

**RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
STAFF-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016**

The River Ridge Staff-Employee Relations Committee met Tuesday, September 7, 2016 in the Superintendent's Office/Board Room of the EL/MS/HS building located at 11165 County P., PO Box 78, Patch Grove, WI 53817.

The following school business was discussed

- I. **Call to Order** – Jason Cathman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. **Roll Call** – Present at this meeting were board members Jason Cathman, Ken Nies, and Kerri Schier. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeff Athey and Business Manager Kevin Kocer.
- III. **Proof of Notice** – Kerri Schier moved to approve that public notice of the meeting was provided Aug. 31 at Noon. Ken Nies seconded and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- IV. **Appearances** – there were none.
- V. **Videotaping of Board Meetings** – The Committee discussed information that was included as part of the meeting packet. Following extensive discussion, the Committee recommended that the Board's Policy and Curriculum Committee review a sample policy on Board videotaping (from the Johnston School District). The Committee also suggested that other sample policies be obtained from districts which videotape board meetings.

The cost of going with a vendor such as Eduvision was of concern to the Committee. The additional expense of adding closed captioning was also of concern. J. Cathman asked about trying Eduvision on a "trial basis" to see how we like it before purchasing a subscription.

The Committee recommended that Board meetings not be video recorded until the Board has a policy in place and has reviewed additional information about Eduvision.

- VI. **Long Range Planning Recommendations: Communication/Community Relations** – The Committee reviewed recommendations from the Communications/Community Relations Task Force for the purpose of identifying recommendations to include in the District's long range plan.

Task Force Recommendation 1: Communications with the Community – The Staff and Employee Relations Committee is in favor of using the district's website in communicating information to the public. They understand that more frequent updates would demand more time from staff members who maintain the website.

Regarding a student newsletter, Tara Drone's English classes have a goal of putting out a monthly newsletter to students and staff.

The flat screen TV that was added this fall to the lobby area at the MS/HS provides another location for school related announcements to be posted. Eventually, pictures of students and activities will be added, along with schedule and menu announcements.

The Board and Administrative Team receive a weekly update (“Week in Review”) from the Superintendent via email. It was suggested that the Superintendent may want to expand on some of the Week in Review topics for inclusion on the school website.

Task Force Recommendation 2: Improve Communications regarding board meetings –

Videotape Board Meetings - The Staff and Employee Relations Committee agreed that a policy pertaining to the videotaping of board meetings should be developed before taping additional board meetings. The Board’s Policy and Curriculum Committee will be asked to recommend a policy to the Board. And, additional information will be gathered by Administration regarding costs and options for web posting and closed captioning.

Allow for citizens to speak at board meetings - A citizen appearance section has been implemented at the beginning and end of each board meeting agenda.

Consider moving to a 5 member board - The Committee is not in favor of moving to a five-person school board.

Follow Roberts Rules of Order – The Committee believes that the board is following Roberts Rules of Orders relatively closely and that the meeting agendas are adhered to.

J. Cathman recommended that a process and timeline be established to provide the Board with progress reports on the District’s long-range plan.

VII. **Appearances** – There were none.

VIII. **Member Suggestions and Recommendations for Future Items**

K. Nies recommended that the Policy and Curriculum Committee begin work on a policy for “Videotaping of Board Meetings” at their Oct. 5, 2016 meeting.

K. Nies said he would like the Oct. 12 Board meeting agenda to include time for each board committee to report out on recommended goals/objectives for the district’s long range plan.

K. Nies requested that K. Kocer provide a status update to the Staff and Employee Relations Committee on the early retirement package that was passed last year. The Committee indicated they would like to meet after the Nov. 8 referendum.

IX. **Adjournment** – K. Nies moved to adjourn. K. Schier seconded and the motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.