

River Valley School District
Thursday, May 9, 2024
Regular Meeting
Middle School Library
7:00 p.m.

Present: Young, Jennings, Cates, Iausly, Gauger, Minich, Bettinger, Carstensen, Caleb Drachenberg and Leah Drachenberg (Student Representatives)

Absent: Maier

Admin: Glasbrenner, Moore, Knoll, Peterson, Radtke, Blakley

Others: Michelle Weiss, Kim Bellman, Shawn Duren, Paula Wedige (Administrative Assistant)

President Jennings opened the meeting. Jennings 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. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Approval of Agenda

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

Community Spotlight

This is a new monthly agenda item to recognize an individual, group, or business in our community for supporting River Valley schools. High School Student Council was recognized. All 5 officers were present—Leah Drachenberg, Caleb Drachenberg, Jazmine Gauger, Tiana Rabine, and Jacob Klein spoke about student and staff recognition events, two senior scholarships offered, their roles as officers, and the clubs and activities in which they are involved.

Public Comments

None.

Student Council Report

Leah Drachenberg thanked the Board for the opportunity for a student voice on the Board. This will be the last meeting attended by student council for this school year. They held a talent show and wrote letters and made smoothie treats for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. They will be selling “shout outs” during a track meet as a fundraiser and giving out 2 senior scholarships at scholarship night next week. There was a recent blood drive and an upcoming band concert at the high school. FFA members helped ELC students plant flowers. Middle school history students visited Taliesin and the Middle School Shakespeare Group performed “Much Ado About Nothing.” Science students followed the hatching and growing of 29 baby chicks and thanked Straka Meats for eyeballs to dissect. The annual FFA plant sale was announced.

River Valley School District Endowment Fund Grants Awarded

There were 6 grants awarded: STEAM, \$6,944, Monica Kmak (RVMS); Art MOB, \$4,939.81, Monica Kmak (RVMS); Self Regulation, \$489.60, Stacy Hauden (RVE); Owls, \$639.29, Kari Evenson, Shannon Shelton-Ganser, Elaine Frank (RVE 2nd Grade); Laser Engraver, \$954, Robby Jacobson (RVHS); and Zen Den, \$900, Jill Bierman and Anna Pawlisch (Elementary Special Education).

Update on School District Operations from Administration

There are only 2 weeks left of school due to approval to start before September 1. For 2024, we will start after September 1, so it will be a longer summer. The high school is planning for scholarship night, graduation, AP testing, and final exams. The middle school, elementary school, and ELC are very busy with end of year and field trips and kids are anxious for summer. The Middle School Shakespeare Group did a wonderful job at this year's performance of "Much Ado About Nothing." Special education, counseling, and nursing staff are winding down the year with scheduling for next year, end of year evaluations, and IEPs. Moore noted that for the coming year, teacher contracts are ready, insurance will be decided by the Board later tonight, and financial forecasting is ongoing.

Update on Board Development Goals

For the first goal—staff input by engaging staff regarding culture and issues—a survey will be sent out before the end of the year and a "climate team" to include staff and Board members will meet this summer.

For the second goal—onboarding for new Board members—Gauger drafted an outline to be used. Key points would be to attend Board meetings before being on the Board, have multiple meetings with the district administrator, meet with the business manager regarding finance, be assigned a mentor from the Board and be on the same committees, attend all committee meetings for the first year (even if not on that committee), update abbreviations list and documents we currently share during orientation, and have general counsel present a Board Member Roles and Responsibilities session to the full Board in May each year. The Policy Committee will discuss again at the next Policy meeting.

Board Reminders, Announcements, and Training Opportunities

May 28 is the date for Business Manager interviews. There are 7 applicants to choose from for interviews. There are 4 Board members that will be present to hand out diplomas at graduation.

Legislative Update

Glasbrenner recently met with Howard Marklein and several topics were discussed.

Consent Agenda: Checks, Invoices, Receipts – April 2024; Open Session Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2024, Regular Meeting

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

Board Organizational Meeting

President – Cates nominated Jennings. Young moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Jennings as President. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Vice President – Iausly nominated Bettinger. Cates moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bettinger as Vice President. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk – Young nominated Carstensen. Minich moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Carstensen as Clerk. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer – Young nominated Iausly. Cates moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Iausly as Treasurer. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to set the regular Board meeting date, time, and place as the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Middle School Library. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Young moved to appoint Renning Lewis & Lacy as legal counsel. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to appoint Peoples Community Bank as depository of funds. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to appoint Home News as news media. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resignations/Retirements, if any

Minich moved to approve the retirement of Cindi Manske, 3rd Grade Teacher. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried. Manske was here many years over different grades and buildings and had a passion for STEM. The district will miss her mentorship/leadership.

