



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

Special Board Meeting – RV Middle/High School Library
Tuesday, January 5, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President German at 6:03 p.m. Members present: President German, Trustee Pfauth, Trustee Knutel, and Secretary Farhat. Vice President Ehlert arrived at 6:04 p.m., Trustee Wagner arrived at 6:08 p.m. during Agenda Item 4.0. and Treasurer Petro arrived at 6:41 p.m. during Agenda Item 6.0. Superintendent Robert Schroeder was also present.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President German.

3.0 Consider Approval of Agenda as Presented

Motion made by Knutel, supported by Farhat, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4.0 Michigan Race to the Top Plan

Superintendent Schroeder provided a summary of the MOU language and deadlines as they have been updated daily since the last Board meeting of December 14, 2009. Included was the change that State Superintendent Michael Flanagan has stated that school districts can opt out of the three page MOU with the state if after further information becomes available that the MOU is not in the best interest of the District. Another change is that only the board president and superintendent need sign the MOU as there has been resistance by unions to enter into the agreement, although the state would get more points towards landing the grant if all three sign (the MEA and the AFT are publically stating that they do not support the RTTT plan). Funding is still anticipated to be around \$55,000 for RV, out of the \$400,000,000 that the state is hoping to get through the grant. The emphasis of the RTTT plan is a data driven assessment of students and how they've been taught and a pre-college curriculum emphasis. Also, it was shared that the tenants of the RTTT were signed into law by Governor Granholm, so regardless of the MOU status they would have to be implemented by RV.

Board members discussed at great length the changes and the updated information. Secretary Farhat mentioned that with the new ability to withdraw from the MOU if it becomes detrimental to the District, that there, would appear to be no reason not to participate. It was also discussed that since it is now law, the District should get as much of the money as possible to support the District's operations.

5.0 Consider Michigan Race to the Top MOU and Resolution

Motion by Farhat, supported by Wagner, to consider the Race To The Top (RTTT) MOU. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Board members discussed the MOU as suggested by the state and the MOU was read into the record by Secretary Farhat.

Motion by Wagner, supported by Farhat to adopt the resolution. **Roll Call Vote: Pfauth – AYE, Farhat – AYE, Ehlert – AYE, German, - AYE, Wagner – AYE, Knutel – NAY (Petro arrived after the roll call vote). Resolution Adopted (5-1).**

6.0 Other

Superintendent Schroeder discussed the current transportation policy of not driving into neighboring districts that have closed due to poor weather conditions. Other districts do not have this policy and RV's policy has been questioned by several affected parents. The matter has been referred to the Curriculum/Policy Committee for further review.

7.0 Adjournment

Motion by Wagner, supported by Farhat, to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously.**

William G. Farhat, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education