



## River Valley School District Strategic Plan 2023-2028

### COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOP RESULTS

Arena

March 1, 2023

The purpose of this and other similar workshops was to gain input on strategic issues that participants believed the River Valley School District (RVSD) is and will be confronting over the next year to five years, and potential strategies to address key issues.

Two community members, one Board member, the Superintendent, and the RVSD's strategic planning consultant attended this workshop. Because of the modest number of attendees, the workshop was organized as a discussion in which issues and strategies were freely shared. The following were the identified issues (numbered) and strategies related to the issue (lettered—though there was not always a strategy tied to an issue). The issues and strategies are organized below by strategic plan category of interest, not in order of importance or when they were discussed during the workshop.

#### **Student Achievement and Instruction**

1. How can the RVSD continue to support the educational needs of all students, including those who may intend to start their work careers right after high school?
  - a. Continue to/expand out-of-school job and training opportunities.
2. How can cell phone usage among students be better managed?
  - a. Communicate and refine the best use and practices of phones in school, including their positive uses (e.g., high school research).
  - b. Continue/expand freshman education on responsible and effective phone use.
  - c. Try to break phone addiction, including among parents.

#### **Student Engagement and Support**

3. How can the RVSD community address student mental health issues and bullying that is tied to social media use and abuse?
  - a. Make sure that every student has at least one adult in each school where a connection is formed.
  - b. Continue student pods of support across grades.
  - c. Continue social-emotional health curriculum.
4. How can we best understand the educational and support needs of students?
  - a. Engage with retired teachers still living in the RVSD—there may be 25-50.

#### **Facilities**

5. How can the RVSD better support the performing arts?

- a. New performing arts center.
- 6. How can the RVSD better support other programs with facility challenges, including gymnastics, swimming, and agricultural education?
- 7. How can perception among some Spring Green residents that the elementary school is “theirs” be overcome?
  - b. Celebrate rich history of all communities within all River Valley schools.
- 8. How could any new school be built in the current financial environment, and this close in time to school closures in Arena and Lone Rock?

### **Community Communications and Engagement**

- 9. How can the RVSD better connect with residents who do not have kids at RVSD schools?
  - a. School fair is a great and unique community connection opportunity. So are high school musical and sporting events.
  - b. Make sure that communication to non-parents isn’t just focused around when a referendum vote is upcoming.
  - c. Post-COVID, the RVSD should think about how best to bring elderly residents back to the classroom, and restore other valuable connection opportunities that were lost or suspended.
  - d. Encourage publishing an on-line version of the River Valley Home News.
  - e. Consider private evening classes for adults at schools.
- 10. How can the RVSD increase parental involvement in their kid’s education and behaviors?
  - a. Continue to encourage reading with kids.
  - b. Make older kids more accountable for their behavior.
  - c. Empower teachers to communicate to parents what teacher and school expectations are. The RVSD currently does this via offering “top 10 behaviors for a successful entering 4K students”—maybe extend practice to older grades.
  - d. Recognize/accept that it has become greater expectation of schools to guide young people.

### **Finance and Operations**

- 11. How can the RVSD avoid financially-based cuts in programming that it may regret later?
  - a. Continue transparency in discussing operational referendums, identifying exactly and honestly what would be cut or reduced if referendum is not approved.
- 12. How can the RVSD avoid larger class sizes, particularly within younger grades and with limited instructional aids and frequent cycling of the ones that are available?
  - b. Sometimes better RVSD benefits for aids than other potential employers is an incentive.