



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, May 18, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

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**MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: None

**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 Petro, supported by Knutel, to accept the agenda as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**4.0 Recognize Class of 2009 Top Ten Seniors:** President Farhat and the Board recognized and presented certificates to the class of 2009 Top 10 Seniors. Those recognized were: Frank Groen, Lana Smith, Tera Koebel, Wesley Rieth, Marguerite Lubarski, Kyle Totzke, Jacob Stark, Katherine Oldenburg, Steven Laborn, and Douglas Anstey.

**5.0 Review Regular Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2009:** The Board will approve the minutes from April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

**6.0 Buildings & Grounds:**

**6.1** Mr. Schroeder informed the Board that the second meeting of the community leaders took place on Monday, May 11, 2009. They are working towards the direction that the River Valley School District should proceed on with our facilities. The committee members are working on fact-finding missions. They will meet again once the information is obtained. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet with representatives from Wolgast Corporation, prior to next week's Board meeting, to review various funding options for facility upgrades.

**7.0 Curriculum/Policy:**

**7.1 Policy Review: School Sponsored Student Publications and Productions.** It will be necessary to address the policy in the near future as an entire Board. Mr. Schroder has contacted the District's Legal Representation and we will wait to hear their recommendations. Mrs. Wagner asked that the Board receive the Administration's recommendations prior to addressing this issue as a Board.

**8.0 Finance:**

- 8.1 Review Accounts Payable for May 2009 and the Treasurer’s Report for April 2009:** Mrs. Capiak reviewed the Accounts Payable for May 2009 and the Treasurer’s Report for April 2009. The Board will approve the Accounts Payable and the Treasurer’s Report at their next regular meeting.
- 8.2 Review Resolution for Public Notice on Hearing on the Proposed 2009-2010 Budget:** The Board will take action on this Resolution at their next regular meeting.
- 8.3 Review Resolution for Berrien RESA Operating Budget:** The Board will take action on this Resolution at their next regular meeting.

**9.0 Personnel:**

- 9.1 Review Head Coaching Recommendations for 2009-2010 Fall/Winter Sports Season:** Athletic Director, Neil Carter and the Administration has made the following recommendations for Fall and Winter Varsity Coaching Positions for 2009-2010:

Football	Jeff Degner
Volleyball	Tia Roberts
Cross Country	Mark Foreman
Cheerleading	Danielle Birochak
Boys Basketball	Shawn Gedert
Girls Basketball	Zac Robertson
Wrestling	Alan Berget

The Board will take action on these recommendations at their next regular meeting.

- 9.2 Review Administrative and Supervisory Contract Extensions:** The Board received copies of Administrative and Supervisory contracts and a Pay Formula handout. The Board will take action of this item at their next regular meeting.
- 9.3 Review Recommendation to Hire Girls’ Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach:** The Administration has recommended Gina Grosso to fill the position of Junior Varsity Girls’ Volleyball Coach. The Board will take action on this item at their next regular meeting.
- 9.4 Retirements(s):** The following individuals have submitted their letters of retirement: Susan Rubbeck, Laura Williams, and James Patejdl. The Board will recognize these individuals at their next regular meeting.
- 9.5 Excalibur Personnel Incorporated:** Excalibur, third party administrator, continues to offer services to River Valley and other Berrien County Schools. There is a discounted rate effective next year. The Administration is recommending that we continue with this company. Linda Weigel would be interested in retiring and being employed by Excalibur to provide transportation supervisor services to River Valley. This would save the district \$15,000-\$20,000 per year. The Board will take action on this item at their next regular meeting.
- 9.6 Review Recommendations for Middle School Staffing:** The Administration would recommend the position of ELA. He/she would target those identified as needing extra help and administer small group instruction. The Board will take action on this item at their next regular meeting.
- 9.7 Review Recommendation for Elementary Kindergarten Position:** Kindergarten registration is ongoing. Currently there would be 15 per section if we stay at three sections or 22/23 if we go to

two sections. The Administration's recommendation is to stay at three sections. The Board will take action on this item at their next regular meeting.

