



**River Valley School District Strategic Plan 2023-2028**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKSHOP RESULTS**

Lone Rock  
March 16, 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.

Four community members, one School 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. What can the RVSD do to continue to promote agriculture in the community and within its curriculum?
  - a. Make sure to include technology education—computer applications, GPS, etc.
  - b. Include training in small acreage and organic farming alongside traditional farming, including field days with local providers.
2. How can the RVSD promote trade-track education as equal in value to university-track education?
  - a. Make sure that current programs remain vibrant beyond current teachers.
  - b. Continue to facilitate teacher certification for interested and skilled persons with experience.
  - c. Encourage local business donations of equipment that will both teach and provide job training for jobs in those businesses.
  - d. Celebrate apprenticeships and similar trade-based achievements on the same level as college acceptances are celebrated.

### **Student Engagement and Support**

3. How can we make sure that the RVSD has sufficient mental health support in schools for students?
  - a. Make sure that all teachers have the training and tools to identify and assist students when they have challenges, understanding that different people behave differently when experiencing challenges.
  - b. Make sure that all adults that interact with students—including bus drivers, kitchen staff, and administrative support—can identify and are empowered to share when encountering a student with mental health difficulties.
4. How can the RVSD continue to build community and connection in the schools?
  - a. Continue “2<sup>nd</sup> Stop” curriculum through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - b. Continue teacher led student groups with one 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grader.
  - c. Continue to work towards having at least one trusted adult in each building for each student.
5. How can band and other co-curriculars continue to be supported?
  - a. Continue to balance the four “A’s”—Academics, Arts, Agriculture, Athletics.

### **Facilities**

6. What community-supporting use could the RVSD’s Plain building be put to, if its future is not for a 4K-5K school?
  - a. Community day care? (waiting list at adjacent church day care)
  - b. Community or Village center?
  - c. Part of a housing solution?
  - d. Does not necessarily need to be just one thing.
7. What is the value proposition to Lone Rock, Arena, Plain, and other RVSD residents were the District to propose investing more in the central school campus?
  - a. Geographic center.
  - b. May be able to retain and attract more students.
8. How can facility expenses be made with an eye towards what’s best in the long-term?

### **Community Communications and Engagement**

9. Can the RVSD provide basic technology competence education for adults, including for functional computer, internet, and phone use?
  - a. Offering this remotely—rather than just at the RVSD campus—may aid in attendance.
  - b. Welding class being offered now could serve as a model.
10. How can the RVSD community recruit more teachers and families?
11. How can the RVSD community get more decent, affordable housing built?

## **Finance and Operations**

12. How can we get to a condition where no 4K student has to be in a bus for over one hour one way?
  - a. Consolidate 4K-5K on main school campus.
  - b. Communicate benefits, including retaining more families in RVSD schools (long bus rides appear to be significant deterrent to some) and improving youngest student attitudes towards learning/school if they are fresh upon arrival.
13. How can the RVSD merge small community character and interaction into more funding opportunities?
  - a. Come up with big ideas based on common wants first.
14. How can the RVSD take advantage of being a land rich district?