

River Ridge School District
Press Release
November 8, 2017

The River Ridge Board of Education held a Regular Board meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, in the multipurpose room of the elementary/middle/high school located at 11165 County Highway P, Patch Grove, WI. The following business was conducted:

- I. Call to Order
Board President Kenny Nies called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
Present: Jason Cathman, Adam Guthrie, Karla Irish, Cory Moravits, Kenny Nies, and Kerri Schier.
Absent: Cory Raisbeck
Also in attendance were Superintendent/Elementary Principal Dr. Jeff Athey, Business Manager Kevin Kocer, 5th/12th Grade Principal Clay Koenig, and Maintenance Director Jim Wunnicke.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. Statement of Notice
Cory Moravits stated that proof of posting of the meeting was given on November 2, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. Kenny Nies declared this an official legal meeting.
- V. Appearances
There were none.
- VI. Construction Site Tour
Maintenance Director Jim Wunnicke took the Board on a tour of the new wing of the school building at the district will be taking possession from Kraemer Brothers on Friday, November 10th. The Board wanted to see the progress that has been made as this project wraps up.
- VII. Approval of Minutes
Adam Guthrie made the motion to approve the October 11, 2017 Regular School Board minutes. Karla Irish seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
- VIII. Reports
 - A. *Finance*
 - i. Financial Statements, Receipts, Expenditures
Kevin Kocer presented the financial report of the past month's financial statements, receipts, expenditures, and gifts and grants. Cory Moravits made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.
 - B. *Buildings and Grounds Committee*
 - i. Discussion of Bloomington Site
The Board spent considerable time discussing what should be done with the Upper Elementary building and property in Bloomington once the 5th and 6th graders are moved into the new addition in Patch Grove. The key items from the discussion were as follows:

- Cory Moravits made the motion that the District sells the Upper elementary School building and grounds. Adam Guthrie seconded this motion. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.
- The Board directed administration to speak to Attorney Eileen Brownlee to put a contract together for selling the building and grounds with the ability to use: the football field, track, lights, scoreboard, press box, restrooms, and locker rooms. The contract would be set up as a 5-year lease maximum, but give the district to get out of the lease sooner if it wants.
- The Board asked Administration to inquire with Attorney Brownlee if selling the building and property through sealed bids is the way to go or by auctioning it off.
- It should be explained up front to a prospective buyer the matter about the tennis courts, the DNR, the District, and the Village of Bloomington and that the District washes its hands from any responsibility dealing with the tennis courts once the property is sold. The new owner and the Village of Bloomington will have to resolve matters with the DNR.
- Prior to the opening of bids or auction that interested buyers can attend an Open House of the property and receive a fact sheet of the building and property from the District.
- Maintenance Director Jim Wunnicke and the custodial staff have the Upper Elementary building and property cleaned up and all furnishings removed by February 1, 2018.
- Following the December 13, 2017 Regular School Board meeting, an ad for selling the building and property be published with instructions when either sealed bids be opened or an auction be held.
- The District has the first right of refusal for any low bids.
- The building and property be sold by February 1, 2018.

ii. Maintenance Director's Report

Jim Wunnicke presented the Maintenance Director's report. Many of the items shared had to do with the wrap-up of the construction project.

C. *Policy/Curriculum Committee*

Kerri Schier reported that the Policy/Curriculum Committee met on Wednesday, November 1st and said seven policies are ready for second reading:

- i. 431 – Student Attendance
- ii. 431 Rule – Student Attendance Procedure
- iii. 443.1 - Student Dress Code
- iv. 443.2 – Student Conduct on School Buses
- v. 443.5 – Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices
- vi. 443.6 – Student Possession/Use of Weapons
- vii. 443.6 Rule – Student Weapons Policy Enforcement Procedure

No changes were being recommended for these policies.

Kerri reported that the Committee looked at one policy coming forward for a first reading:

viii. 345.6 – High School Graduation Requirements

The slight change is noted in "C. Civics Test Requirement." Because of 2-17 Wisconsin Act 59 (effective 9/23/17), the last sentence of that section now reads: "If the IEP team decides that the student must complete the civics test graduation

requirement, the student must complete the test, but does not have to reach the ~~60~~ 65/100 correct in order to meet the requirement.”

Kerri shared the Committee also discussed policy 881.3 “Sunday/Wednesday Night Activities for Public School Students.” Dr. Athey shared two churches in our district have contacted him about their Wednesday night religious education classes. One of the churches offers a supper meal for students between 6:15-6:45pm. Our current policy allows coaches to conduct practiced up until 6:30 pm. The concern is that students who play sports and go to this church would be unable to eat before classes from 6:45 and 7:30 pm. While this policy is not coming forward for a first reading, the Committee did ask the Superintendent to check with other area school district to see what their Wednesday night cut-off time is for practices, as well as see if they allow practices and games on Sundays or holidays. The Committee will hear updates at next month’s meeting.

Adam Guthrie made a motion to approve policies i.-vii for second reading and policy viii for a first reading. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

D. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Athey recommended that an Open House be held Saturday, December 9th from 1:00-3:00pm for the public to see the new wing of the school and these areas that were remodeled. He said that it would start out in the new gym with short speeches given by representatives from Kraemer Brothers, FEH Design, the School Board, and Administration before people could then tour the facility. Kraemer Brothers will provide a sheet that explains all they did, what they have yet to do over Christmas break, and other things they have done that the public may not be aware of. FEH Design will put together a slide show of the project from start to finish. The District will provide cake and punch in the Multi-purpose Room. The Board accepted this recommendation. Administration will get started in publicizing this event.

