



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 20, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Members Present: William Farhat, Vickie Wagner, Michael Ehlert, J.C. German, Ronald Petro, Fred Knutel, Victoria Pfauth

1.0 Call to Order

President Farhat called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

President Farhat led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Approval of Agenda as Presented

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Knutel, to approve the agenda as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

4.0 Public Comment on Agenda: None.

5.0 Consider Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2009. Moved by Pfauth, supported by Ehlert. All Ayes. Motion carried.

6.0 Superintendent's Report:

6.1 Student Board Representative Report: Student Board Representative Gina Schrader presented the Student Activity Report.

6.2 Winter Sports Report: Mr. Schroeder introduced River Valley School District Athletic Director, Neil Carter, who presented the Board with the "River Valley Winter Sports Season Participation Numbers". Over one-hundred thirty-six students participated in the Winter Sports Season. Mr. Carter reported that the numbers for spring sports were down due to summer baseball and softball. He informed the Board that this is the first time River Valley has not fielded a Junior Varsity Baseball or Softball Team.

7.0 Board Committee Reports:

7.1 Buildings and Grounds Committee: Chairperson German informed the Board that the Community Focus Group met last Monday and will meet again on May 11, 2009. This group was formed by invitations from the administration; those who are participating were please to serve on the committee. Information and ideas developed from this group will be passed on to the Board and the administration before proceeding with any type of bond proposal.

8.0 Correspondence: None.

9.0 Old Business: None.

10.0 New Business:

- 10.1 Consider Approval of Accounts Payable for April 2009 and the Treasurer’s Report for March 2009:** Moved by Knutel, supported by Petro, to approve the Accounts Payable for April 2009 and the Treasurer’s Report for March 2009. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.2 Consider Approval of 2008-2009 Third Quarterly Budget Update:** Moved by Petro, supported by Ehlert, to accept the Third Quarterly Budget Update. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.3 Consider Participation in School of Choice Program for the Fall of 2009:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to Participate in School of Choice Program for Fall of 2009. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.4 Consider Approval of Teacher Tenure Candidate:** Moved by Knutel, supported by Ehlert, to Approve Tenure to Joy Ackerman. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.5 Auto Shop:** Superintendent Schroeder introduced Mr. Rock Ruthsatz, Automotive Technology Advisor from Southwestern Michigan College, who gave a brief overview of the Automotive Technology classes to be offer at River Valley High School starting next month. Mr. Ruthsatz gave Board members a class schedule and read the Press Release that Southwestern Michigan College will release concerning the program at River Valley. The classes, which will expand to day and night classes, will be open to the public as well as area high school juniors and seniors who enroll through Southwestern Michigan College. High School students can receive college credit towards an Associate degree in Automotive Technology through their participation in the program. Mr. Warner and Mr. Schroeder have been working with Southwestern Michigan College for some time to get this program up and running. Moved by Knutel, supported by Pfauth, to authorize the administration to proceed with the Automotive Technology Program through Southwestern Michigan College and River Valley School District. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.6 Consider Approval of Resolution for a Reduction in Personnel:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Petro, to approve a Resolution for a Reduction in Personnel. Roll Call Vote: Wagner, Aye; Pfauth, Aye; Petro, Aye; Farhat, Aye, Ehlert, Aye, Knutel, Aye; German, Aye. Resolution declared adopted (7-0).
- 10.7 (A) Consider Approval of Resolution for a Teacher Recall: The two teachers previously “recalled” did not respond to the recall and consequently results in their recall privileges being terminated.** Moved by Wagner, supported by Petro, to accept the automatic resignation of Lisa Klann and Nancy Holda-Weeks. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.7 (B) Consider Approval of Resolution for a Teacher Recall:** Moved by Petro, supported by Knutel, to Approve the Resolution for a Teacher Recall for Gretchen Butler and Richard Jasso. Roll call vote: Wagner, Aye; Pfauth, Aye; Farhat, Aye; Ehlert, Aye; Petro, Aye, Knutel, Aye; German, Aye. Resolution was declared adopted (7-0).
- 10.8 Consider Approval to Place a Teacher on a Reduced Schedule for 2009-2010 School Year:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Petro, to place Joy Ackerman on a reduced schedule for the 2009-2010 school year, due to enrollment factors that could affect the district. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.9 Accept Donations:**

- 10.9.1 Accept Anonymous Donation to Girls' Softball Program:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to accept the \$484.74 donation from an anonymous individual for the Girls' Softball Program. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.9.2 Accept Donation of a Baritone to Music Department:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Knutel, to accept the donation of a Baritone from Mr. and Mrs. McCamish, with thanks from the district. All Ayes. Motion carried.
- 10.9.3 Accept BP Fabric of America Fund Donation:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to accept a \$500.00 donation to the River Valley Elementary School with thanks to Mr. Brian Sellin and the BP Fabric of America Fund. All Ayes. Motion carried.

