



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

**Work Session – RV Middle/High School Library
Monday, May 17, 2010 @ 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, Treasurer Petro, Trustee Knutel, Trustee Wagner, Trustee Pfauth and Secretary Farhat. Superintendent Robert Schroeder and Business Manager Cheryl Capiak were also present. Vice President Ehlert arrived at 7:07 P.M. during the introduction of Alex Kacmar in Agenda Item 5.0.
- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President German.
- 3.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented
Motion by Pfauth, supported by Petro, to accept the Agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 4.0 Congratulations to Newly Elected Board Members
President German congratulated both Blane Hillman and Ronald Petro to the election/re-election to 4 year terms (Hillman was not present).
- 5.0 Recognize Class of 2010 Top Ten Seniors –
Principal Wayne Warner and Counselor Paul Goodman presented the academic top ten of the class of 2010: Jessica Zeiger (Valedictorian), Chelsea Baker (Salutatorian), Deanna Phillips, Krista Wilkey, Elizabeth Strefling, Alex Kacmar and Kourtney Krumrie attended the meeting and were presented with certificates for their achievements. Gina Schrader, Jennifer Kehoe and Michael Seminec, Jr. were not in attendance but were also honored.
- 6.0 Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2010 (Open and Closed Session)
Motion by Knutel, supported by Petro, to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 7.0 Review Regular Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2010 and March 22, 2010 Closed Session
The meeting minutes were presented and will be subject to approval at the next regular Board meeting.
- 8.0 Correspondence
A copy of the recent school of choice bulk mailing, from the Bridgman School District to addresses within the River Valley School District, was circulated and reviewed by Board members.
- 9.0 Buildings & Grounds
 - 9.1 Consider Resolution Calling for Bond Election – August 3, 2010
Motion by Wagner, supported by Knutel, for a roll call vote to consider adopting the resolution. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Pfauth, Aye; Farhat, Aye; Petro, Aye; Ehlert, Aye; German, Aye; Wagner, Aye; Knutel, Aye. Resolution adopted (7-0).**

10.0 Curriculum/Policy

10.1 Review Curriculum Council Recommendations

The Curriculum Council studied the needs for the Science, Business and Culinary Arts programs. Replacement materials for those areas were outlined in the board packet. Principal Wayne Warner summarized the requested materials for the Board. A northern Michigan school has given River Valley their culinary books for free as they would no longer be offering the course. Federal Perkins funds will be used to purchase business curriculum materials so that the general fund is not impacted by their acquisition. In addition to books, the District's microscopes were examined and found to be of such high quality that refurbishing them would provide for continued use rather than the more costly replacement of them. Overall, the District will spend \$4,000 less than last year for curriculum materials. The Board will be asked to approve these purchases at the next regular meeting.

11.0 Finance

11.1 Review Finance Committee Report – May 5, 2010

The Finance Committee met on May 5, 2010 and discussed budget projections and the anticipated one retirement at elementary level and two resignations at middle/high school. It was noted that there were no layoffs needed this year. In addition, insurance rate increases were discussed as was the possibility of adding an elementary assistant principal and increasing time for the Instructional Facility Technology position. Trustee Wagner asked that a school counselor be considered in addition to the aforementioned positions.

11.2 Review Accounts Payable for May 2010 and the Treasurer's Report for April 2010

Business Manager Capiak reviewed the Accounts Payable and Treasurer's Report for the Board. Both will be considered for approval at the next board meeting.

11.3 Review Resolution for Public Notice on Hearing on the Proposed 2010-2011 Budget

The annual proposed budget hearing will be held on June 14, 2010 at 6:45 P.M at the RV Middle/High School Library.

11.4 Review Resolution for Berrien RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2010-2011 School Year

Superintendent Schroeder spoke about the annual review of Berrien RESA's operating budget. He also warned that at some point in the future we may be billed for students in special education programs as state and federal program funding is being reduced sharply. Approval of Berrien RESA's budget will be considered at the next board meeting.

12.0 Personnel

12.1 Review Personnel Committee Report – May 10, 2010

The Personnel Committee discussed impending resignations and retirements, adding a 2nd elementary principal, expanding the tech coordinator position, creating an elementary counselor position and considering administrative/supervisory contract changes, most notably adding 1 year to their contracts and adding Title 1 to Middle/High School Assistant Principal Cynthia Ursprung. Superintendent Schroeder requested that no changes be made to his contract. At this time, the committee was waiting to get clarification on Excalibur's contract verbiage.

