



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, August 17, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

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 Pfauth, and Secretary Farhat. Vice President Ehlert and Trustee Wagner were absent.
- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President German.
- 3.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented
Motion made by Treasurer Petro, supported by Trustee Knutel, to approve the Agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.
- 4.0 Review Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2009
Action will be taken at the next meeting.
- 5.0 Correspondence
 - 5.1 Indiana University South Bend
Superintendent Schroeder shared a letter from Indiana University South Bend commending Principal Warner on former students Adam Freehling, Michael Hosinski, and Cynthia Schedler's being on the IUSB Dean's List.
- 6.0 Buildings & Grounds
 - 6.1 Energy Audit
Superintendent Schroeder distributed a copy to the Buildings and Grounds Committee members of an energy savings plan that Rebuild Michigan has proposed. A meeting will be scheduled with a representative at a later date.
 - 6.2 Bleacher Project
Superintendent Schroeder stated that the bleacher project has been completed and it looks very nice. Citizens who have seen it have all felt that it was done well.
 - 6.3 Committee Meetings
Buildings and Grounds Citizens Committee met and discussed conducting a survey at the Senior Center, area restaurants, and during Back-to-School night. Survey participants will be asked about what options they would or would not support in regards to school construction / remodeling options. Next meeting is set for September 10, 2009.

7.0 Curriculum/Policy

7.1 Policy Review

Reminder that the policies distributed at the last meeting are to be approved/disapproved at the next meeting and to make your comments to Trustee Wagner or Superintendent Schroeder. No comments or questions were posed.

8.0 Finance

8.1 Review Accounts Payable for August 2009 and the Treasurer's Report for July 2009

Business Manager Capiak reviewed the Accounts Payable for August 2009 and the Treasurer's Report for July 2009. Treasurer Petro asked a question about the purchase of a new bus and the cancellation of a check related to that purchase. Ms. Capiak related that the new system is more cumbersome but they are continuing to work at it and that the cancellation was related to that process. Ms. Capiak also explained that how she invests as much money as possible while still allowing it to be available for use.

8.2 Review Application Process for QSCB Loan

Superintendent Schroeder stated that this tax free loan could be up to \$15 million and could be used for renovation or new construction. The loan opportunities are on a first come, first serve basis and that the 2009-2010 money has already been distributed. The loan request has already been submitted due to the high demand; it will be for the 2010-2011 school year. RV does not have to accept the loan when / if it is offered but it is good to get the request in early. Business Manager Capiak stated that this may be used to offset a millage request from the voters or supplement one as a 15 year tax free loan actually causes a higher annual millage rate than a bond request for 30 years for the same principal amount. There are some questions if these types of construction bonds are going to be bought by consumers because they do not provide income through interest paid but by providing the owner a tax break instead. Action will be taken on this at the next board meeting.

9.0 Personnel

9.1 Resignation of MS Volleyball Coach

Coach Vickie Fleck had to resign due to a scheduling conflict with her full-time employment. Superintendent Schroeder also related that Sue Swords, who was a part-time cook, has also turned in her resignation due to being recalled to full-time work.

10.0 Other

10.1 Review Candidates for the MASB Board of Directors Election

The candidate information is in the board packet. This will be considered at the next board meeting.

11.0 Items for Discussion Only

11.1 On-Line River Valley Board of Education Bylaws & Policies

Superintendent Schroeder said that the policies are now online at www.neola.com/river-mi and a link is also found on our website.

11.2 Congratulations to Mr. Robert Hay for Nomination of Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Schroeder stated that Director Robert Hay was nominated for Teacher of the Year by the Vocal Music Association of Michigan. Mr. Hay has been modest about the nomination but Superintendent Schroeder stated that it shows that he is a good teacher.

11.3 Co-op Sports

A lot of work has been done by Superintendent Schroeder, Principal Warner, and Athletic Director Carter. Concerns were raised by the staff since Galien High School is an alternative

education school, their attendance standards are different than ours and it would cause an additional administrative burden to track this information. Participation could also affect what class we would participate in, especially if Galien Schools canceled one year and caused RV to be in a larger class. In addition, there is no transportation provided by Galien and there are other cost questions involved. Trustee Knutel asked why we were being required to provide transportation and it was clarified that we do not provide transportation for the Galien students either. Currently it is believed that there are two girls and four boys interested at this time but their eligibility is not yet known. Principal Warner and Athletic Director Carter did not recommend participation to Superintendent Schroeder, who agreed. Athletic Director Carter affirmed that School-of-Choice is always encouraged and this was repeated by President German. President German felt that the potential negatives of participation in the program outweighed the potential positives, which was repeated by Secretary Farhat. Galien has not turned in their resolution or numbers to the state yet, so the idea is not finalized. Due to the proximity to the start of the school year, action was required by the Board.

Moved by Secretary Farhat, supported by Treasurer Petro, to not participate in the cooperative sports with Galien Schools. President German, Treasurer Petro, Trustee Pfauth, and Secretary Farhat voted for the motion and Trustee Knutel voted against. **Motion carried (4-1).**

12.0 Adjournment

Moved by Knutel, supported by Petro, to adjourn at 7:34 P.M. **Motion carried unanimously.**

William G. Farhat, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education