

## **SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION TO COMMENCE THE SCHOOL TERM EARLY**

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 118.045 and Wis. Admin. § PI 27 authorize school boards to submit a written request to the Department of Public Instruction to grant an earlier school start date; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Admin § PI 27.03(4) requires that any request that is made must be done so after a school board meeting that complies with the Open Meetings Law under §§ 19.83 and 19.84, Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Admin § PI 27.03(4) requires that the resolution include the reasons and any other relevant facts relating to the request for an earlier school start date; and

WHEREAS, the District has learned the stress and burdens that comes with trying to complete academics and social/emotional learning in a stringent schedule; and

WHEREAS, the School District of River Valley has determined that an earlier school start date will provide for mental health support of the students and staff, and

WHEREAS, an earlier start date will provide a more natural and meaningful mental health break for students and staff at the mid-point of the school year around the holiday season and allows for the end of the semester to fall prior to the December holiday break; and

WHEREAS, such break would allow students and families to have a true holiday break versus spending time studying over this break or working on end of the semester projects and exams, which adds to stress to students and families; and

WHEREAS, this earlier break would also provide a clear break for the staff who otherwise would be working over this break finalizing lesson plans and working on end of the semester items; and

WHEREAS, a District survey of families, staff, and students shows they are in favor of an earlier start date and break around the December period; and

WHEREAS, the District's proposed calendar would build in a workday at the end of the holiday break to provide staff with resources they need which would support their mental health; and

WHEREAS, the District will likely seek out a capital referendum in April 2024 for remodeling of schools to start during the summer of 2025, and an earlier school start allows for an earlier school release for remodeling to begin and end on time; and

WHEREAS, the District has prepared and adopted a tentative 2024-2025 school calendar that would start school on the date of August 26, 2024, pending approval of the requested start date exemption by the Department of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, the District submits the above reasons constitute extraordinary reasons justifying an earlier start date to the 2024-2025 school year which would be extremely beneficial to the students, staff, and families in the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, be is resolved, that:

1. On October 23, 2023, the Board of Education held a school board meeting that complies with the Open Meetings Law under §§ 19.83 and 19.84, Wis. Stats., to discuss this written Resolution.

2. In compliance with § 118.045, Wis. Stats. and Wis. Admin. § PI 27, the Board of Education hereby directs the District Administrator or his/her designee to submit a written request to the Department of Public Instruction asking for an earlier school start date of August 26, 2024, as set forth on the tentative 2024-2025 school calendar.

Be if further resolved that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board of Education's discussion and approval of this action of the authority granted herein at a duly noticed meeting of the Board held on October 23, 2023.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_ second by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve Resolution as presented.

Motion carried \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ opposed and \_\_\_\_ absent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Jennings, President  
School District of River Valley Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Carstensen, Clerk  
School District of River Valley Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date