

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, May 23, 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 at 7:00 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

German proposed that Item 9.2 be added to the Agenda to consider the purchase of wireless system upgrades. Motion by Knutel, supported by Petro, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item 9.2. All ayes. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment on Agenda

There was no public comment on the Agenda.

5.0 Recognize Class of 2011 Top Academic Seniors

The following Top Academic Seniors of the Class of 2011 were introduced by Principal Warner and Guidance Counselor Goodman: Valedictorian, Amanda Clark; Salutatorian, Shelby Francis; Rachael Conley, Cassandra Bronson, Trevor Gray, Nicholas Rossman, Heather Lockman, Jamie Coar, Kacie Mercer, Mindy Payne, Ingrid Stein. Certificates of achievement were presented.

6.0 Recognize Staff Retirements

Superintendent Schroeder introduced the following staff members who will be retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 school year: Deborah Burlingame, Third Grade Teacher with 36 years of service, Robert Hay, Middle/High School Band/Choir Director with 37 years of service and Linda Weigel, Transportation Director with 28 years of service who retired in December of 2010. Certificates of appreciation were presented.

German introduced Robert Schroeder, Superintendent of Schools, who will be retiring with 41 years of service. German also presented Bob with a certificate of appreciation.

7.0 Consider Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2011, (Open and Closed Sessions), Special Meeting Minutes of May 2 & 4, 2011, and Work Session Minutes of May 16, 2011 (Open and Closed Sessions)

Motion by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2011 (Open and closed Sessions), Special Meeting Minutes of May 2 and 4, 2011, and Work Session Minutes of May 16, 2011 (Open and Closed Sessions). All ayes. Motion carried.

8.0 Superintendent's Report

Schroder introduced the building principals who commented on field trips taken by students during the 2010-2011 school year.

8.1 Student Board Representative Report

There was no Student Board Representative Report.

8.2 Field Trip Report

Mr. Warner reported on a number of student field trips this year and thanked The Pokagon Fund for providing much of the funding for these experiences. Schroeder said that grants made available through The Pokagon Fund eliminated students and teachers having to have numerous fund-raising projects involving the sale of merchandise. Wagner said that The Pokagon Fund planned to make money available to schools every year for school field trips.

Mrs. Clark said that she will present her report to the Board at another time.

9.0 Board Committee Reports

9.1 Finance Committee Report – May 23, 2011

Petro reported that the Finance Committee met at 6:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room. Petro reported that the proposed 2011-2012 Budget was reviewed.

9.2 Consider Wireless System Upgrades

Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak, presented a request to the Board to upgrade the wireless system between the buildings in the River Valley School District. These upgrades would allow more information to flow at a greatly increased speed, thus eliminating electronic delays and interferences and leave room for future growth. Capiak has a quote from MapleNet Wireless in the amount of \$45,056 with a discount of \$2,793.47 if an order is placed on or before June 8, 2011, reducing the cost to \$42,262.53. Capiak estimated that these upgrades would handle future voice, video, and data needs for 8 to 10 years. Capiak added that there was a possibility, but no assurance, that River Valley could have 80% of the project funded through the E-rate Program. Capiak requested approval to put the project out for bid to have the work completed prior to June 30, 2011. She reported that there is \$8,453 in the 2010-2011 budget and that the request would be for an additional \$33,809.53 expenditure in the current budget.

Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, for Capiak to move forward with the wireless upgrade project and have the work completed by June 30, 2011. All ayes. Motion carried.

10.0 Correspondence

Schroeder said that he has received correspondence from a family who will offer full-ride, four year scholarships to a River Valley senior planning to attend college.

11.0 Old Business

There was no old business.

12.0 New Business

12.1 Accept Donation of Personal Finance Curriculum from Dave Ramsey

Motion by Knutel, supported by Petro, to accept with thanks the donation of the Personal Finance Program Curriculum valued at \$5,000 from Dave Ramsey. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.2 Consider Approval of Accounts Payable for May, 2011, and the Treasurer's Report for April, 2011

Motion by Petro, supported by Wagner, to approve the Accounts Payable for May, 2011, and the Treasurer's Report for April, 2011. All ayes. Motion carried.

- 12.3 Consider Approval of Resolution to Adopt Berrien RESA General Fund Operating Budget for 2011-2012 School Year**
Motion by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Berrien County RESA General Fund Operating Budget for the 2011-2012 School Year. Knutel-Aye; Wagner-Aye; German-Aye; Ehlert-Aye; Petro-Aye; Pfauth-Aye; Hillman-Aye. All ayes. Motion carried (7-0).
- 12.4 Consider Approval of Resolution to Adopt 2011-2012 District Budget**
Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2011-2012 District Budget. Knutel-Aye; Wagner-Aye; German-Aye; Ehlert-Aye; Petro-Aye; Pfauth-Aye; Hillman-Aye. All ayes. Motion carried (7-0).
- 12.5 Consider Approval of Head Coaching Recommendations for 2011-2012 Fall/Winter Sports Seasons**
Motion by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to approve the following Head Coaching recommendations for 2011-2012 Fall/Winter Sports Seasons as recommended by Athletic Director, Neil Carter: Football-Jeff Degner; Cross Country-Mark Foreman; Volleyball-Jim Ragosta; Boys; Basketball-Shawn Gedert; Girls' Basketball-Zac Robertson; Wrestling-Alan Berget. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.6 Consider Approval to Extend/Revise Administrative and Supervisory Contracts**
Motion by Ehlert, supported by Hillman, to extend/revise Administrative and Supervisory contracts for the following staff: Heidi Clark-Elementary Principal; Cynthia Ursprung-Assistant MS/HS Principal and Title I Coordinator; Cheryl Capiak-Business Manager; Teri Brown- Working Food Service Supervisor; Robert Payne-Buildings and Grounds Supervisor. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.7 Consider Approval to Extend/Revise Excalibur Personnel Contract for Middle/High School Principal**
Wagner commented that the Board had not seen a copy of the contract. Schroeder said that there were no changes.

