

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

Regular Meeting – RV Middle/High School Library
Monday, November 21, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present: Phillip Bender, Michael Ehlert, J.C. German, John Pawlik, Vickie Wagner, David Whitlow

Members Absent: Fred Knutel

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 and announced that Trustee Fred Knutel was unable to attend the meeting.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Approval of Agenda as Presented

Approved the agenda for the November 21, 2016 regular Board meeting.

3.2 Approve Special Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2016 (Open & Closed Session)

Approved open and closed session special meeting minutes.

3.3 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Boys' Middle School Basketball Coach

Approved the employment of Brad Hoekstra.

3.4 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach

Approved the employment of Jeffrey Strefling.

3.5 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach

Approved the employment of William Korbelt pending background checks and drug test results.

Moved by German, supported by Ehlert, to approve the consent agenda for November 21, 2016 regular Board meeting as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

4.0 Presentation – Peer to Peer Program

School Social Worker, Elizabeth Kickert, presented a high school elective course (Peer to Peer) that she would like to implement immediately for the 2016-17 school year. The Peer to Peer program will match a non-disabled pupil to a pupil with an individualized education plan (IEP). Mentors work with their assigned pupil during a class period separate from their own core class content. The curriculum is designed as an on-line hybrid course where Peer to Peer students can access all of the content on a weekly basis through the "Moodle" platform. Peer to Peer is a natural approach to improving academic and social outcomes for participants.

Discussion followed. Board action will be taken at the next regular meeting.

5.0 Reports**5.1 Principals**

Each principal updated the Board on various activities/events occurring in their buildings.

Discussion followed.

5.2 Superintendent

Superintendent Kearney updated the Board on the following: School Equity Caucus, School Law Notes, Berrien Community Foundation, nominations for MASB Board of Directors, and scheduling a Board workshop in the spring with MASB (Michigan Association of School Boards).

Mr. Kearney also announced that he will be holding a small reception prior to the December Board meeting to recognize J.C. German for his years of service as member of the River Valley Board of Education.

5.3 Personnel Committee – November 21, 2016

J.C. German, Personnel Committee Member, reported that the Committee met prior to the Board meeting on Monday, November 21, 2016. The Committee reviewed the Middle/High School Principal recommendation and administrative salary scale.

6.0 Hearing of Persons Present

No public comment was offered.

7.0 Correspondence

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

- Hal Sauser RE: Thank You Card – October 31, 2016

8.0 Items for Board Action**8.1 Approve the Accounts Payable Report for November 2016 and the Treasurer's Report for October 2016**

Moved by Wagner, supported by Bender, to approve the Accounts Payable Report for November 2016 and the Treasurer's Report for October 2016 as presented by the Business Manager. All Ayes. Motion carried.

8.2 Adopt 2017 Annual Summer Property Tax Collection Resolution

President Pawlik asked the Business Manager if it would be helpful if revenue was coming in from all entities in terms of the sinking fund in particular.

Business Manager, Brian Brown, expressed that collecting the total revenue annually from Chikaming Township has helped the district tremendously. If the district collected the total revenue annually from each township, the total amount would not come close to what the district receives alone from Chikaming Township.

Moved by Ehlert, supported by Wagner, to adopt the 2017 Annual Summer Property Tax Collection Resolution as recommended by the Business Manager and Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote: Bender – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, German – Aye, Knutel – Absent, Pawlik – Nay, Wagner – Aye, and Whitlow – Aye. Resolution adopted (5-1).

8.3 Adopt Resolution in Support of Participation in the Reading Now Network

Moved by Bender, supported by German, to adopt the resolution in support of participation in the Reading Now Network as recommended by the Superintendent. Roll Call Vote: Bender – Aye, Ehlert – Aye, German – Aye, Knutel – Absent, Pawlik – Aye, Wagner – Aye, and Whitlow – Aye. Resolution adopted (6-0).

8.4 Approve Recommendation to Hire a Middle/High School Principal

Trustee Bender suggested in the future the administration begin administrators (in new job assignments) with a one year contract instead of immediately offering them a two year contract without evaluating them first on their performance. He also expressed that Mr. Breen has never been a building Principal and that the administration should have placed him at a Step 0 rather than starting him at a Step 3 on the salary scale.

Discussion followed.

Moved by Whitlow, supported by German, to approve the employment of Pat Breen as the Middle/High School Principal. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Breen was placed at a Step 3 on the salary scale and given a two year contract.

9.0 Items for Board Discussion**9.1 School Threats Protocols**

Superintendent Kearney announced that the State Police has offered to provide training to staff members in regards to school threats. The Middle/High School Administration (along with the local police department) will also hold assemblies for students and parents regarding the seriousness of school threats, the felony charges involved, and informing the parents that they could be held liable for the cost to keep the district and the public safe.

9.2 Bus Purchase for 2017-18

The Board reviewed a price comparison report for a new school bus for the 2017-18 school year. Board action will be taken at the next regular meeting.

9.3 Superintendent Evaluation Material

The Superintendent distributed his self-assessment and public survey results regarding his performance. He also reviewed the evaluation process that will take place at the next regular meeting.

Discussion followed.

Trustee Wagner thanked the Harbor Country Rotary Club for donating cases of food items to Blessings in a Backpack.

President Pawlik made a note for the record that due to the recent election results, the new State Board of Education will probably be split down the middle on Common Core and LGBT.

10.0 Adjournment

Motion by Bender, supported by Whitlow, to adjourn the regular meeting for November 21, 2016 at 7:56 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

David Whitlow, Secretary
River Valley Board of Education

DLW/bb