

River Ridge School District
Press Release
January 23, 2017

The River Ridge School Board held a regular board meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017. The meeting was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the ES/MS/HS building located at 11165 County Hwy P, Patch Grove, WI. The following business was conducted:

- I. Call to Order Board President Kenny Nies called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. Roll Call The following board members were present: Jason Cathman, Cory Moravits, Kenny Nies, Cory Raisbeck, and Kerri Schier. Absent was: Dave Breuer.
Also in attendance: Supt. Dr. Jeff Athey, Business Manager Kevin Kocer, 5th – 12th grade Principal Clay Koenig, Kevin Eipperle (FEH Design), and Greg Callin and Kyle Kraemer (Kraemer Brothers).
- III. The Pledge of Allegiance The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. Statement of Notice Cory Moravits stated that public notice of this meeting was given January 18, 2017 at 3:00 pm. Motion by Cathman/second by Raisbeck. The motion carried on a voice vote.
- V. Appearances There were none signed up to address the school board.
- VI. Approval of Minutes – Minutes were approved as printed for each of the following board meetings:
 - A. Special Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2016
 - B. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2016
 - C. Special Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2016
- VII. Closed Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2017
- VIII. Reports
 - A. Finance Kocer presented the monthly finance report of financial statements, receipts, and expenditures. He provided the board with a report showing budget levels vs. expenditures for the first half of the school year. Updated reports will be made to the board in late March and early May. The Board approved the financial report.
 - i. Approve Audit Services for FY17 The Board approved engaging Johnson and Block to audit the district's financials for FY 17 at a cost of \$11,500.
 - B. Buildings & Grounds Committee Report
 - i. Kraemer Brothers Contract The Board approved a contract with Kraemer Brothers for the 2017 construction project.
 - ii. Construction Budget – Kraemer Brothers & FEH Design The Board approved a revised construction budget following the review and elimination of some project options. The Board plans to attend a bid opening at Kraemer Brothers in Plain, WI on Feb. 8, 2017 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. Kraemer Brothers will provide River Ridge with a guaranteed maximum price for the construction project before work begins.

Greg Callin said the new wing at Patch Grove cannot be occupied until mid-November. This is due to two separate issues. 1) A need to bring in substantial amounts of fill, due to poor soils, and 2) efforts to purchase a strip of property adjacent to the east side of the school campus; approval of the purchase will require a special electors meeting.

- iii. Permanent Access Road Discussion The Board tabled a decision on whether to establish a permanent access road pending acquisition of a strip of property adjacent to the east side of the school campus.
 - iv. Retain Delta 3 for survey of adjacent property The Board acted to retain Delta3, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000, to survey property adjacent to the east side of the school campus (property owned by Roy and Mickey Quick).
 - v. Consideration of resolution to hold a special electors meeting The Board authorized Administration to prepare for scheduling a special electors meeting to consider the question of whether the district may purchase a strip of adjacent property. Purchase of the property is being recommended for purposes of fire suppression response and elementary playground space.
- C. Pre-Referendum Services from Rettler Corporation The Board approved payment of a \$2,500 bill from Rettler Corporation for pre-referendum design services.
- D. Policy/Curriculum Committee Kerri Schier reviewed the January 4, 2017 Policy/Curriculum Committee meeting.

The Board approved the following policy updates following a 2nd reading:

- i. 188.1 – Audio and Video Recording of School Board Meeting [revised]
- ii. 672 – Purchasing Procedures [replacement]
- iii. The Board tabled action on Replacement of Policy Manual Sections 920-950 with new and revised policies to reflect current practice. The Board asked that this set of policies be brought to the February board meeting for a 1st reading.

The Board approved the 1st reading of the following policy updates:

- iv. 321 - Annual School Calendar and School Hours [replacement]
 - v. 760 – Food Services Management [replacement]
 - vi. 760.1 Free and Reduced Price Meals [revised]
 - vii. 852 – Distribution of Non-School Related Materials [replacement]
- E. Staff & Employee Relations Committee Jason Cathman reviewed the January 4, 2017 Staff & Employee Relations Committee meeting. Business Manager Kevin Kocer reported that the cost of paying 16 support staff members affected by moving the last day of school year (to May 26) amounts to \$5,566.35. Kocer also reported that the district saved \$59,168 in making early retirement available to 3 teachers at the end of 2016/17 (Faurote, Graewin, & Mergen) and hiring their successors at lower salaries.

