



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, April 19, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by President German at 7:00 p.m. Members present: President German, Vice President Ehlert, Trustee Knutel, Trustee Pfauth and Secretary Farhat. Treasurer Petro and Trustee Wagner were both 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
Item 10.7.4 Accept Donation From RV Soccer Boosters was added to the Agenda. Motion by Knutel, supported by Farhat, to accept the agenda as presented. **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 March 22, 2010 (Open & Closed Session) (Regular Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2010 (Open & Closed Session) will be presented later).
Motion by Pfauth, supported by Knutel, to accept the minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 6.0 Superintendent's Report
 - 6.1 Student Board Representative Report
There was no Student Board Representative present at the meeting to provide a report.
 - 6.2 Spring Sports Report
Athletic Director Neil Carter presented the number of students participating in spring sports – 118 total. Ninety-six (96) of them are high school students, which represents less than half of 50% of the student body. Mr. Carter feels that these numbers need to increase. JV Softball is being held for the first time in a “long time” and they are doing very well. Varsity Baseball is 3-5 overall but is 2-0 in conference play. Mr. Carter feels that they are a young team and will improve greatly in time. The rest of the spring sports are just getting started and will be reported upon at a later date.
 - 6.3 Progress Toward Mission and Vision – Curriculum Crafter program
Teachers Chris Martin, Carolyn Schuler and Pam Kaniuga presented the online Curriculum Crafter program, which was purchased for countywide use by Berrien RESA with grant funds. The Curriculum Crafter is an expansion of Kent County's curriculum, which the District has used since the 1990's. Curriculum Crafter takes the curriculum and provides lesson plan ideas and an extensive resource list to go along with each plan. The material is based on research of the state core curriculum and MEAP tests. Another benefit is that the material is also highlighted to show parts of the curriculum that are found on the MEAP tests so that teachers are sure to include them in their lesson plans. Material and data can also be added locally for all

local teachers to use, year to year. Teachers can also look over multiple years to see what the students are to be learning and when they should possess that level of mastery.

Due to the grant, the use of the program will be free for two years. Four staff members have been trained and they will be teaching the rest of the RV staff so that all can employ this tool in their lesson plan assembly.

7.0 Board Committee Reports

Superintendent Schroeder stated that the Citizens Committee met last Thursday; there are four sub-committees working on various issues related to the bond proposal. Starting April 29, 2010, they will be meeting every two weeks at 6:30 p.m. Superintendent Schroeder also stated that there may need to be Personnel and Finance Committee meetings regarding contractual issues.

8.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence brought before the Board.

9.0 Old Business

9.1 Present Public Statement on Superintendent's Year-End Performance Evaluation

President German read Superintendent Schroeder's year end performance evaluation. Motion by Farhat, supported by Knutel, to approve the evaluation statement. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.0 New Business

10.1 Consider Approval of Accounts Payable for April 2010 and the Treasurer's Report for March 2010

Business Manager Capiak presented the Accounts Payable for April 2010 and the Treasurer's Report for March 2010. Motion by Farhat, supported by Ehlert, to approve them as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.2 Consider Approval of 2009-2010 Third Quarterly Budget Update

Business Manager Capiak presented the 2009-2010 third quarterly budget update. Increases in expenditures and expenses have resulted in a net increase in the fund equity of \$190,799. This financial strength will result in no layoffs of staff, the maintenance of small class sizes and will allow the District to have a robust 20% of operating funds remaining in the District's fund equity at the end of the fiscal year. Motion by Farhat, supported by Knutel, to approve the update. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.3 Consider Participation in School of Choice Option For Fall 2010

Superintendent Schroeder stated that he and the school principals were examining how many positions would be open for School of Choice applicants. Motion by Ehlert, supported by Farhat, to approve the District's participation in the School of Choice program. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.4 Consider Approval of Preliminary Bond Qualification Application

Superintendent Schroeder stated that the Bond Qualification Application had been reviewed by a representative of the state Department of Education and ready for submission. Motion by Knutel, supported by Pfauth, to approve the application. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.5 Consider Recommendation to Hire Junior Varsity Softball Coach

Athletic Director Carter recommended to Superintendent Schroeder that Morgan Olmstead be hired as the JV Softball Coach. Motion by Pfauth, supported by Farhat, to hire Olmstead. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.6 Consider Recommendation to Hire Level II Cook

Superintendent Schroeder recommended that Jean Forester be hired as a Level II Cook. Motion by Farhat, supported by Pfauth, to hire Forester. **Motion carried unanimously.**

10.7 Accept Donations

10.7.1 Accept Donation of an Artley Wood Clarinet (valued at \$160) & an Olds Single French Horn (valued at \$270) from Mr. and Mrs. Herb Armitage.

10.7.2 Accept Anonymous \$250.00 Donation to the RV Golf Team.

10.7.3 Accept BP Fabric of America Fund \$300 Donation, which was requested on RV's behalf by BP employee Brian Sellin.

10.7.4 Accept RV Soccer Booster donation of 14 soccer backpacks (valued at \$238.50) and 23 soccer jackets (valued at \$1347.90).

Motion by Ehlert, supported by Farhat, to accept all four donations, with thanks.
Motion carried unanimously.

11.0 Items for Discussion Only

11.1 Data Director Proposal

Teacher Michelle Sykora has been invited to be a presenter at the Data Director User Conference when it is held (it is currently postponed due to technical issues).

11.2 Recycle Electronics

Principal Garry Lange related that Bridges to Digital Excellence, which is a part of the Council for World Class Communities, has donated 100 refurbished computers over the years to homes in the District. Now this group is also seeking to obtain donations of any electronic device so they too can be refurbished and donated to those in need. Pick up points and times will be located throughout the District to support this worthy program.

11.3 Michigan School Garden Survey – Michigan State University

By virtue of being one of the first 100 districts to apply, RV will be getting 10 packets of organic seeds so that a garden can be planted.

12.0 Hearing of Persons Present

Superintendent Schroeder made the River Valley Board of Education aware that there will be a second round for Race to the Top. More information will be shared once it becomes available.

Superintendent Schroeder shared that student Jessica Zeiger placed second in the Rotary Club Essay Contest, which won her a \$750 scholarship.

13.0 Adjournment

Motion by Knutel, supported by Farhat, to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

William G. Farhat, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education