Motion by Petro, supported by Hillman, to extend/revise Excalibur Personnel contract for MS/HS Principal, Wayne Warner. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.8 Consider Approval of Recommendation to Hire a Band/Choir Director**
Motion by Wagner, supported by Hillman, to hire Ryan Kasperski as Band/Choir Director pending successful report on the background check. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.9 Consider Approval of Recommendation to Hire a Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach**
Motion by Hillman, supported by Knutel, to hire Caleb Dryden as Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.10 Consider Approval of Recommendation to Hire a Middle School Football Coach**
Motion by Hillman, supported by Ehlert, to hire Caleb Dryden as Middle School Football Coach. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.11 Consider Approval of Recommendation to Hire a Junior Varsity Football Coach**
Motion by Hillman, supported by Knutel, to hire Richard Jasso as Junior Varsity Football Coach. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 12.12 Consider Approval of 2011-2012 Middle/High School Student Handbook Changes**
Motion by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to approve the 2011-2012 Middle/High School Student Handbook changes. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.13 Consider Approval of 2011-2012 Athletic Handbook Changes

Motion by Wagner, supported by Petro, to approve the 2011-2012 Athletic Handbook changes. Changes call for weekly checks on grades of Middle School athletes. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.14 Accept 2011-2012 Milk Bid

Motion by Ehlert, supported by Hillman, to accept the Milk Bid from Scholl Dairy of Michigan City, Indiana, for the 2011-2012 School Year. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.15 Consider Approval of Recommendation of 2011-2012 Meal Prices

Schroeder reported that there would be no need to change meal prices for the 2011-2012 school year. Motion by Petro, supported by Hillman, to approve 2011-2012 meal prices at the same rate as the 2010-2011 prices. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.16 Consider Adoption of Resolution Designating the District's Election Representative for the June 6, 2011 Biennial Berrien RESA Board Election and Selection of Candidates

Motion by Wagner, supported by Hillman, to adopt the resolution designating Trustee Knutel to represent River Valley as the District's representative in the June 6, 2011, biennial Berrien County RESA Board Election. Candidates running for the two vacant seats are Linda Holt of the Lakeshore District and J. Allene Smith of the Benton Harbor District. Pfauth agreed to serve as alternate representative from River Valley. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.17 Consider Approval of Request for Facilities Use for 2012 Apple Cider Century Bicycle Tour

Motion by Hillman, supported by Ehlert, to approve the use of River Valley facilities by the Three Oaks Spokes Club for the 2012 Apple Cider Century Bicycle Tour. All ayes. Motion carried.

12.18 Consider Approval of River Valley Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2011-2012

Motion by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to approve the River Valley Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2011-2012. All ayes. Motion carried (7-0).

12.19 Consider Approval of Resolution for 2011-2012 MHSAA Membership for River Valley High School

Motion by Wagner, supported by Hillman, to approve the resolution for 2011-2012 MHSAA Membership for River Valley High School. Knutel-aye; Wagner-aye; German-aye; Ehlert-aye; Petro-aye; Pfauth-aye; Hillman-aye. All ayes. Motion carried (7-0).

12.20 Selection of New Superintendent

Discussion by the Board was held regarding the three candidates given second interviews for the position of River Valley Superintendent of Schools. Each Board member had input before taking a vote on the candidate who the Board would negotiate with for a contract of employment. Initial roll call vote was as follows: Knutel-Prosise; Wagner-Passed; German-Kearney; Ehlert-Kearney; Petro-Kearney; Pfauth-Kotler; Hillman-Kearney; return to Wagner-Kotler.

Motion by Ehlert, supported by Hillman, to adopt a resolution offering the position of Superintendent of River Valley School District, pending successful contract negotiations, to William Kearney. Upon successful agreement with the candidate and the River Valley School District Board of Education, a contract will be approved by the Board at a regularly-scheduled meeting. Knutel-aye; Wagner-aye; German-aye; Ehlert-aye; Petro-aye; Pfauth-aye; Hillman-aye. Motion carried (7-0). German will contact Richard

Dunham of the MASB regarding candidate notification. Board members will be contacted regarding Mr. Kearney's availability to negotiate with the Board.

13.0 Items for Discussion Only

Ehlert said that in the future we would need to place sixth graders on seventh grade teams; therefore, River Valley Middle School would not be a member of MHSAA.

Wagner thanked Schroeder for his service to River Valley and wished him well on his retirement.

14.0 Hearing of Persons Present

Community and staff member, Paula Donner, thanked the Board and Superintendent Schroeder for their service to the River Valley District.

15.0 Adjournment

Motion by Knutel, supported by Wagner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: WORK SESSION, JUNE 13, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education