



River Valley Board of Education
RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.rivervalleyschools.org

Regular Meeting – RV Middle/High School Library
Monday, October 26, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order
Meeting was called to order by President German at 7:00 p.m. Members present: President German, Vice President Ehlert, Treasurer Petro, Trustee Knutel, Trustee Wagner, and Secretary Farhat. Trustee Pfauth was absent. Superintendent Robert Schroeder and Business Manager Cheryl Capiak were also present.
- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President German.
- 3.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented
Section 5.1 was added to the agenda so that Garry Lange could bring a donation before the Board for the After School Program. Motion made by Knutel, supported by Ehlert, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 4.0 Public Comment on Agenda
There was no public comment on the agenda.
- 5.0 Consider Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2009, Special Work Session Minutes of October 12, 2009 and Work Session Minutes of October 19, 2009
Motion made by Wagner, supported by Petro, to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**
 - 5.1 Donation made by J.L. Powell/Bracken's Folly to the school via an antique show fund raiser at their Three Oaks store location for 1,100 people, bringing revenue to the village and creating enough revenue for a donation of \$750 for the After School Program at the Chikaming campus. Motion by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to accept the donation. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 6.0 Superintendent's Report
 - 6.1 Student Board Representative Report
The Student Representative report was presented by Gina Schrader. Student life at River Valley, including Sports, Fine Arts, and other activities were highlighted.
 - 6.2 Transportation Report – Linda Weigel
Transportation Supervisor Linda Weigel presented a report regarding the Transportation Department. The Michigan State Police inspection in April resulted in a 100% passing score for all buses during the first time around. Weigel attributes this to the drivers diligently inspecting the buses and catching issues and to Dave York's skills as a mechanic. The annual fleet mileage report used to be 340,000, but this past year it is now down to 209,000 miles. Pupil transport miles are 195,000 route miles, 8,900 trip miles, and roughly 5,000 for extra curricular activities. There are 7 high school and 7 elementary school bus routes that travel an average 800 miles daily in order to transport 446 students, which translates to 60% of the district's students. There have already been 3,200 miles in field trips, which reflect some of the Red

Arrow Conference travel distances. A new bus was purchased this fall and it has an electric door with the controls for the door located in the steering wheel, a first for the district. Weigel stated that another new bus will be requested towards the end of the school year.

7.0 Board Committee Reports

There were no committee reports before the Board.

8.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the Board.

9.0 Old Business

There was no old business for the Board.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Consider Approval of the Accounts Payable for October 2009 and the Treasurer's Report for September 2009. Business Manager Capiak answered a question regarding the Team Connections \$559 entry raised at the last Work Session (this was for 21 pairs of volleyball shorts and half of that price was going to be reimbursed). Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to accept report as given at last meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.2 Consider Participation in Michigan Purchasing Card Consortium

Participation was discussed at the last Work Session. Motion by Wagner, supported by Farhat, to participate. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.3 Consider Recommendation to Hire Varsity Cheerleading Coach

Hiring Autumn Fox was discussed at the last Work Session. Motion by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to hire Autumn Fox as the Varsity Cheerleading Coach. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.4 Consider Recommendation to Hire Girls' Middle School Basketball Coach

Hiring Morgan Olmstead was discussed at the last Work Session. Motion by Knutel, supported by Petro, to hire Morgan Olmstead as the Girls' Middle School Basketball Coach. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.5 Consider Approval of 2008-2009 District Annual Education Report

The District Annual Education Report was presented previously and is posted on the District's website. Motion by Farhat, supported by Ehlert, to approve the report. **Motioned carried unanimously.**

10.6 Consider Approval of Overnight Trip Requests

At the last Work Session, the following trip requests were presented:

- Jim Nevil has requested that his BPA students attend the BPA State Convention on March 18 through March 21, 2010 in Grand Rapids;
- Carolyn Shuler has requested that her FFA students attend the FFA State Convention from March 10 through March 12, 2010;
- Robert Hay has requested:
 - That his Band/Choir students attend the State Honor Band/Choir from January 20 through January 23, 2010 in Grand Rapids.
 - That the Honors Choir attend the ACDA in Cincinnati, Ohio from February 24 through February 27, 2010.
 - That the selected choir members attend the SWMVF Honor Choir on March 17, 2010 in Kalamazoo.

- That the Middle School Choir attend the State Choral Festival during the week of May 3, 2010 in Ann Arbor.
- That the Choir members have permission to audition for Disney's Candlelight Processional set for early December 2010, which is the next school year. This is to allow them time to fundraise for the trip, if approved.
- Neil Carter has requested and an overnight stay for wrestling (Individual Finals) March 4-6, 2010 in Auburn Hills

Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to approve all of the trip requests. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.7 Accept Donation of Time, Talent, and Materials

As presented at the last Work Session, the following donations were recognized:

- The Doepker Family was recognized for their work in the flower boxes outside the Middle/High School.
- Bruce Graham of Graham Tree Service was thanked for assisting with changing our tower lights and flagpole work by donating the use of his equipment.
- Neil Carter was thanked for donating two antique tractors for refurbishing by students so they can be used for fundraising and a sprayer for use on campus.
- Harriette Gibson was thanked for her donation to the Fine Arts Fund through the Berrien Community Foundation.
- The Oldenburg Family was thanked for providing equipment and manpower for grading the school practice fields.

Motion by Farhat, supported by Wagner, to accept all of the donations. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.8 Consider Buildings & Grounds Committee Recommendation

This issue was previously presented at the Work Session. Motion by Farhat, supported by Knutel, to accept the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds Citizens Committee to place an elementary school at the centralized campus. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- Committee member Blaine Hillman stated - Cannot emphasize how important it is for the future of the kids of the district to centralize the operations of the school for financial stability down the road.
- President German expressed that the Board supports this 100%.
- Kris Harrington expressed appreciation that the momentum is now moving.

11.0 Items for Discussion Only

11.1 Mission and Vision Statements

Tabled to give Trustee Wagner time to assemble more information regarding a vision statement.

11.2 Flu update – Current absentee rates are 9-10 % at the High School and the Elementary School varies from 10% to as low as 2-3%. 20% is threshold for notification to the Berrien County Health Department, who would help if needed.

11.3 The State Board of Education has issued a statement encouraging the consolidation of school services and information; regarding guidance on this is expected around February 1, 2010. RV has already made these types of consolation attempts.

12.0 Hearing of Persons Present

Garry Lange stated that:

- MEAP tests are almost done with make-ups being completed this week.
- Red Ribbon week at school for healthy lifestyle choices a focus.
- There was 100% conference attendance at the Elementary Schools.

- Opera singer, Christine Steyer will be singing and speaking to students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes for ½ hour each.
- The Marching Mustangs will be leading the Halloween Parade.
- Rocket Football will be finishing its season at the High School football field under the lights.
- The Friends of Three Oaks are putting on another play to be performed at the Acorn Theatre.
- The After School Music Program is up and running again with 48 children in guitar and piano lessons.
- The 36th Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on November 7th with special guest appearance from Actor Bob Swan whose famous line was “Coach Stays” in the movie Hoosiers, where Milan, Indiana High School (small district of 160 students) beat Muncie Central in the state finals in 1954. Gene White, the real life starting center of the Milan team, will also be here with his wife. They will be speaking at 3 and 6 p.m.; the movie Hoosiers will be shown at 4 and 7 p.m. in the cafeteria/auditorium.

13.0 Adjournment

Motion by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

William G. Farhat, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education