

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, November 21, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Members Present**

J.C. German, Michael Ehlert, Victoria Pfauth, Ronald Petro, Blane Hillman, Fred Knutel

**Members Absent**

Vickie Wagner

**Administrators Present**

Superintendent William Kearney, Business Manager Cheryl Capiak, MHS Principal Wayne Warner, Elementary Principal Heidi Clark

**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 Approval of Agenda as Presented**

Moved by Hillman, supported by Petro, to approve the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of November 21, 2011 as presented with the following changes: 9.5 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Cook (Level III), 9.6 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Girls' Middle School Basketball Coach, and 9.7 Approval of Teacher Tenure Candidates. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**4.0 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2011**

Moved by Petro, supported by Knutel, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2011. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**5.0 Reports**

**5.1 Mark Behnke – "Mustang Magic"**

Mark Behnke, an RV graduate, provided the Board with an update on the "Mustang Magic" project that he is putting together. The film will highlight the 1987/88 basketball season and will focus on the community pride/spirit that engulfed the district at that time. The target date for the premier is March 2013.

**5.2 Student Representative**

Student Representative, Emerald Kiourtsis, gave the Board an update of past and future events at the middle/high school.

**5.3 Principals**

Elementary Principal, Heidi Clark, provided an elementary report/update on the following: Grandparents Day, Conversations with Mrs. Clark, celebrations around the world study, field trips, Veterans Day, food drive, and teacher professional development.

Middle/High School Principal, Wayne Warner, provided a middle/high school report/update on the following: Marching Mustangs, fundraiser in cooperation with Three Oaks Ford and Ford Motor Company, forensic science class, National Honor Society bi-annual trash pick-up, culinary arts class preparing pre-conference meal for teachers, assembly with Rachel Cruze, Veterans Day, teacher in-services, and MiBLSi refresher videos.

#### **5.4 Superintendent**

Superintendent Kearney provided the Board of Education with an update on the following: The Pokagon Fund's holiday open house, update of progress toward Board goals, summary of findings from entry plan, summary of comments from community forums, community forum exit survey responses, Principals/Administrative Council meeting agendas, invitation for school law seminar, news release from the Michigan Department of Education on cut scores, School Equity Caucus, School Law Notes, focus monitoring, legislation changes regarding elections, Galien Cooperative Agreement, portable at the middle/high school, and repairs taking place at the facilities.

Superintendent Kearney announced to the Board that he would like to begin working on the 2012-2013 budget. He proposed a tentative Finance Committee meeting for December 19 at 6:15 p.m.

#### **6.0 Hearing of Persons Present**

No public comment was offered.

#### **7.0 Correspondence**

President German announced that he received a letter of resignation from Jeannine Daniel regarding her position as a Cook.

#### **8.0 Old Business**

#### **9.0 New Business**

##### **9.1 Approval of the Accounts Payable Report for November 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for October 2011.**

Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak, presented the Accounts Payable Report for November 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for October 2011.

Treasurer Petro questioned the expense for the surveillance system at the middle/high school. Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak, informed the Board that the cameras at the middle/high school were outdated and needed to be upgraded. Drug Free grant money, \$2,200, was applied.

Treasurer Petro asked if the annual fee for the audit was consistent from fees paid in the past. Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak, informed the Board that the audit came in a couple thousand dollars less than last year.

Treasurer Petro also asked about the boiler project and the expense. Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak, informed the Board that the boiler project has been completed and that a onetime check has been issued.

Moved by Hillman, supported by Petro, to approve the Accounts Payable Report for November 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for October 2011 as presented by the Business Manager. All Ayes. Motion carried.

##### **9.2 Adopt 2012 Annual Summer Property Tax Collection Resolution**

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Hillman, to adopt the 2012 Annual Summer Property Tax Collection Resolution as presented by the Business Manager. Roll call vote: German – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, Petro – Aye, Pfauth – Aye, Hillman – Aye, Knutel – Aye, and Wagner – Absent. Motion carried (6-0).

##### **9.3 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Middle School Cheerleading Coach**

Moved by Knutel, supported by Pfauth, to approve the employment of Jody Anderson as Middle School Cheerleading Coach as recommended by the Athletic Director and Superintendent of Schools. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**9.4 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach**

Moved by Knutel, supported by Petro, to approve the employment of Jack Gibson as Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach as recommended by the Athletic Director and Superintendent of Schools. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**9.5 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Cook (Level III)**

Moved by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to approve the employment of Kimberly Matlack for a Level III Cook position at the Middle/High School, effective November 21, 2011 as recommended by the Working Food Service Supervisor and Superintendent of Schools. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**9.6 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Girls' Middle School Basketball Coach**

Moved by Knutel, supported by Petro, to approve the employment of Jason Alexander as Girls' Middle School Basketball Coach as recommended by the Athletic Director and Superintendent of Schools. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**9.7 Approval of Teacher Tenure Candidates**

Superintendent Kearney announced that High School Teacher, Jeff Degner and Middle School Teacher, Debra Wegner have both successfully completed their four year probationary period as of December 5, 2011 and are recommended for tenure status.

Moved by Hillman, supported by Knutel, to approve tenure status to Jeff Degner, as of December 5, 2011, as recommended by the Middle/High School Principal and Superintendent of Schools. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Knutel, to approve tenure status to Debra Wegner, as of December 5, 2011, as recommended by the Middle/High School Principal and Superintendent of Schools. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**10.0 Items for Discussion Only**

Trustee Hillman wanted to publicly state and personally voice that the district has taken a lot of grief about the quality of our website. He further stated that anyone who thinks that our website is inefficient or outdated needs to spend some time looking at other school district websites in Berrien County. He further noted that he thinks our website is outstanding compared to what else is in the surrounding area.

Secretary Pfauth congratulated the band for their success this fall and she also wanted to give credit to the program that Mr. Hay setup, to the program that Mr. Kasperski has carried on to the next level, and to the band members. She further noted that members of the band have represented River Valley well this past season and should be commended.

**11.0 Adjournment**

Moved by Hillman, supported by Knutel, to adjourn the Regular Meeting for November 21, 2011 at 7:48 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary  
River Valley Board of Education

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