

River Valley Board of Education  
**RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
15480 Three Oaks Road  
Three Oaks, Michigan 49128  
[www.rivervalleyschools.org](http://www.rivervalleyschools.org)

**Regular Meeting – RV Middle/High School Library**  
**Monday, April 24, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Phillip Bender, Cheryl Capiak, Michael Ehlert, Fred Knutel, John Pawlik, David Whitlow

**Members Absent:** Vickie Wagner

**Administrators Present:** Superintendent William Kearney, Business Manager Brian Brown, Elementary Principal Heidi Clark, and Middle/High School Principal Patrick Breen

**1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Pawlik.

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

President Pawlik led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**3.1 Approval of Agenda as Presented**

Approved the agenda for the April 24, 2017 regular Board meeting.

**3.2 Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2017**

Approved regular meeting minutes.

Moved by Bender, supported by Knutel, to approve the consent agenda for April 24, 2017 regular Board meeting as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**4.0 Reports**

**4.1 Principals**

Each principal updated the Board on various activities/events occurring in their buildings and they provided an update on student achievement. The Board was also given a brief athletics update by the Middle/High School Principal.

The Board discussed the Draft Statements for Building-Wide Grading Policies at the Middle/High School. In particular they discussed the statement that *extra credit will not be given toward improving the academic grade of a student; academic grade must be a true reflection of a student's proficiency on the reported standards.*

**4.2 Superintendent**

Superintendent Kearney highlighted topics published in the recent issue of Law Notes.

**4.3 Finance Committee**

Phillip Bender, Finance Committee Member, reported that the Committee met prior to the Board meeting on Monday, April 24, 2017. The Committee reviewed the proposed budget for 2017-18.

**4.4 Personnel Committee**

Cheryl Capiak, Personnel Committee Member, reported that the Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. The Committee reviewed staffing, benefits, and professional development reimbursements.

**5.0 Hearing of Persons Present**

No public comment was offered.

**6.0 Correspondence**

Superintendent Kearney announced that the Board received correspondence from the following:

- Karen Lubarski - Letter of Resignation – March 3, 2017
- Cynthia Knuth – Letter of Resignation/Retirement – March 31, 2017
- Paul Goodman – Letter of Resignation/Retirement – April 7, 2017

**7.0 Items for Board Action****7.1 Approve the Accounts Payable Report for April 2017 and the Treasurer's Report for March 2017**

Moved by Whitlow, supported by Ehlert, to approve the Accounts Payable Report for April 2017 and the Treasurer's Report for March 2017 as presented by the Business Manager. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**7.2 Adopt Third Quarter Budget Resolution**

Moved by Bender, supported by Knutel, to adopt the Third Quarter Budget Resolution as presented by the Business Manager. Roll Call Vote: Bender – Aye, Capiak – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, Knutel – Aye, Pawlik – Aye and Whitlow – Aye. Resolution adopted (6-0).

**7.3 Adopt 2017-18 Resolution to Endorse Berrien County 5th Year Early/Middle College Program**

Moved by Capiak, supported by Whitlow, to adopt the 2017-18 resolution endorsing Berrien County 5th Year Early/Middle College Program. Roll Call Vote: Bender – Aye, Capiak – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, Knutel – Aye, Pawlik – Aye and Whitlow – Aye. Resolution adopted (6-0).

**7.4 Approve "Due To/Due From" Payment from Sinking Fund to General Fund**

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Bender, to approve the payment of the "Due To/Due From" balance of \$235,000 from the sinking fund to the general fund. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**8.0 Items for Board Discussion****8.1 Student Handbook Changes for 2017-18**

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed student handbook changes for 2017-18 and recommended some language changes to the elementary handbook. Board action will be taken at the next regular scheduled meeting.

**8.2 Berrien RESA General Fund Operating Budget**

The Board reviewed Berrien RESA's general fund operating budget. Board action will be taken at the next regular scheduled meeting.

**9.0 CLOSED SESSION – RE: Collective Bargaining Strategy and Attorney-Client Privilege**

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Whitlow, to enter closed session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining strategy and attorney-client privilege per Section 8(c) and 8(h) respectively of the Open Meetings Act. Roll Call Vote: Bender – Aye, Capiak – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, Knutel – Aye, Pawlik – Aye and Whitlow – Aye. Motion carried (6-0).

Moved by Capiak, supported by Bender, to return to open session at 8:52 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Bender – Aye, Capiak – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, Knutel – Aye, Pawlik – Aye and Whitlow – Aye. Motion carried (6-0).

**10.0 Adjournment**

Motion by Capiak, supported by Whitlow, to adjourn the regular meeting for April 24, 2017 at 8:53 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

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David Whitlow, Secretary  
River Valley Board of Education

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