

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, December 13, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present: J. C. German, Michael Ehlert, Victoria Pfauth, Ronald Petro, Blane Hillman, Fred Knutel, Vickie Wagner

Members Absent: None

1.0 Call to Order

President German called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

President German led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented

Motion by Knutel, supported by Ehlert, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment on Agenda

There was no public comment on the agenda

5.0 Consider Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2010, and Special Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2010.

Motion by Knutel, supported by Ehlert, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2010, and the Special Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2010. All ayes. Motion carried.

6.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Schroeder reported that K-12 River Valley students have been involved with numerous community groups and outreach programs.

6.1 Student Board Representative Report

There was no student present to give a report.

6.2 Cooperating With/Providing Services

Schroeder cited student involvement with numerous community groups to which River Valley students have provided community service or received support for their activities. Some examples are: a student-led food drive, a blood drive, participation in the Halloween parade, a donation from the New Buffalo Women's Service League.

7.0 Board Committee Reports

7.1 Buildings and Grounds Updates

Chairman Ehlert reported that at the Tuesday, December 7, Buildings & Grounds Citizens Committee meeting, items discussed included the upcoming bond proposal and outreach to the community to thank those who have supported the bond issue. Ehlert also said that voter registration in the District was discussed.

7.2 Personnel Committee Report – December 9, 2010

Chairman Knutel reported on the December 9, 2010, Personnel Committee meeting. Items of business included the resignation and replacement of Linda Weigel as Transportation Supervisor, resignation of Morgan Olmstead as 7th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, resignation of Marcia Hess as Title I Staff Assistant, the evaluation of the Superintendent, retirement of Linda Olson in Special Education, and staff reassignment to create a full-time technology support person.

The Committee approved the recommendation of Erik Nieman to fill the Transportation Supervisor's position, referred the decision to evaluate the Superintendent this year to the full Board, and discussed a 2/5 addition in time for technology support. This would mean a 2/5 addition in time to part-time Three Oaks Elementary Secretary, Donna Palen.

8.0 Correspondence

Pfauth received a notice that the offices of Hebard & Hebard have moved to a new location at 216 West Washington Street in South Bend, Indiana and asked if all other Board members had received this notice.

9.0 Old Business

9.1 Consider a Firm to Conduct a Search for a Superintendent

Motion by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to contract the services of the Michigan Association of School Boards to assist the Board in the search for a superintendent. All ayes. Motion carried.

President German will serve as contact liaison between the Board and the MASB and keep the Board Secretary notified of communications.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Consider Approval of the Accounts Payable for December, 2010, and the Treasurer's Report for November, 2010

Motion by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to approve the Accounts Payable for December, 2010, and the Treasurer's Report for November, 2010. All ayes. Motion carried.

10.2 Consider Approval of Resolution to Call for an Election for February 22, 2011

Motion by Petro, supported by Knutel, to approve the resolution calling for an election on February 22, 2011 to erect, furnish, and equip an elementary school addition to the existing middle/high school; partially remodel, equip and re-equip and furnish and refurbish the existing middle/high school; acquire and install educational technology to the school building; and develop and improve athletic fields and facilities, playgrounds and the site. Roll call vote: Hillman – aye, Pfauth – aye, Petro – aye, Ehlert – aye, German – aye, Wagner – aye, Knutel – yes. Motion approved (7-0).

10.3 Consider Participating in Schools-of-Choice Option for 2011 Winter Semester

Superintendent Schroeder recommended that we continue our participation in the Schools-of-Choice by accepting students in grades K-7 and also our students from Galien who fall under the co-operative agreement that we have with that district. He reported that some families have moved to Galien but still wish to have their children attend the River Valley Schools. Motion by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to continue participating in the Schools-of-Choice Option for the 2011 Winter Semester. All ayes. Motion carried.

10.4 Consider Recommendation to Hire a Transportation Supervisor and Approve a Contract

The Superintendent reported that a committee consisting of himself, Mr. York, Ms. Capiak, and Pam Duval, Transportation Supervisor at Buchanan, reviewed the applicants for the position of Transportation Supervisor. Erik Nieman was recommended to the

Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee approved this recommendation. Nieman will be offered a one and one-half year contract with a probationary period of sixty working days.

Motion by Knutel, supported by German, to approve the hiring of Erik Nieman as Transportation Supervisor. Ayes-6, Nay – Wagner. Motion approved (6-1).

10.5 Accept Grants From The Pokagon Fund

The District received grants from The Pokagon Fund to pay for sixteen student field trips and for the Performing Arts HVAC project. The total awarded to the River Valley District through these grants is \$69,961.00.

10.5.1 Field Trips - \$10,630

River Valley received a total of \$10,630 in grant money from The Pokagon Fund to be used for student field trips. We were notified that all of the grant applications submitted by teachers were approved by the Fund.

10.5.2 Performing Arts HVAC Project - \$59,331

River Valley received a total of \$59,331 from The Pokagon Fund through a grant written by Cheryl Capiak for the purpose of updating the heating and cooling system in the Performing Arts area and cafeteria. The new system will be electronically controlled and be able to raise and lower the temperature by taking into account the number of people in these areas.

Motion by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to accept the funds provided through the two Pokagon Fund grants. All ayes. Motion carried.

Schroeder will make public announcements regarding these grants at upcoming programs and concerts.

10.6 Accept Book Grant from MEEMIC

The River Valley District has received word that it will receive \$351.00 to purchase reading materials for students from the MEEMIC Book Grant through a grant written by Mrs. Suzi Jewell.

Motion by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to accept \$351.00 from the MEEMIC Book Grant. All ayes. Motion carried.

10.7 Election Coordinating Committee School Agreement

The School Board Secretary will represent River Valley on Friday, January 21, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at the Lake Charter Township Hall to sign the Election Coordinating Committee School Agreement.

11.0 Items for Discussion Only

There were no discussion items.

12.0 Announcements

12.1 Certificate of Excellence

Schroeder announced that River Valley has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the Michigan State Police for achieving a 100% Pass Rate for our School Bus Safety Inspections. Thanks to Dave York and Linda Weigel.

12.2 School Board Election – May 3, 2011

Schroeder reported on School District deadlines for the May 3, 2011 Regular School Election. Deadline for filing petitions with the County Clerk is February 8, 2011. Petitions must be delivered to the Courthouse.

13.0 Hearing of Persons Present

The issue of coaches making requests for purchases from Booster funds was discussed. It was brought up that there are booster groups for Football, Wrestling, and Band. There are some concerns about upgrading the football concession stand. Wagner suggested that a grant application for Pokagon Funds be written. Knutel asked if the money stolen from the Chikaming PTO had been returned. Capiak said that \$1,800 had been returned and a schedule has been established to repay the rest.

14.0 Adjournment

After President German wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, Wagner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Supported by Knutel. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education