



River Valley Board of Education
River Valley School District
15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128
www.RiverValleySchools.org

Work Session: 7:30 PM, Monday, August 13, 2007
River Valley Middle/High School Library

1.0 Call To Order

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

Members present: Michael Ehlert, William Farhat, J.C. German, Steve Graziano, Fred Knutel, Ronald Petro and Vickie Wagner.

Superintendent Robert Schroeder and Finance Coordinator Cheryl Capiak were in attendance.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

President Farhat led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 PA 56 Resolution Overview

Paul Bergan, Regional Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Berrien County Intermediate School District (BCISD), reviewed CTE in Berrien County and the proposed Consortium Contract. The current Consortium's 15-year agreement is up for renewal.

4.0 Finance

4.1 Review Accounts Payable & Treasurer's Report

Finance Coordinator Capiak reviewed accounts payable and gave the treasurer's report:

Accounts Payable for August, 2007

General Fund \$120,744.86
General Fund Prepaid \$205,314.68
General Fund Payroll \$158,863.64
Athletic Fund \$4,367.87
Athletic Fund Prepaid \$0
Athletic Payroll \$65.25
School Lunch Fund \$1,629.00
School Lunch Fund Prepaid \$2,638.46
School Lunch Payroll \$0
Total Accounts Payable \$493,623.76

Treasurer's Report for July, 2007

General Fund \$1,397,446.54
Combined School Service Fund \$16,641.54
Activity Fund \$276,441.51, including scholarship dollars and funds donated to the school district

President Farhat thanked Capiak for her work.

4.2 Special Education Numbers

Superintendent Schroeder reported that the special education enrollment is usually full and he will keep the Board apprised.

4.3 Donations

Superintendent Schroeder reported on donations to the district for the Community Work Days, including:

- 4.3.1 Corvette Central** – use of scissor lift
- 4.3.2 Jeff Knapp Drywall** – use of scaffolding/materials
- 4.3.3 Chikaming Township** – funds to repair the tennis courts
- 4.3.4 Norm and Jeanne Dudeck** – cash donation (used to purchase food for volunteer workers) and a bushel of peaches

Superintendent Schroeder reported on work completed on the tennis courts, including leveling and repairing one corner, resurfacing with asphalt, and repairing the fence. A coat of sealant will be applied by the custodial staff.

4.3.5 Discuss Recognition Procedure for Monthly Berrien Community Foundation Donations

Superintendent Schroeder asked how the Board would like to acknowledge such donations to the school. Petro recommended and the Board agreed that additional letters of appreciation be sent. President Farhat expressed the Board's appreciation to all the Community Work Days volunteers and for all the generous donations.

5.0 Policy/Curriculum

5.1 Distribution of Revised Policies

Superintendent Schroeder reviewed the following policy revisions:

5.2 Snap Suspensions (Handbook) – one-day suspensions

5.3 Attendance – with 10 days of excused absences, students now have the opportunity to earn credit for missed classes by making up missed work and demonstrating competencies

5.4 Athletic Handbook – updated, comprehensive guide for both student athletes and parents/guardians

6.0 Personnel

6.1 Staff Recommendations

Superintendent Schroeder reported on the following staff recommendations:

6.1.1 Review Recommendation to Hire Head Varsity Volleyball Coach – Andrew Martz

6.1.2 Review Recommendation to Hire Bus Driver – Barbara Kain

Transportation Supervisor Linda Weigel reported that one application had been received with the June 26, 2007 posting.

6.1.3 Review Recommendation to Hire Part-Time Middle/High School Custodian – Judy Pries

6.1.4 Review Recommendation to Hire Part-Time Preschool Staff Assistant – Jennifer Flick

6.1.5 Review Recommendation to Recall Preschool Teacher from Half-Time to Full-Time – Joy Ackerman

Current preschool enrollment is 28 students. Superintendent Schroeder reported that 47 students were currently enrolled in Kindergarten, but two students were probably moving to Buchanan. This compares to 58 Kindergarten students in 2006-07.

6.2 Openings

Superintendent Schroeder reported on the following vacancies:

6.2.1 Junior Varsity Football Coach – this position will depend upon student enrollment

6.2.2 Middle School Football Coach (2 positions)

6.2.3 Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach

6.2.4 Title I Teacher Assistant (2)

6.2.5 Night Custodian – Middle/High School (6.5 Hours)

6.2.6 Night Custodian – Three Oaks/Chikaming Elementary (6.5 Hours) – this custodian position requires split time between both elementary schools and is a part-time, 32.5-hour position

6.3 Contracts

Superintendent Schroeder reviewed previous work and proposed contracts for two consultants:

6.3.1 Discuss Renewing Contract with JD Technology Group Inc. – James J. Yech

6.3.2 Discuss Renewing Special Education Supervisor Contract – Linda Olson

7.0 Buildings & Grounds

7.1 Work Day Report

German reported on the Community Work Days and the efforts involved in the preparation and the actual work days. Seventy adults and students from New Buffalo, Three Oaks, Chikaming, Stevensville, Baroda and New Carlisle (Indiana) volunteered, and nearly all had some expertise with repairs. Some worked alone while others worked in teams. Baseboard tiles were replaced, shelves were built, walls and trim were painted, grounds were landscaped, broken bleacher treads were replaced and 6th grade lockers were moved. Schroeder commented on the positive atmosphere and attitudes and that community members have called for another work session. He stated Principal Garry Lange, German, Ehlert and he were developing a list of needed repairs at the elementary schools in order to schedule additional Community Work Days. President Farhat thanked everyone for donations of equipment and the work completed.

7.2 Gym/Locker Rooms

Superintendent Schroeder and Finance Coordinator Capiak reported on the gymnasium ceiling tile replacement, repair and painting and all the work completed in the locker rooms. Schroeder offered a tour of the facilities at the close of business. Capiak reported that \$25,000 was earmarked for the ceiling repair and it was completed under budget. Special thanks were expressed for Dave York who spray-painted the gymnasium ceiling and Sherry Knapp, Sue Rubeck, Keith Zabel, Kevin Zabel and Neil Carter who also helped renovate the middle/high school gymnasium ceiling.

7.3 Tennis Courts

Superintendent Schroeder reported on the \$3,000 donation from Chikaming Township for the repair of the tennis courts. Chikaming Township has a long history with River Valley and the repair will provide another recreational opportunity to local residents and students. A sign visible from Three Oaks Road will be placed, indicating all residents are able to use the tennis courts.

8.0 Other

8.1 Public Relations

Wagner asked that the Board consider a policy for public relations. The District newsletter covers all activities, Principal Lange does an exceptional job with media promoting the elementary schools, and the arts and sports are covered by the press, but the middle and high school grades are not always touted for their accomplishments. The Board discussed possible classroom participation with press releases and the website as additional ways to promote the school and our staff's and students' accomplishments.

8.2 Discuss Mission Statement

Superintendent Schroeder brought to the Board's attention two mission statements: 1) *We believe all children can learn and we are committed to providing a positive learning environment in which all students have the opportunity to achieve academic success, to learn to communicate clearly and think critically, and to become productive lifelong learners and self-directed responsible citizens through a STRONG working partnership with school, home and community;* and 2) *The mission of the River Valley School District, embracing our unique location, cultural opportunities and community, is to produce responsible, contributing lifelong learners through instilling value in self and others, enriching our curriculum, and meeting the demands of a changing world.* Schroeder noted one mission statement was developed by the Strategic Planning Committee. Discussion addressed review of the mission statements and metrics and measurements of attainment of mission statements.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion by Graziano, support by Petro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Wagner, Secretary