process completed by March. After hearing from the Board's student representative, Lauren Knutson, Wermuth noted that the student council may be one of the stakeholder groups utilized during the process. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Erica Dederich and Brittany Rincon addressed the Board with safety concerns regarding their children's bus route from Lone Rock, stating the bus is over capacity and children are sitting four to a seat. They have talked to the principal and bus barn. Wermuth will follow up.

Sue Sadler is concerned about bad weather and no shelter for kids waiting for the bus and no adults at bus stops. She would like to see the Lone Rock school building used as a gathering area for bus riders. Richard Brander noted that he would like to see the building used as well, that buses are traveling on streets that are not rated for heavy buses, and that buses won't be able to park at some stops once we have snow removal and pile up.

Quality of Sound System in the Middle School Library

We are exploring options for improving the sound system in the Middle School Library. It was emphasized that speakers need to talk into the microphones and enunciate. Young will ask the sound technician at APT to assess our setup.

Student Council Report

Lauren Knutson noted that there are 14 new students at the middle school and a "get to know you" opportunity was provided for these students to meet each other. Upcoming events are Youth Conservation Day, a trip to the Leopold Center, UW-Platteville Career Day, and a field

trip to American Players Theatre. Some high school classes will also be going to APT. It is senior night this Friday for football, swim, and cheer and the B Strong Glow Walk will be held. Homecoming is in two weeks and musical auditions for "Into the Woods" are being held next week. McKenzie Richardson will be performing with the state choir at the Overture Center. Board President Jennings encouraged Lauren and Caroline Iausly, as student Board representatives, to take part in discussions at Board meetings.

Update on 2017-18 District Configuration Transition and Transportation

River Valley Elementary teachers, Linda Kettner and Lori Baryenbruch, were present and noted there is much excitement and happiness with the start of the school year, and staff and kids are working well with each other. Some students are still adjusting, but staff is working as a team to make them feel included. Before and after school transportation flow in front of River Valley Elementary seems to be going smoothly. Wermuth noted busing across the district is getting better after addressing a few busing issues. One of the teachers that travels between buildings to serve students said there has been less travel time and more time to meet with students.

Presentation by PSLO (Police School Liaison Officer)

Officer Andy Kurek was present and provided an overview of his role as Police School Liaison Officer, spending 20 hours per week in River Valley schools. He is primarily at the high school but checks in at other schools. He provides safety training of students and staff, greets high school students in the morning, and assists crossing guards. He deals with social media and truancy issues, assists with discipline discussions, and assists with mental health issues, such as suicidal tendencies, mandatory reporting, and substance abuse. In addition, Kurek assists with lunch duty so he can talk with staff and students informally and is present at high school dances and post prom. Each semester he is involved with Mr. Hollenberger's class during police science week and provides information to driver's education classes about how to pull over for the police and what to do. He is the chairperson for "Kops for Kids," which serves 50 to 60 families each year representing 150 kids and meets with 5th grade classes about alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and violence.

Kurek noted that he has been able to defuse police situations with adults because of his relationship with those adults when they were former students. He is proud to see that several former students have now become police officers. Kurek has an elementary student at River Valley and treats every student the way he would want an officer to deal with his son. He would like to see a double entry at all schools, like the new one at the high school, and noted that the middle school entrance will be done before the end of this year. Wermuth noted that Kurek is a valued member of our district and Blakely noted that Kurek is a joy to work with and has a great relationship with students since they like and trust him.

Board Reminders and Announcements

Jennings reiterated last month's reminder of the need for Board members to be accountable and to answer emails in a timely manner regarding availability for committee meetings and to report absences. Also, Board members should contact Paula Wedige if they will be attending the January 17-19 WASB Convention in Milwaukee.

Wermuth is working with the Arena Village Board to set up community listening sessions for discussion of the future use of the Arena school building. Tentative dates are Monday, October 23, at 6:30 pm and Sunday, October 29, at 1:30 pm. There have been no discussions about meetings regarding the future of the Lone Rock school building.

Legislative Update

Cates noted that the Assembly passed the State budget bill but it doesn't appear that it will be signed. The Joint Finance Committee approved special needs voucher expansion which means aid reduction to public schools.

Board Training Opportunities

The WASB is offering Fall Regional Meetings and Governance Workshops at various locations on various dates, a School Law Seminar in Madison on October 20, and a Legislative Advocacy Conference in Stevens Point on November 4.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – August 2017; Open Session Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2017

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

Consideration & Action on 2017-18 Madison Area Technical College Dual Credit Contract

Bettinger move to approve the 2017-18 Madison Area Technical College Dual Credit Contract. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts

Case moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts of an anonymous donation of \$300 and a \$206 donation from the Arena Congregational Church to the Arena Community Elementary School Fund 21 and a donation of \$600 from the Kraemer Company to cover the cost of rolling the soccer field. Cates seconded. Roll call vote:

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

Against the motion: N/A

Abstain: Bettinger

Absent: N/A

Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

Young moved to approve the second reading of Policy 347 Student Records, Policy 347 Rule Guidelines for Maintenance and Confidentiality of Student Records, Policy 347 Exhibit 1 Release Form for Student Records Not Considered to be "Student Directory Data," and 347 Exhibit 2 Request for Non-Disclosure of "Student Directory Data." Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Cates moved to approve the first reading of Policy 345.5 Graduation Requirements and Policy 187 Public Participation at Board Meetings. Jennings clarified that for the "Public Comments" section on the agenda for each Board meeting, we will have a sign-up sheet and copies of Policy

187 available for the public. Discussion of items brought up during “Public Comments” is not allowed since specific items have not been posted on the agenda as required by the Open Meetings Law. Prior to the posting of Board meeting agendas, individuals can contact District Administrator Wermuth or Board President Jennings to request to have an item listed on the agenda. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried with McGuire opposed.

Consideration & Action on Technology Committee Recommendations

No discussion. No action.

Consideration & Action on Budget Committee Recommendations

The Budget Committee recommended increasing the base amount used to calculate co-curricular salaries to match the actual base used for first year teachers. Comparable data shows we are behind in the conference for pay for advisors and coaches. The overall increase totals \$65,333 and would be covered by monies that were already budgeted for personnel but were not used since it was determined we didn’t need to hire a teacher. Strozinsky moved to change the base amount used to calculate co-curricular salaries to match the actual base used for first year teachers, effective for 2017-18. Cates seconded. Bettinger would like to discuss other areas that may have been cut and might be funded instead. Iausly doesn’t want to see budget changes being brought to the Board on an ad hoc basis. Motion carried with Bettinger opposed.

The next Budget Committee meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Monday, October 9, in the Middle School Library. The Annual Meeting will be held on October 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School Little Theater.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Discussion of Common Threads Contract – 1st Quarter 2017-18 and Discussion of 2017-18 Parent Transportation Contract

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 9:00 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Discussion of Common Threads Contract – 1st Quarter 2017-18 and Discussion of 2017-18 Parent Transportation Contract. Young seconded. Polled vote was 9-0 in the affirmative. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:15 p.m.

Consideration & Action on Common Threads Contract – 1st Quarter 2017-18

Cates moved to approve a contract for 1st quarter 2017-18 with Common Threads for services for one special education student. Case seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2017-18 Parent Transportation Contract

Iausly moved to approve a contract for parent transportation to the Wisconsin School for the Deaf for one special education student. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

Strozinsky moved to adjourn at 9:16. Jennings seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

 Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk