



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, September 14, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.**

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MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order by President German at 7:00 P.M. Members present: President German, Vice President Ehlert, Trustee Knutel, Trustee Pfauth, Trustee Wagner, and Secretary Farhat. Members absent: Treasurer Petro.
- 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 Ehlert, to approve the amended agenda with the addition of Item 9.3: Accept Resignation of High School Cheerleading Coach under Personnel. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- 4.0 Review Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2009  
Action to be taken at the next Regular meeting; there was no discussion on the matter.
- 5.0 Correspondence  
There was no correspondence for the Board.
- 6.0 Buildings & Grounds
  - 6.1 Survey Results  
President German discussed the results of the student parent / guardian survey and related that the results were positive and supported the construction of a new school. The results of the survey will be shared before the next meeting. Hebard and Hebard Architects along with Wolgast Construction Management will be coming up with a PowerPoint presentation for an October 12, 2009 Special Work Session. Trustee Wagner asked about the bond placeholder information and was assured that the language was not a planned course of action but a means to be put on the list of financial assistance.
- 7.0 Curriculum/Policy  
No report made.
- 8.0 Finance
  - 8.1 Review Accounts Payable for September 2009 and the Treasurer's Report for August 2009  
Cheryl Capiak reviewed the Accounts Payable and Treasurer's Report for the Board. Trustee Wagner asked questions regarding the size of deposits and their distribution in regards to FDIC protections, which were answered by Ms. Capiak. No other questions were posed.
  - 8.2 Presentation of 2008-2009 District Audit Report  
The draft District Audit Report was presented by Accountant Auditor, Mike Layher, from Schaffer & Layher. Mr. Layher discussed the positive trend of the District's general fund, how

it compares to other school districts, and provided information on additional protections afforded to banks during the current economic crisis along with other general points of the report.

Mr. Layher offered to provide additional information via phone if Board members had questions and he will present the finalized report at the next Regular meeting.

## 9.0 Personnel

### 9.1 Consider Recommendation to Hire Middle School Volleyball Coach

Motion made by Knutel, supported by Ehlert, to hire Jessica Zeiger as the new Middle School Volleyball Coach. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### 9.2 Consider Recommendation to Hire a Part-Time Level III Cook

Motion made by Wagner, supported by Farhat, to hire Jeannine Daniel as the new part-time Level III Cook. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### 9.3 Accept resignation of High School Cheerleading Coach Danielle Birochak effective November 1, 2009 in order for her to return to school full-time.

Motion made by Wagner, supported by Ehlert, to accept the resignation of Danielle Birochak with thanks. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 10.0 Other

### 10.1 Cooperative Education Program Agreement

Mr. Schroeder stated that he had been speaking with the Galien Township School District's Superintendent regarding continuing this agreement. Although it no longer benefits the District financially, Superintendent Schroeder recommended that the program continue as long as the Galien Township School District's Board also approved participation. Action will be taken at the next Regular Board meeting.

### 10.2 Mission Statement

Superintendent Schroeder shared that he had obtained information regarding mission statements from various sources. Trustee Wagner shared her professional experiences regarding the way a mission statement is formulated and measured and how that is different from a vision and core values statements. Middle/High School Principal, Wayne Warner, stated that the School Improvement Team came up with a Pride concept and students enhanced this by creating signs and posters throughout the school and in classrooms stating expectations. Teachers are going to be teaching at least one class regarding these expectations and Pride t-shirts are going to be worn at specific times and events throughout the year. Pride has also been taken up by the senior class as they have, on their own, incorporated Mustang Pride into their class logo. If a student is going to be given a snap suspension, they will be asked to write about how it affects pride.

Trustee Wagner led a discussion with the Board on various terminologies and it was agreed that shorter mission statements are more effective and easier to measure. Vision statements were also discussed as they are more in depth and provide more direction for the District. President German asked Trustee Wagner to work on ideas for the mission and vision statements and she will present some ideas in approximately one month.

Elementary School Principal Garry Lange talked about the effectiveness of communicating core values, via the MiBliSi program, to the elementary children and how they positively respond to clearly communicated expectations instead of a long list of "don'ts." Principal Lange feels that this has contributed to, what he feels, a very good start to the school year.

11.0 Items for Discussion Only

11.1 Review Donations

11.1.1 Donation of a Used Refrigerator to the Transportation Department

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dawson donated a used refrigerator for use in the Transportation Department. Action will be taken on this donation next week.

11.1.2 Donation of Used Fitness Equipment to the Athletic Department

Through Ron and Janel Groth, owners of a local Curves fitness center, and through former Board member, Jerry Kohn, River Valley received a donation of used fitness equipment. Currently the largest problem is finding the best place to put the equipment. Action will be taken on this donation next week.

11.2 College Credit at River Valley

Superintendent Schroeder and Principal Warner related that Teacher Heather Caid has been accepted as an adjunct faculty member of Lake Michigan College in English. Now students can obtain college credit in English Composition (101 and 102) after paying approximately \$100 cost in books and only \$35 a credit hour, which is far less than commuting to campus at the regular credit rate. So far one student has qualified to take the class and more are expected soon.

Principal Warner also stated that so far 7 River Valley and 1 Bridgman students had passed the entry test to participate in the college credit Auto Shop programs. As this is college credit, the testing is required and it is hoped that more students are anticipated next year. Also, LMC is advertising the course and it is expected to continue to grow.

Principal Warner has directed the Department Chairs to come up with a staff member within each core curriculum area that can qualify to deliver college level classes on a wider variety of subjects.

11.3 A.Y.P. Report Cards

Superintendent Schroeder shared that all three RV schools met Average Yearly Progress this year.

11.4 Announcement – SET SEG Reimbursement

Superintendent Schroeder shared that approximately 25% of our SET SEG premium, to the tune of approximately \$10,000, was returned to the District as SET SEG had a surplus at the end of the year.

12.0 Adjournment

Motion made by Wagner, supported by Farhat, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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William G. Farhat, Secretary  
River Valley Board of Education