

River Valley School District
Thursday, February 11, 2021
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 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: Nelson, Jennings, Young, Cates, Strozinsky, Iausly, Maier (arrived 7:04 pm) Kelsey Olson (Student Representative)

Absent: Bettinger, McGuire

Admin: Glasbrenner, Krey, Peterson, Radtke (arrived 8:15 pm)

Others: Kasey Maxwell, Susan Lee, Shawn Duren, Judy Ettenhofer (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

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

Maier arrived at 7:04 pm

Public Comments

Susan Lee provided public comments related to her multiracial family and her children being recipients of racial comments/harassment from classmates. She noted that incidents have mainly been directed toward her son who is African American. Her daughter is Chinese. She would like the district to make a strong statement rejecting racism (in the form of a mission statement or Equity and Inclusion Statement) and also to provide training on diversity and inclusion. She is further suggesting the formation of a districtwide Equity and Understanding Committee to arrange training and to develop rapid response protocols and other policies that are relevant to this issue.

She acknowledged Radtke, Quale, Glasbrenner, and Young for reaching out about these issues rapidly and appropriately. After talking with Glasbrenner, she believes he has some great ideas about how we can move forward. Lee concluded by asking the district to send a clear message that racism and other discrimination is not going to be tolerated here and to do something before there is a violent or more embarrassing incident or scandal.

Jennings noted that she was sorry this happened to Lee's family or other families and noted there will be some action by the district within the next month related to Lee's requests. Jennings

noted that this item is not on the agenda for discussion tonight. Young expressed that she is interested in working on this and realizes the discussion can be scary and uncomfortable, and some people may not agree we should spend the time or resources.

Student Council Report

Kelsey Olson provided the student council report. At the high school, the Mock Trial Team finished one point shy of the virtual regional championship with the seniors ending their career with a collective 19 perfect individual scores and three regional championships. Next week, 20 students will virtually participate in the sub-district forensics competition. The Media in Business class is piloting a Digital Marketing course through UW-Whitewater. The end goal is to have the students work with a small local business to help them incorporate digital marketing strategies. As part of Black History Month, the high school library has a display of books and items providing students the opportunity to learn more about the achievements of African Americans. In addition, the PBS film “Reconstructing America After the Civil War” was looped on the IMC TV and students were invited to watch during study hall time. In the 3D art studio classes, students carved life sized snow sculptures.

At the middle school, 5th graders are starting a research project for Black History Month, which focuses on famous African Americans. Fourth grade students are involved in themed learning about the Middle Ages in literacy with economical elements, STEM projects, and art projects related to the era.

Round 2 - River Valley School District Endowment Fund Grants Awarded to Teachers During “COVID-19 Relief Matching Grant” Initiative

Last fall, a private donor stepped forward to match donations to the fund up to \$10,000. The only request from the donor was that the stipend be used districtwide to help solve COVID-related educational challenges in creative and innovative ways. Round one awards were given to teachers in December and round two just occurred in February, totaling \$22,356. These awards are separate from the annual Endowment Fund awards given out each spring. Thanks was extended to the Endowment Fund Board and to the community.

Update from WASB Convention

Since the convention was virtual, Jennings stated that she missed interacting with Board members from other districts. However, since the sessions are recorded, it is a benefit to go back and listen later and be able to “attend” more sessions under this format. Both Nelson and Young enjoyed hearing Donald Driver’s keynote speech. As the Board’s convention delegate, Nelson attended that session of the convention and 10 resolutions were passed. Glasbrenner gained valuable information from Kettle Moraine’s presentation related to referendum messaging and communication. Brian Krey and Matt Snow were presenters at the convention, highlighting River Valley’s RVTV broadcasting initiative. Nelson attend a session on strategic planning and noted River Valley is way ahead of other districts. Young asked when the convention organizers would seek presenters for 2022, since River Valley may have more areas of expertise that we can offer to other districts.

End of Semester Review of Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) Program

Peterson provided a report outlining achievement gap reduction (AGR) strategies we use in grades K-3, which allow us to receive funding to help keep class sizes low. Peterson noted that baseline assessments from fall were lower than previous years, since we missed three months of

in-person school at the end of last year. We do not yet have an update for semester assessments, so Peterson will report again at the March Board meeting.