On November 10th, 5th and 6th graders will receive a tour of the new addition prior to the Veteran’s Day Program. They’ll also have an opportunity to locate their new lockers and try out their locker combinations.

On November 27th, an assembly program for the 5th through 8th graders, teachers, and staff will be held at 8:00am in the new middle school gym. Representatives from Kraemer Brothers, FEH Design, the School Board, and Administration will be on hand before a ribbon-cutting ceremony takes place and students are dismissed to their classrooms.

E. Technology Committee Report

Dr. Athey shared the minutes of Tuesday, November 7th’s Technology Committee Meeting. Discussion topics from that meeting included: the plan for the re-distribution of chromebooks for teachers and students, the new look to the district’s website, 16 River Ridge teachers participation in TEACH Grant workshops, and timelines for when the new computer lab and Distance Education rooms will be set up and ready for use.

IX. Old Business

A. External Site Planning – FEH Design

Jason Cathman made the motion to grant FEH Design permission to proceed in doing an external site plan for the school district. Karla Irish seconded this motion. The motion carried 6-0 on a roll call vote.

B. Clarification of Para-Educator Support Staff Compensation

Kevin Kocer wanted the Board to be aware of a concern that was brought forward that not all support staff are being compensated at the same rate of pay, specifically, when the Board approved a \$2.50 an hour increase in pay for the Technology Integrator/Classroom Aide position, which is held by Sue Kuenster, to teach keyboarding and computer skills to elementary students. The raise is justified for the time and expertise Sue put into lesson planning and teaching. Dr. Athey noted that this is far less money than what it would cost to hire a full-time, licensed Business Education teacher. It was felt this clarification need to be made in the minutes.

X. New Business

A. Resignations/Hiring/Maternity Leave

Dr. Athey mentioned that Administration has received a letter from Mallory Martin, Phy. Ed./Health Teacher, that she would like to begin her maternity leave on November 27th. Administration is in the process of securing a long-term substitute for Mallory during this leave. Kerri Schier made a motion to acknowledge this leave request. Adam Guthrie seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Dr. Athey brought forward a recommendation for hiring Linsie Groom as a full-time Special Education aide working 1:1 with a student. The IEP is the driving force behind why an aide is necessary to work with this particular student. Karla Irish made a motion to approve the hiring of Linsie Groom. Cory Moravits seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

XI. Appearances

There were none.

XII. Information

A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Kenny Nies reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

- i. Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting – December 6 at 5:00 p.m.
- ii. Technology Committee Meeting – December 12 at 7:15 a.m.
- iii. Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting – December 13 at 5:00p.m.
- iv. Regular Board Meeting – December 13 at 6:00 p.m.

At the advice of legal counsel, it was suggested that the following occasions be posted as 4 or more Board members being present:

- 5th-8th Grade Assembly – November 27th at 8:00a.m.
- River Ridge Open House – December 9th at 1:00p.m.

B. Board of Education Member Suggestions and Recommendations for Future Items

Adam Guthrie had received a telephone call requesting information about how detentions are handled at school. The parent wanted to know if there is a policy regarding this and if the policy is being followed. Administration reminded the Board to remind parents of the “chain of command” and re-direct the parent to speak to the Administration of that particular grade level. Meanwhile, the Policy and Curriculum Committee will address this at its December 6th meeting.

Cory Moravits would like to talk about the Records Room/classroom for the reading teacher as an agenda topic for next month’s Board agenda. He asked that noting be moved until the board has had a chance to discuss this at the next meeting.

Jason Cathman shared that he has observed some adults not parking their vehicles within the painted lines designated for parking. He asked if Administration could re-send a communication home to parents clarifying its pick-up/drop-off parking policy.

Adam Guthrie said he parked his vehicle on the south side of the high school the night of the Benton-River Ridge girls' volleyball tournament game back in October, and it was very dark. He asked if it were possible for our Maintenance Director to add more wall packs to help light this area better.

Kerri Schier asked for an explanation of how the new middle school gym will be used. Specifically, she expressed her hope that it be available for the 5th through 8th grade students when they need it. Clay Koenig replied that he would gladly share the gym use schedule developed by the Athletic Director with her. If she has further questions, she could speak with Wade and Clay.

Cory Moravits mentioned that the boys varsity basketball coach shared a letter recently with players about expectations for the upcoming season. Cory mentioned that the letter state if players had a concern about something regarding basketball, they should discuss it with the coach. Cory's point was if the player didn't feel comfortable discussing it with the coach, is it all right if the parent speaks with the coach. Clay Koenig responded by saying he hasn't seen the letter, but if a parent felt the need to speak with the coach, then he/she should do so.

Adam Guthrie asked Jim Wunnicke how much snow should be removed at the Upper Elementary school this winter if the building is unoccupied after November 17th. Jim told Adam to do the front of building, the area adjacent to the south entrance, and a loop around the building for emergency purposes. There is no need to blade the entire parking lot on the south side of the building if we have no one there.

XIII. Adjournment

Jason Cathman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kerri Schier seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.