F. Superintendent's Report 5 - 12th grade Principal Clay Koenig shared district report card results from the 2015-16 school year and what the district is doing to try and raise student scores from "basic" to "proficient". The state report cards look at such criteria as: Student Achievement (English & Math), Student Growth, Closing Gaps, and On-Track/Post-Secondary Readiness (e.g. Graduation Rate, Attendance Rate, 3rd Grade English/Language Achievement, and 8th Grade Math Achievement). The district report card information is on the district's website and published in the Jan. 26 edition of the Grant County Herald.

IX. Old Business

A. Long Range Plan Recommendations The Board approved the following initiatives at RRSD, to begin fall, 2017. The initiatives are a result of community, staff, administration, and board input to the District's long rang plan.

1. All day, every day 4K kindergarten
2. Advanced Placement Science
3. After Hours Homework Assistance Program
4. Cross Country

The first three initiatives are aimed at improving student ACADEMIC performance.

4K Every Day – RRSD's current 4K students attend all day for 2 to 3 days/week. Administration will hire an additional 4K teacher this summer to provide two sections of 4K kindergarten which means students will attend every day, all day. District residents have pressed for the change to create a more consistent routine for children and to make weekday schedules easier to manage for working parents. Educators believe that such full-day programs facilitate children's academic and social adjustment while contributing to their acquisition of the skills and knowledge associated with academic success.

Advanced Placement (AP) Science Class – AP classes offer students an opportunity to gain even more from their high school years through coursework that can translate to college placement and course credit. RRSD currently offers AP English and AP History. The district will now offer an AP Biology course.

After Hours Homework Assistance Program – a teacher supervised homework assistance program will begin in late September. Assistance will be available for K-12 students for one hour after school on Monday-Thursday. Transportation to home will need to be arranged by parents. The program will be offered on a trial basis for the 17/18 school year. Continuance will depend on participation rates and federal funding through Title 1.

The fourth initiative, Cross Country for girls and boys, was proposed following a survey of RRSD middle and high school students on their co and extra-curricular interests. Cross Country ranked high on the interest survey and is within the district's reach with regard to cost and student numbers.

The Board tabled action on a proposed long-range plan initiative to move to a 1:1 platform of one Chromebook per student. The Board will revisit the initiative after the district learns what the guidelines are for the use of a student technology contest award from Samsung.

X. New Business

- A. The Board approved a declaration regarding open enrollment: "RRSD will not deny 2017-18 open enrollment applications due to space"
- B. The Board approved for publication a recommended "Notice of Educational Options within River Ridge School District"
- C. The Board accepted, with regrets, the January 18, 2017 resignation of Emilie Mumm from the RRSD Board.
- D. Board Chair Kenny Nies appointed Cory Moravits to replace Emilie Mumm on the Policy/Curriculum Committee.
- E. The Board authorized Administration to publish notice of the school board vacancy.

XI. Appearances Sarah Breuer addressed the Board regarding start-up costs for Cross Country.

Board members recognized the TouchDown Club for organizing an extremely successful benefit on behalf of student Joseph Hamann and his family.

VI. Information

A. Upcoming meeting Schedule

- i. Buildings and Grounds Committee – January 30 – 8:30 am for board committee members; joined at 9:00 am with FEH Design and Kraemer Brothers representatives.
- ii. Buildings and Grounds Committee – February 6 to 9:00 am
- iii. Policy/Curriculum Committee – February 1 at 5:15 pm
- iv. Staff and Employee Relations Committee – February 1 at 6:00 pm
- v. Special School Board Meeting – February 1 at 6:45 pm
- vi. Technology Committee Meeting – February 7 at 7:15 am
- vii. Special Board Meeting – February 8 at 1:30 (Plain, WI) (re: bid package opening)
- viii. Regular Board Meeting – February 8 at 5:15 pm

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

Kenny Nies asked Administration to talk with Eileen Brownlee and Deb Martell about adding a disclaimer at the top of future board agendas to the effect that any item on the agenda may require action at the meeting.

Cory Raisbeck recommended the Staff-Employee Relations Committee begin a discussion about staff reductions in food service and custodial services in preparation for such time that we move from two buildings to one.

Cory Raisbeck recommended more recognition of students who participate in National High School Rodeo. He gave the Superintendent a Rodeo Association booklet for the Athletic Director.

VII. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.