Update on School District Operations from Administration

Glasbrenner noted that school staff are part of the next group of eligible populations for COVID vaccinations. While we hope to be able to vaccinate our staff all at once, vaccines have not yet been available to us in large quantities. We are working with area hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, EMS, and health departments, and so far have only been able to get vaccinations completed for a handful of staff at a time, based on vaccine availability, using a list of staff prioritized by work duties and risk factors. If we are able to do a mass vaccination in the future, it may affect face-to-face instruction to get it done.

We have updated our district brochure, which gives a summary of each school and provides contact information for administrators. It also includes our belief statements, student highlights, and our focus on every student.

Peterson noted that the ELC and elementary school were able to share valentines this week by having students bring in valentines on Tuesday to be “quarantined” and not passed out until Friday. At the middle school, the 6th grade choir shared a video of students singing. At the high school, they are looking at how the ACT will be administered and proctored.

It was noted that spring sports will not start until April 19, allowing larger districts to have a fall sports season, which they didn’t have. Spring sports provide an advantage of being outside during COVID, but there will be a shorter time period for the season. The idea of allowing club teams and youth teams to begin using facilities again is being discussed.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

None.

Legislative Update

We are expecting to get information soon from DPI on the spring testing window, but we will need to discuss how to give tests to our full time virtual students. We may need to offer testing waivers or offer specific times for those virtual students to take the tests in person. It was noted that we could receive additional federal funding as a district that had in-person learning, since expenses were likely higher than districts who were fully virtual.

Consent Agenda: - Checks, Invoices, Receipts – January 2021; Open Session Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021, Regular Meeting and January 18, 2021, Special Meeting

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

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Resignations, if any

None.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Iausly moved to approve the hiring of John Cler, High School Science Teacher. Maier seconded. Motion carried. This position will be posted for the fall as Cler has a shortened contract that ends at the end of this school year.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Strozinsky moved to approve the 2nd reading of the following policies: 523 Exhibit Periods of Exclusion from School with Infectious Conditions; 743 Acceptable Use of Networked Computers, Electronic Mail, and Internet Safety Policy; 720 Safety Program; 721 Buildings and Grounds Inspection; 721 Rule Buildings and Grounds Inspection Procedures; and 732 Buildings and Grounds Maintenance. Young seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Jennings moved to approve the 1st reading of the following policies: 111 Goal Setting; 521 Staff Involvement in Decision Making; 480 Class Fund Disposition (delete); and 374 Student Activity Fund Management. Strozinsky seconded. Motion carried.

The Budget/ERC Committee will discuss the idea of funding a “Policy Quick Check” service through WASB. It has been several years since we had a comprehensive review of our policy manual.

Consideration & Action on School Forest/Buildings and Grounds Committee Recommendations

No recommendations for action. Having received recommendations from this Committee, the Budget/ERC Committee will make recommendations to the Board on the snow removal contract bid process and the track resurfacing project. The asbestos abatement/window replacement project at the elementary and middle schools is in the early stages.

Consideration & Action on Budget/ERC Committee Recommendations

Krey noted that we are waiting on the state’s bi-annual budget, which will dictate our revenues for 2022-23. For 2021-22, we are projecting a surplus of \$311,895 with projected deficits in the following four years of approximately \$3.6 million to \$5.9 million, respectively. He shared that the CPI for this year is 1.23%

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to pay 50% of the 2019-20 advisor pay for 2020 prom planning done by the Prom, Post Prom, and SADD Advisors. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Krey shared a preliminary cost estimate showing different options that could occur as part of the track resurfacing project. Various options would result in lower or higher cost based on the inclusion, or non-inclusion, of such items as the reconstruction of the football field to also be a soccer field and the related earthwork and demolition, including drainage options. As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to seek bids for all options for the track resurfacing project. Maier seconded. Motion carried with Young opposed.

As recommended by the Committee, Maier moved to approve the Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing Cooperative Agreement for 2021-22. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Iausly moved to issue a Request for Proposal for snow plowing and related services for 2021-24. Young seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Strozinsky moved to revise the Extended Contracts language in the 2020-21 Employee Handbook to increase the 2021 summer school pay for

teaching academic classes to \$30 per hour. Iausly seconded. Any enrichment classes would still be paid at \$22 per hour. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any

Maier moved to adopt the Resolutions Accepting Gifts of wood valued at \$1,000 from Jeff Haylock to the Tech Ed Department and dental hygiene products valued at \$100 from Alex Wedige and Molly DuCharme to the nurse's department for National Children's Dental Health Month. Iausly seconded. Polled vote was 7-0 in the affirmative with 2 absent. Motion carried.

Maier moved to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Deborah Nelson, School District Clerk