11.0 Items for Discussion Only:

- 11.1 Review Bleacher Replacement Information:** We have solicited bids on bleacher replacement in the gym. There are funds available in this year's budget to cover the cost. The only bid we received was from Interkal located in Kalamazoo, Michigan, their bid was \$95,828.00. Installation is scheduled to begin between the 1st and 10th of July and will take two weeks to install.
- 11.2 Policy Review:** School Sponsored Student Publications and Productions. It will be necessary to address the policy in the near future as an entire Board. The Curriculum/Policy Committee will meet prior to meeting with the Board. Mr. Schroeder has contacted the district attorney and will forward that information to the Curriculum/Policy Committee.
- 11.3 Discuss Goal Setting Procedure:** Superintendent Schroeder asked the Board for input on goal setting for the district and what direction the Board would go with setting the goals. Mr. Farhat brought-up the Board retreat idea and all felt it would be a good idea. Mr. Schroeder will work on setting-up a Board retreat, however, the Board thought it would be best to wait until after the May 5, 2009 School Board Election.
- 11.4 MEAP Review:** Superintendent Schroeder discussed the MEAP reporting for AYP and how it will be done differently. Beginning this year, there will be a new format with additional scoring levels within each reported level. When it is known how this will affect AYP etc., it will be discussed at a Board meeting. The Board reviewed a rough draft of River Valley scores compared to the state average.
- 11.5 Schedule Personnel Committee Meeting:** Mr. Knutel, Personnel Committee Chairperson, and Superintendent Schroeder will schedule a Personnel Committee for the first week of May. Committee members will be notified via email on the date. The Personnel Committee will meet to discuss Administrative/Supervisor contracts (last year it was suggested that the Board consider two year contracts for Supervisors as well as Principals), the Administrative index, retirements, and use of stimulus Title I funds.

12.0 Hearing of Persons Present:

- 12.1** Superintendent Schroeder recognized Dave York and Linda Weigel for our recent bus inspection where we scored a perfect 100%.
- 12.2** Superintendent Schroeder recognized River Valley Student Wesley Rieth who was recently named to the Lakeland All Academic Team and will be honored at an upcoming luncheon.

- 12.3** Superintendent Schroeder reported that the flower boxes located near the parking lot of the Middle/High School have been adopted by the Doecker family.
- 12.4** Mr. Warner, Middle/High School Principal, gave an overview of the recent Lakeland Fine Arts Festival held at Cassopolis High School. River Valley was represented by 52 students.
- 12.5** Board Member Wagner announced The Pokagon Fund had created a documentary and a short video about the organization and local projects; the short video featured River Valley Business Manager, Cheryl Capiak. Wagner reminded the Board that the revenue share from The Pokagon Fund, 2% of electronic gaming for the first two years, would drop to 1% in August. This would be reflected in the funds available to the school district.
- 12.6** Board Member Wagner said she decided not to address the NCA Quality Assurance Report through the Curriculum Committee. As a consultant for comprehensive school reform and school improvement, Wagner said one of the worst things that can happen to a school is for a Board, with limited knowledge in the academy, to tell the administration what to do. Rather, it is the role of the Board to support the administration and hold school leaders accountable for improvement. She suggested a standing agenda item for Board meetings regarding administration efforts or progress made towards challenges identified by the NCA review team. Wagner reminded all that a year had already passed since the team's visit to the high school, yet the Board had heard nothing about the district's response. Superintendent Schroeder said the high school's response was drafted and would be shared with the Board. All agreed that many quality actions are underway within the district, but the Board is unaware of most. The Board agreed that an update on school improvement would be on the agenda under the Superintendent's Remarks.

Wagner said that one of the areas highlighted by the assessment team was the use of research-based curriculum and instructional methods that facilitate achievement for all students. The report indicated availability of funds for educators to attend professional conferences, yet a challenge identified by the assessment team was a lack of evidence that the staff engaged in any research of best practices or discussions of the most effective instruction strategies. Wagner suggested that when teachers attend conferences, they have a form to complete, indicating five new strategies they learned. Three of these would be implemented, the dates of implementation, and a plan to share these strategies with fellow staff. Farhat and Petro stated that when they attend professional conferences, it is expected that they share training, techniques, and new information with their co-workers.

- 13.0 Adjournment:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Petro, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.