

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 18, 2011 @ 6:00 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 at 6:00 p.m. by Board President German.

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 Petro, 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 Superintendent Search—Dr. Richard Dunham, MASB Consultant

Dr. Richard Dunham, MASB Consultant, announced the process by which the candidates, for River Valley, would be screened and selected by the Board.

5.1 Screen Candidates

Twelve candidates were screened by the Board and publicly identified by number. Credential files were reviewed and voted on. Five candidates were selected for first-round interviews.

5.2 Select Candidates

After initial screening, the five candidates selected for first-round interviews are: Scott Millin, Will Kearney, Kristine Simons, Roger Prosis, and Ruth Kotler. Candidates will be contacted by Mr. Dunham and first-round interview times will be scheduled. Dunham will then contact German, and the Board will be notified. Notice of the Special Meeting times and dates will then be publicly posted. Dunham will also handle press releases.

6.0 Consider Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2011

Motion by Wagner, supported by Hillman, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2011 Board Meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

7.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Schroeder reported that there would be presentations from Lisa Bartoszek of Lory's Place, and special recognitions that had been earned by Student, Chloe Naumann; Teacher, Mrs. Sherrie Bender; and Teacher, Mrs. Shelly Reese.

7.1 Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report.

7.2 Lory's Place—Lisa Bartoszek

A presentation on Lory's Place was given by Lisa Bartoszek. Lory's Place is a grief counseling and family bereavement service offered to children and adults. Participation in this service can be made available to River Valley students through a grant awarded to Lory's Place from The Pokagon Fund. Ms. Bartoszek also distributed an information packet on this program.

7.3 Announce RV Winner of Lakeshore Rotary Club Essay Contest

Superintendent Schroeder announced that River Valley sixth grade student, Chloe Naumann, was the winner of this year's Lakeshore Rotary Club Essay Contest. Ms. Naumann was introduced and read her prize-winning essay entitled "What Success Means to Me."

7.4 Announce VFW Teacher of the Year—District 7

Schroeder introduced River Valley Fifth Grade Teacher, Mrs. Sherrie Bender, the VFW District 7 Teacher of The Year.

7.5 Disney's Planet Challenge—State of Michigan Winner

Schroeder announced that River Valley Third Grade Teacher, Ms. Shelly Reese, and her class have been recognized as the winner of Disney's Planet Challenge for their project on the study of Zebra Mollusks. A cash prize is awarded to the teacher, and several prizes are awarded to the students. Ms. Reese and her students gave a presentation on the project in the Promethean Room.

8.0 Board Committee Reports

Curriculum and Policy Committee Chairperson, Vickie Wagner, discussed her review of the NEOLA policy updates which the Board received at the March meeting. She commented on the blank spacing in the last paragraph of the last page of the update packet.

9.0 Correspondence

Schroeder reported that he has received correspondence from the Michigan State Police regarding our last inspection. River Valley buses passed inspection one hundred percent. This is our third year in a row for this recognition.

10.0 Old Business

There was one item of Old Business—regarding the authorization to participate in the Lory's Place Grief Counseling Program.

10.1 Consider Participation in The Pokagon Fund Grant Awarded to Lory's Place

Motion by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to participate in The Pokagon Fund Grant awarded to Lory's Place. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.0 New Business

11.1 Consider Approval of Accounts Payable for April, 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for March, 2011.

After review by Business Manager Cheryl Capiak, it was moved by Wagner and supported by Knutel to Approve the Accounts Payable for April, 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for March, 2011. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.2 Consider Approval of 2010-2011 Third Quarterly Budget Update

Capiac reported in the Third Quarterly Budget Update that revenues increased by \$111,587 and expenditures decreased by \$13,860. This resulted in a net increase of revenues minus expenses totaling \$135,132. Projected fund equity for June 30, 2011 is \$1,852,166. Wagner asked the administration to consider a position for an elementary guidance counselor.

Motion by Knutel, supported by Petro, to approve the 2010-2011 Third Quarterly Budget Update. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.3 Consider Approval of River Valley Board of Education Policy Revisions

Motion by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to approve the River Valley Board of Education Policy Revisions previously submitted by NEOLA and reported on by Wagner. All ayes. Motion carried.

11.4 Consider Resolution Opposing School Aid Fund Transfer to Higher Education

Motion by Petro, supported by Wagner, to approve a resolution submitted by the Michigan Association of School Boards in opposition to a plan to divert money from the School Aid Fund to support community colleges and institutions of higher education at the expense of public school districts and the children they serve. Roll call vote: Hillman–Aye, Pfauth–Aye, Ehlert–Aye, German–Aye, Wagner–Aye and Knutel–Aye. Motion carried (7-0).

11.5 Consider Recommendation to Approve a Teacher for Tenure

Motion by Knutel, supported by Pfauth, to approve Ms. Diane Balling, Elementary Special Education Teacher, for Teacher Tenure. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.0 Items for Discussion Only

12.1 MEAP Report

Schroeder distributed information on the 2010 MEAP Testing results for River Valley. The report showed increases in fourteen areas and scoring above state average in twelve areas. Pfauth commented that staff and administration are to be commended on their work in bringing about this success and that the Board is aware that the cut scores will be raised in 2011.

12.2 Student Teacher

River Valley has received correspondence from Lake Superior State University regarding the placement of a student teacher at the first grade level for next school year.

Wagner inquired about the Music and Fine Arts survey.

On Monday, April 25, the League of Women Voters—Berrien and Cass Counties will host a candidate forum to be held in the River Valley Middle/High School Library for candidates running for School Board positions.

Mr. Warner announced that four renewable \$2,500 scholarships have been awarded by The Pokagon Fund to area students and that the TPF Scholarship Committee was impressed with the superior writing skills of River Valley's applicants.

Kindergarten Registration is being held this week.

Hillman commented on the National Honor Society induction ceremony, mentioned the May 7 baseball reunion fundraiser, Sunshine Softball and that Mr. Latus finished up his Astronomy Night Viewing Classes for this school year.

Wagner encouraged other organizations in the district to apply for funds through The Pokagon Fund.

Superintendent Schroeder reminded everyone that the Mobile Food Pantry will be coming to River Valley on Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

13.0 Motion to Go Into Closed Session to Discuss Negotiations

Motion by Knutel, supported by Petro, to go into closed session to discuss negotiations at 8:05 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried

14.0 Motion to Return to Open Session

Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to return to open session at 8:39 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

15.0 Hearing of Persons Present

Heidi Clark commented on the recent River Valley production of "Oklahoma".

16.0 Adjournment

Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Next work session: May 16, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next regular meeting: May 23, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education