- 9.8 Discuss Need for Recalls:** If Items 9.6 & 9.7 are approved by the Board, the following would result: recall Joy Ackerman to full-time as well as Jennifer Flick. Also Elementary Art Teacher, Lisa Van Plew-Cid would be recalled to her part-time art position. The Board will take action on this item at their next regular meeting.

**10.0 Other:**

**10.1 Review 2009-2010 Handbook Changes:**

**10.1.1 Elementary Student Handbook:**

Cover: Added our MIBLSI Pledge

Page 4: Added statement about MIBLIS

Page 5: Added a line that said registration packets were issued at Back to School Night.

Page 8: Under School Delay and/or Closing due to Inclement...changed it to Instant Alert Notification System...Updated text and added the information on Instant Alert System, and how to access.

Page 14: Lunchroom procedures...removed them and put them at the MIBLSI expectations for lunchroom with other expectations at the end of handbook.

Page 16: Breakfast and Lunch Programs...Updated text and added information on Meal Magic and how to access.

Page 17: Transportation...included a statement that bus suspensions would include field trips and athletic events.

Page 19: Inserted the New Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy from Neola.

Page 22: Printed MIBLSI expectations for Classroom, Special Events, Playground, Hallway and Common Area, and Cafeteria.

Page 23: Copy of a "blue note"...otherwise known as an office referral form, with explanation of the referral process.

**10.1.2 Middle/High School Student Handbook:**

Update: Cover letter with proper dates/names of personnel.

Page 12: Skipping: (Add) Disciplinary action will be as follows: 1-class period=Wednesday Detention; ½-day=Saturday Detention; Full Day=Two (2) day suspension.

Page 31: Bus Safety Regulations-Transportation Rules and Consequences (Add) All suspensions from the buses include routes, extra-curricular, field trips, and athletic buses. Serious Offenses, but NOT Limited to: (Add) Bullying and Harassment.

Page 32: Cell Phones (Add) Violation of cell phone use: Third Offense-confiscated/parent notified/held one week in office and parent must pick up cell phone.

Page 41: Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy (Updated). It is the policy of the River Valley School District that no person shall on a basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, height, weight, marital status or any other legally protected characteristic be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.

**10.1.3 Athletic Handbook:**

The only change will be the new conference on page 3, which we have updated.

The Board will take action on these items at their next regular meeting.

- 10.2 Consider Approval of Proposed Revisions to the RVEA Contract.** Moved by Ehlert, supported by Knutel, to accept the Revisions to the RVEA Contract. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**10.3 Review Recommendation on Bread and Milk Bids for 2009-2010.** The Board will take action on this item at their next regular meeting.

**10.4 Review Recommendation on Meal Prices for 2009-2010.** The Board will take action on this Item at their next regular meeting.

**10.5 Review Resolution for Berrien RESA Biennial Election:** We will need to appoint a representative and alternate at the next meeting and direct him/her on which candidate to get our vote. The Board will act on this item at their next regular meeting.

**11.0 Items for Discussion Only:**

**11.1 Review Plans for River Valley High School Graduation – May 29, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.** Middle/High School Principal, Wayne Warner, asked Board members to meet in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 6:15 p.m. the day of graduation.

**11.2 School Improvement Team – Mission, Vision, Beliefs.** Board members reviewed Mission, Vision, and Belief statements from the School Improvement Team. Board Member Wagner recommended that the Board develop the district's statements. Suggestions from staff members are always welcome. The district needs to have measurable statements and review them every school year.

**11.3 Discuss Board of Education Meeting Dates and Times for 2009-2010.** Board members will take action on this item at the next regular meeting.

**12.0 Announcements:**

**12.1 Donation.** River Valley School District received a donation of a new Maytag Washer and Dryer. The Board will vote to accept this donation, with thanks, at their next regular meeting.

**12.2 Congratulations to Newly Elected Board Member, Vickie Wagner.**

**13.0 Hearing of Persons Present:**

**13.1** Mr. Warner presented the Board with copies of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards Banquet Program from the Berrien County Career & Technical Education.

**14.0 Adjournment:** Moved by Wagner, supported by Petro, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.