12.2 Review Head Coaching Recommendations for 2010-2011 Fall/Winter Sports Season

Head Coaching: Varsity Football – Jeff Degner, Cross Country – Mark Foreman, Boys' Soccer – Brad Williamson, Volleyball – Jim Ragosta, MS Football – James Nevil, Girls' Basketball – Zac Robertson, Boys' Basketball – Shawn Gedert and Wrestling – Alan Berget. The Varsity

Cheerleading coaching position is open at this time. These recommendations will be considered at the next regular board meeting.

12.3 Review Recommended Amendments to Administrative and Supervisory Contracts
These will be considered at the next board meeting.

12.4 Review Excalibur Personnel Contracts
These will be considered at the next board meeting.

12.5 Review Recommendation to Hire Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach
Athletic Director Neil Carter and Varsity Volleyball Coach Jim Ragosta interviewed and recommended Kalla Shearer to be the Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach. This recommendation will be considered at the next board meeting.

13.0 Other

13.1 Review 2010-2011 Handbook Changes

13.1.1 Elementary Student Handbook

There was no discussion regarding the materials presented in the board packet.

13.1.2 Middle/High School Student Handbook

There was no discussion regarding the materials presented in the board packet.

13.1.3 Athletic Handbook

Superintendent Schroeder discussed the changes in the Athletic handbook. These changes as well as those in 13.1.1 and 13.1.2 will be considered at the next board meeting.

13.2 Review Recommendation on Bread and Milk Bids for 2010-2011

Business Manager Cheryl Capiak recommended switching to Gordon Food Service for the bread contract as they are already delivering twice a week during the daytime. The other vendor wanted to leave food outside at the school at 3 A.M., which would not be acceptable. Scholl Dairy was recommended again for the milk contract as it was the only company that quoted a contract. Both will be considered for approval at the next board meeting.

13.3 Review Recommendation on Meal Prices for 2010-2011

There will be no increase in meal prices recommended for the 2010-2011 year due to success of the Meal Magic program on overall profitability.

13.4 Review Request for Facilities Use for 2011 Apple Cider Century Bicycle Tour

Superintendent Schroeder stated that he has no reason not to recommend it occurring on the Three Oaks Campus property as it goes off well and without issues. This will be considered for approval at the next board meeting.

13.5 Consider Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding and Resolution

Superintendent Schroeder presented the pros and cons of participating in the Race to the Top Program. Motion by Pfauth, supported by Farhat, to give the Superintendent and the Board President authorization to sign a MOU to participate in Race to the Top program.

14.0 Items for Discussion Only

14.1 Future Board Elections

There has been a statewide push to have board elections in November to coincide with already funded biannual elections. Cheryl Capiak said that County Clerk Louise Stine advised her that

the June expiring terms would then expire in January should the elections be moved. As the November elections are only held every other year, it would mean that one year, four positions would be up for election and the other year would have three members. Another possibility would be that school boards would be allowed to have elections every November. Superintendent Schroeder stated that it is estimated only \$1 million would be saved statewide by making the change and the consensus of the Board was to wait and see if the state forced the District to change.

- 14.2 Review Plans for River Valley High School Graduation
Superintendent Schroeder encouraged board member participation and asked that those that will be participating meet in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 6:15 P.M. on June 4, 2010.
- 14.3 Discuss Board of Education Meeting Dates and Times for 2010-2011
Meeting dates were presented and discussed and will be presented for approval at the next regular board meeting. Suggestion was made to change September 13 Work Session to September 20 and September 20 Regular Meeting to September 27.
- 14.4 Special Education Close-Out
Superintendent Schroeder shared a letter from the state Department of Education which states that the District is in full compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 14.5 Appoint Two Board Members to Attend Countywide Board Meeting
Trustee Pfauth volunteered to attend the countywide Board Meeting with Superintendent Schroeder on June 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berrien RESA Conference Center in Berrien Springs. The following will be discussed: shared services, legislative issues and funding.
- 14.6 Trustee Wagner spoke about the need to motivate and encourage students to do well on MEAP tests next year as it will be the best way for them to do well during testing.

Trustee Wagner asked if any additional staff members are planning on retiring.

Trustee Pfauth asked Mr. Warner if chemicals were being disposed of properly. Mr. Warner confirmed that the proper procedures are being followed.

15.0 Announcements

- 15.1 Pennies for Patients – the Elementary students raised \$686.25
- 15.2 “Vote Yes” cards, regarding the upcoming bond election, were donated to the Citizen's Committee. Cards were distributed to Board members at the Work Session. A phone call list will be created to remind people about August 3rd bond vote. The card also has a provision to obtain an absentee ballot for those who need them.

16.0 Adjournment

Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. **Motion carried unanimously.**

William G. Farhat, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education