Also, 3 instructional assistants are retiring—Diane Alt, Beth Novak, and Shawn Hess. Peterson thanked all for their service.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 Teacher Transfers

Young moved to reduce Lori Hoffman to a .75 FTE for 2024-25 and be assigned only to the elementary level as the Elementary Computer Education Teacher. Bettinger seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Hirings, if any

Bettinger moved to approve these hirings as follows: Marisa Romanelli, High School Math Teacher; Brianna Fisher, High School Spanish Teacher; Tyler McClain, High School Phy Ed Teacher; and Rece Sweere, Middle School Phy Ed Teacher. Cates seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Resolution Authorizing 2024-25 Teacher Contract Renewals

Iausly moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing 2024-25 Teacher Contract Renewals. Young seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Overload for 2024-25 Teaching Loads for Science, Art, and Agriculture Teachers

Bettinger moved to approve a teaching overload for 2024-25 for the following teachers: Jennifer Bindl, Science; Kasey Maxwell, Art (2nd semester only); and Shari Graffunder, Agriculture. Minich seconded. This is due to student schedules. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on 2024-25 Salary Cap for Teachers

In April, the Board discussed setting a maximum salary cap for teachers for 2024-25 since our highest paid teachers are above other comparable districts. The annual percent applied to all teaching contracts would continue to be calculated but not added to the capped salary—instead it would be paid as a stipend/HSA contribution. Since April, Glasbrenner met with all the affected teachers to make them aware. Iausly moved to approve a maximum salary cap of \$90,000 for teachers for 2024-25. Bettinger seconded. The salary cap will be discussed annually when discussing base salary. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on Approval of 2024-25 RVEA Master Agreement

Iausly moved to approve the 2024-25 RVEA Master Agreement. Young seconded. This annual agreement outlines salary increases for teaching staff. There is not a RVEST Master Agreement since the support staff did not recertify for the coming year. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on 2024-25 Insurance

This item has been discussed by the Budget/ERC Committee. The majority of staff responding to a survey about health insurance for the coming year preferred to stay with Quartz instead of switching to Dean. Bettinger moved to approve a health insurance renewal with Quartz with a 6.29% percent increase and an increase in the deductible from \$2,000 single/\$4,000 family to \$2,500 single/\$5,000 family. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Bettinger moved to approve dental and vision insurance renewals for 2024-25 with no changes in coverage. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on 2024-25 Health Savings Account (HSA) Contribution Amounts

This item has been discussed by the Budget/ERC Committee. Bettinger moved to approve a reduction in the HSA contribution from \$1,500 single/\$3,000 family to \$1,250 single/\$2,500 family. Young seconded. It was noted that this is the first change in the HSA contribution since the district started using higher deductibles and HSA contributions 6 years ago in 2018-19. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on 2024-25 Activities and Athletics Salary Schedules

Not ready. Hold for June.

Consideration and Action on Follow-Up Community Survey Regarding Referendum

Kim Bellman from FEH Design was present along with Bill Decker to outline a brief 2 minute draft community survey, which will be used to get feedback from community members about the failed April referendum regarding facilities needs. After some discussion, revised survey language will be emailed to the Board before sending out the survey. FEH Design will report the survey results at the July Board meeting.

Consideration & Action on 2023-24 Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Transcribed Credit Contract

Not ready. Hold for June.

Consideration & Action on Policy Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Iausly moved to approve the second reading of (NEW) 722.9 Naloxone Administration. Gauger seconded. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Policy Committee, Cates moved to approve the first reading of 722.3 Rule School Closing Procedure. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration & Action on Curriculum and Instruction Committee Recommendations

As recommended by the Committee, Young moved to approve Stepping Stones as the new math curriculum for the elementary and middle schools. Minich seconded. The cost is within the curriculum budget. Motion carried.

As recommended by the Committee, Minich moved to approve the CESA #2 Driver Education Program Agreement. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee recommended the reduction of a business education teacher from 1.0 to .75 FTE, which was acted on earlier at this Board meeting. The Committee also discussed Chromebook security changes and will continue to discuss course and school fees and social studies curriculum sequence.

Consideration & Action on Resolutions Accepting Gifts, if any
None.

Consideration & Action to Adjourn to Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Requests From Students to Opt Out of State Testing; and 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Annual Evaluations

Iausly moved to adjourn to closed session at 8:26 p.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(f) for Requests From Students to Opt Out of State Testing and 19.85(1)(c) for Discussion of Administrator Annual Evaluations. Cates seconded. Polled vote was 8-0 in the affirmative with 1 absent. Motion carried.

Wedige left the meeting. The Board reconvened in open session at 10:04 p.m.

Consideration & Action on Requests From Students to Opt Out of State Testing

Iausly moved to approve 5 students to opt out of state testing. Young seconded. Motion carried.

Consideration and Action on 2024-25 Administrator Wages

Bettinger moved to approve administrator wage increases as follows; 4.1% for Hegland, Blakley, and Knoll; 10% for Radtke, Glasbrenner, and Peterson. Iausly seconded. Motion carried.

Iausly moved to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. Minich seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Paula Wedige for:

_____ Sara Carstensen, School District Clerk