

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, September 26, 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 Ehlert, to approve the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2011 as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment

Karen Lubarski questioned if the proper procedure was followed when the Business Manager received a raise this year. She also asked for the following: if anyone has ever received such a large raise, the Business Manager's job description and what degree she holds, and the actual amount of the raise. She further stated that the public perception is not very good.

Business Manager Cheryl Capiak responded that the increase was presented to the Finance Committee and the Board for approval. She further noted that the information in the newspaper was incorrect. Both President German and Trustee Fred Knutel noted that everything was done in a forthright manner.

President German informed Ms. Lubarski that we do not discuss personnel issues at a Board meeting. He noted that the individuals that he has spoken to are very supportive of Mrs. Capiak; enrollment has increased, test scores have increased, and the district finished in the black this year. He further commented that Mrs. Capiak has done a wonderful job for the district and is very fairly compensated.

Superintendent Kearney asked Ms. Lubarski to see him and he would provide her with a job description.

5.0 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2011, Special Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2011, and Work Session Minutes of September 19, 2011.

Moved by Petro, supported by Hillman, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2011, Special Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2011, and Work Session Minutes of September 19, 2011. All Ayes. Motion carried.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Student Representative

Senior Student Board Representative Heather Rowilson provided the Board of Education with an update on various events happening throughout the district.

6.2 Washington D.C. Trip – Middle/High School

Middle/High School Teacher Pam Kaniuga shared a slideshow presentation of the 2011 Eighth Grade trip to Washington D.C. Parents and students also contributed to the experience.

6.3 Summer's Cool – Elementary

Elementary Teachers Paula Donner and Shelly Reese shared a slideshow presentation highlighting the Summer's Cool program offered at River Valley during the summer. This program is designed to help students improve their writing and reading skills. Parents and students also contributed to their experience.

6.4 Superintendent

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

- A resignation letter was received from Rich Fatter, Transportation Director. Candidates will be interviewed for this position on Thursday.
- Due to a large number of fourth and fifth grade classes, we are hiring an additional teacher. He further noted that an internal candidate applied for the position. Mrs. Clark and her committee are interviewing candidates this week.
- A Legislative Breakfast will be held at Berrien RESA on October 10, 2011.
- We are starting to receive applications for The Pokagon Grants. The Superintendent will be writing a letter of support.
- Enrollment numbers are up. Our current P-12 enrollment is 727 and our K-12 enrollment is 691.

7.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8.0 Old Business**9.0 New Business****9.1 Approval of the Accounts Payable Report for September 2011 and the Treasurer's Report for August 2011.**

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

9.2 Accept Fine Arts Donation

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Hillman, to accept the \$200.00 donation from Tom and Katherine Davis for the fine arts department through the Berrien Community Foundation with thanks and appreciation. All Ayes. Motion carried.

9.3 Accept Donations in Memory of Alice Chesnut

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Pfauth, to accept \$835.00 in donations to Three Oaks Elementary School in memory of Alice Chesnut from Jack Chesnut with thanks and appreciation. All Ayes. Motion carried.

9.4 Adoption of Board Goals for 2011-2012

Superintendent Kearney noted that a change was made to Goal 1 (student performance was changed to student achievement).

Moved by Knutel, supported by Hillman, to adopt the following Board Goals for 2011-2012: **1)** Improve student achievement across all grade levels; **2)** Improve the relationship between the district and the community; and **3)** Improve the level of communication between the school board and staff, district staff and community, and school staff and parents as developed by the Superintendent and Board of Education. All Ayes. Motion carried.

9.5 Adoption of Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool

Moved by Petro, supported by Hillman, to adopt the Superintendent’s Evaluation Tool as presented by the Superintendent and developed in collaboration with the Board of Education. All Ayes. Motion carried.

10.0 Items for Discussion Only

Superintendent Kearney announced that the Board will be presented with a recommendation in October to approve the proposed Merit Pay Plan for Teachers.

Trustee Wagner announced that the Community Gardens will be hosting a community dinner (turkey & vegetables) on October 8 at 3:00 p.m.

11.0 Adjournment

Moved by Pfauth, supported by Ehlert, to adjourn the Regular Meeting for September 26, 2011 at 7:55 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Victoria A. Pfauth, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education

VAP/bb