

River Valley Board of Education
RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
15480 Three Oaks Road
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.rivervalleyschools.org

Work Session – RV Middle/High School Library
Monday, September 19, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present

J.C. German, Michael Ehlert, Victoria Pfauth, Ronald Petro, Blane Hillman, Fred Knutel, 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 Petro, supported by Hillman, to approve the agenda for the Work Session of September 19, 2011 as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment

On behalf of the River Valley Bus Drivers/SEIU Local #517M, Karen Lubarski asked the Board of Education to consider reinstatement of Erik Nieman former Transportation Director. A letter was given to the Board.

5.0 Review Board Meeting Minutes

5.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2011

5.2 Special Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2011

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2011 and Special Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2011. There were no questions or comments regarding the minutes.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Principals

Elementary Principal, Heidi Clark, reported that students gathered around the flagpole to say the Pledge of Allegiance welcoming in the new school year. Jane Ringler's class studied the events of September 11th, made cookies, and delivered them to the Three Oaks Fire Department. She also highlighted some research-based initiatives being used to improve student achievement (Daily 5, Reading & Math Blocks, Dibels). Mrs. Clark reviewed their goals: We are working toward making our instruction RITE (Rigorous & Relevant Integrated Technology-Infused Engaging and we are also working toward building a Collaborative atmosphere among our STAFF (Support, Trust, Appreciation, Friendliness, Focused on Student Achievement).

Middle/High School Principal, Wayne Warner, reported that the MiBLSi Program is going well. Students are given Lasso tickets when they behave appropriately. Student enrollment numbers have increased by 23 students for the beginning of the school year. With an agreement with Southwestern Michigan College, we are offering college credit Auto Shop classes to our students. Additional college credit from Lake Michigan College is being offered to our students for the following: College English, Informational Processing, and Culinary Arts. Middle School students were tested in AIMSweb to establish students reading level. The new language arts curriculum has been

implemented. Students with internet capabilities can access their textbooks on-line. Sixth grade students now have access to 5,000 books in their Accelerated Reading Program. He also reported that a new Personal Finance class is being offered this fall giving students the life skills that will benefit them in their adult everyday lives.

Trustee Wagner asked how many students, attending River Valley, do not have internet access and what can we do to help these families. Mr. Warner responded that he will be sending out surveys and compiling the information for the Board of Education.

Treasurer Petro questioned the increase in students. Mr. Warner responded that surveys will be going out to families that enter and exit the district throughout the school year.

6.2 Superintendent

Superintendent Kearney provided the Board with an update on the following:

- Board Members interested in attending the Legislative Breakfast at Berrien RESA should contact the Superintendent by Monday, September 26, 2011.
- The District School Improvement Team will be meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2011.
- High School students are having an issue with 1% milk.
- Auditors will be presenting a report to the Board in October.
- Curriculum Council is currently studying elementary language arts followed by math.
- Community newsletters will be going out every month. Articles need to be turned in by the 20th.
- Legislation update was provided to the Board.
- The Superintendent will be out of the office September 20-23, 2011 attending a conference.

6.3 Buildings and Grounds

Superintendent Kearney informed the Board of Education that the boilers at Chikaming have been fired up. The portables at the middle/high school will be moved before winter. We are currently looking into a few lockdown issues at Three Oaks Elementary.

6.4 Curriculum/Policy

There was no Curriculum/Policy Committee report.

6.5 Finance

6.5.1 Review Accounts Payable Report for September 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for August 2011

Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak, presented the Accounts Payable Report for September 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for August 2011. The Board will approve the reports at the next Regular Board Meeting.

6.5.2 Berrien Community Foundation – Fine Arts Donation

The Board reviewed a \$200.00 donation from Tom and Katherine Davis for the fine arts department through the Berrien Community Foundation. The Board will accept the donation at the next Regular Board Meeting.

6.5.3 Donations in Memory of Alice Chesnut

The Board reviewed \$835.00 in donations to Three Oaks Elementary School made in memory of Alice Chesnut.

6.6 Personnel

Fred Knutel, Personnel Committee Chairperson, reported that the Committee met on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 6:15 p.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The Committee discussed the following: recommendation to hire Dick Gedert for the Boys' 7th Grade Basketball Coaching position, hiring an additional elementary teacher due

to the increase in 4th and 5th grade enrollment, and they discussed the Transportation Supervisor position.

7.0 Correspondence

Superintendent Kearney announced that he received a letter from the River Valley School Bus Drivers.

8.0 Items for Discussion Only

8.1 Develop Board Goals for 2011-2012

The Board reviewed the following goals for adoption at the next Regular Meeting:

Goal 1 – Improve student performance across all grade levels.

Goal 2 – Improve the relationship between the district and the community.

Goal 3 – Improve the level of communication between the school board and staff, district staff and community, and school staff and parents.

8.2 Develop Superintendent's Evaluation Tool

The Board reviewed the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool for adoption at the next Regular Meeting.

Trustee Wagner made a suggestion to include student retention within the district.

8.3 Other

Superintendent Kearney reviewed the Merit Pay Plan for Teachers to be adopted at the Regular Board Meeting on October 24, 2011.

Trustee Knutel made a suggestion to include a 'Not Observed' column in the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool. Treasurer Petro pointed out that a 'Not Observed' column would impact the point value. Discussion followed. Superintendent Kearney further expressed that he would like to be evaluated on the same standard as the teachers.

Trustee Hillman congratulated the football team on their recent win.

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by Petro, supported by Hillman, to adjourn the Work Session for September 19, 2011 at 7:53 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education

VAP/bb