

River Valley Board of Education  
**RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
15480 Three Oaks Road  
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128  
[www.rivervalleyschools.org](http://www.rivervalleyschools.org)

**Work Session – RV Middle/High School Library**  
**Monday, February 21, 2011 @ 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**

The meeting was called to order by President German at 7:00 p.m.

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

President German led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience Member Leo Jovanovic asked the Board if he could speak under Item 13.1 - Announce Candidates Running for School Board Positions. Permission was granted.

**3.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented**

Item 12.3 MASB Workshop was added to the agenda under Items for Discussion Only. Motion by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

**4.0 Presentation of Trophy**

Darren Jones presented a basketball trophy to the District that was won Saturday by the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Girls' Basketball Team. The trophy will be placed in the school trophy case.

**5.0 Review Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2011**

Minutes of the January 24, 2011, Board meeting were reviewed and will be approved at the next regular Board of Education meeting.

**6.0 Correspondence**

Superintendent Schroeder reported receiving a "Thank you" letter from United Way of Southwest Michigan for River Valley's support in the United Way fundraising campaign. Schroeder also reported receiving a letter from Three Oaks Township Supervisor Charles Sittig regarding the potential establishment of a community garden.

**7.0 Buildings and Grounds Committee**

No Report.

**8.0 Curriculum/Policy Committee**

**8.1 Review Hiring Policy**

Chairperson Wagner distributed updated copies of proposed changes to the River Valley Hiring Policy.

**9.0 Finance Committee**

**9.1 Review Accounts Payable for February, 2011, and the Treasurer's Report for January, 2011**

The Accounts Payable Report for February, 2011, and the Treasurer's Report for January, 2011, will be reviewed and approved at the next regular meeting.

**9.2 Review Agreement for Collection of Summer Property Taxes**

The Agreement for the Collection of Summer Property Taxes has been received from Chikaming Township. This will be approved at the next regular meeting.

**9.3 Set Finance Committee Meeting**

Action on setting a date and time for the next Finance Committee meeting was tabled.

**10.0 Personnel Committee**

Schroeder announced that interviews will be scheduled to fill the varsity softball coaching vacancy.

**11.0 Other**

**11.1 Review Possible Community Garden Proposal in Three Oaks**

Superintendent Schroeder has received communication from Three Oaks Township Supervisor, Charles Sittig, concerning the potential use of the northern part of the property owned by the township and adjacent to the Three Oaks campus for use as community gardens. A diagram outlining the project accompanied the letter; it was also noted that sites are available for school use in student projects.

**12.0 Items for Discussion Only**

**12.1 Data Sharing with Lake Michigan College**

Schroeder announced that Lake Michigan College will be sharing data regarding academic progress information of LMC students who are River Valley graduates.

**12.2 Raising the Bar**

Schroeder cited information released by the Michigan Department of Education regarding recommending changing the "cut" scores for passing MEAP. It is anticipated that scores will show a drop.

**12.3 MASB Workshop**

German will contact the MASB office regarding setting a date and time for a Board workshop regarding the River Valley Superintendent Search.

**13.0 Announcements**

**13.1 Announce Candidates Running for School Board Positions**

Candidates running for School Board positions were announced: Michael Ehlert, J.C. German, Leo Jovanovic, and Joseph Zebell.

Jovanovic asked why the sign in front of the high school was not announcing the bond election on February 22 and why the district did not provide notification of open Board seats. Superintendent Schroeder responded that no announcement regarding the bond was posted to ensure the impartiality of the School District on the issue.

Neil Carter announced that a documentary about the 1988 RVHS basketball team is being made.

On February 28, 2011, FEMA will conduct a disaster drill. State Police and the Berrien County Sheriff's Department will be participating. River Valley has been designated as a training site.

Mr. Warner announced that our eighth grade students took the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Our students were complimented on their behavior. NAEP results are published by state, not by schools or individual students.

Mr. Warner announced that next week, students will make a presentation to the Board on taking water samples for Berrien County Health Department studies.

Wagner announced that a Pokagon Fund grant of \$5,800 will provide an after-school enrichment program with classes in art, dance, photography and music. Funds will pay for teachers; lessons will begin now and continue through the end of the school year and are open to elementary students in The Pokagon Fund service area.

Warner announced that River Valley will be the site of a mobile food pantry sponsored by The Pokagon Fund.

Hillman announced that on May 7 a baseball reunion tournament will be held; this will be a fundraiser for the baseball program.

**14.0 Adjournment**

Motion by Wagner, supported by Hillman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting, February 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary  
River Valley Board of Education