

River Ridge School District
Press Release
Wednesday, May 11, 2016

The River Ridge Board of Education conducted a regular board meeting Wednesday, May 11, 2016. The meeting was held in the Multi-purpose room of the school in Patch Grove, located at 11165 County Highway P.

The following items were addressed:

- I. Call to Order** - Board President Ken Nies called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- II. Roll Call** All board members were present. Also present was Superintendent Dr. Jeff Athey, Business Manager Carol Harris, school district attorney Eileen Brownlee, and members of the public.
- III.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
- IV. Proof of Notice** – A May 6, 2016 notice of the meeting was approved.
- V. Appearances** - One member of the public spoke during the public participation segment. Nelda Krogman addressed the Board regarding three topics: the early retirement package which was approved at the April 28, 2016 meeting, the district's long-range plan, and how much/who pays when the school attorney is present.
- VI. The Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2016 were approved with one change; correcting Justin Morrow's name to read as Austin Morrow.**
- VII. The Special Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2016 were approved as printed.**
- VIII. Election of Board Clerk and Board Committee Reorganization** - Ken Nies reported that Emilie Mumm respectfully declined the role of clerk as was voted at the April 28, 2016 meeting. Cory Moravits was elected Clerk.

Board Committee Re-organization - The following committee appointments were made and approved:

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Cory Moravits, Ken Nies, & Cory Raisbeck. The Board also approved a motion to change from Building/Grounds and Finance Committee to just "Buildings and Grounds Committee" with finance issues being addressed by the full Board.

Policy/Curriculum Committee: Kerri Schier, Emily Mumm & Jason Cathman (meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday at 5:15 pm).

Staff-Employee Relations Committee: Jason Cathman, Ken Nies, & Kerri Schier. Meets early spring and late fall.

Safety Committee: Cory Moravits to serve as the Board representative on the school district's staff committee.

Technology Committee: Cory Raisbeck to serve as the Board representative to the school district's staff committee.

CESA #3 Board of Control Representative: Emilie Mumm to serve as the Board representative to CESA #3's annual meeting at the CESA #3 office in Fennimore – 1x/year.

WASB Delegate: Dave Breuer to serve as Board representative to the WASB State Conference; Jan. 18-20, 2017 in Milwaukee.

IX. Committee Reports

A. **Student Activities Update** – Austin Morrow, Student Council liaison to the Board, shared upcoming activities and events (e.g., the Music/Forensics Awards Night on May 18, Senior Awards Night on May 25, Graduation on May 27, Semester exams – June 1 -3 and the last day of school, June 3). Student Council has also begun planning for homecoming next fall.

B. Buildings & Grounds

- i. Trenton Smith of McKinstry provided a construction update.
- ii. McKinstry provided the district with a list of recommendations and cost estimates for possible future projects. The information will be used to help craft a 10-year maintenance plan.
- iii. T. Marshall discussed results of air quality testing performed by EMC insurance. The testing found that CO2 levels in Room 111 (Jeff Graewin) and 117B (Heidi Serres) were above the recommended levels. McKinstry will recheck HVAC settings for both rooms. The Committee recommended EMC return in the fall, after the start of school, to repeat CO2 testing. No mold spore issues were identified in any of the rooms which were tested.
- iv. Carol Harris reviewed financial statements, receipts, and expenditures. The report was approved by the Board.
- v. Carol Harris reviewed a list of ways 2015-16 budget balances, accrued from health insurance premium holidays, could be spent. A total of \$330,000 is available to be spent before June 30, 2016. The Board approved spending some of the accrual on a new copier. The Board will make a decision regarding other accrual expenditures at a Special Board Meeting on May 19.
- vi. Carol Harris explained 2016-17 operating budget assumptions based on Wisconsin Act 55 (the budget bill for 2015-17) and its effects on the River Ridge School District. The information is an introduction to what will be shared at a Special Board meeting on May 19 beginning at 6:00 pm. when the Board discusses items to be included in a preliminary district budget for 2016-17.
- vii. Carol Harris shared site operating costs of the two RRSD campuses. This was an informational item only.

C. Staff and Employee Relations Committee

- i. Approve Health, Dental and Vision Insurance Premium Rates and Renewal - Brent Straka from TRICOR Insurance appeared before the Board. He said that due to the low claims experience for RRSD enrollees, TRICOR supports decreasing the district's health insurance premium rates for 2016/17 and reducing the coinsurance levels at 1-1-17. TRICOR also recommends that health insurance coverage be expanded to transplant options and Teledoc. TRICOR is recommending no increase in RRSD dental and vision insurance premiums. The Board approved the health, dental, and vision premium recommendation as presented.
- ii. Approve 2016-17 Compensation for these Employee Groups:
 - a. Teachers and Extra-Duty – The Board approved a 2.5% salary increase for the teachers and 2.0% increase for extra-duty.
 - b. Specialty Licensure Staff – The Board approved a 2.5% salary increase for specialty licensure staff (1 employee).
 - c. Support Staff – The Board approved a 40 cent per hour raise for support staff and to pay RRSD's Director of Maintenance a salary of \$44,500 for 2016-17 with the provision of readjusting to \$47,000 if federal regulations implemented in October, 2016 justify the increased rate.
- iii. Approve List for 2016-17 Teacher Contracts –The Board approved a list of staff for issuance of 2016-17 teacher contracts.
- iv. Approve List for 2016-17 Specialty Licensure Contracts – The Board approved the 2016-17 specialty license contract list.
- v. Approve List for 2016-17 Letters of Assignment for Support Staff – The Board approved a list of support staff to receive 2016-17 letters of assignment.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Discuss Process for Developing Long-Range Plan** –Board members agreed to assign community task force committee reports to the various Board committees when the Board meets May 19 in special session.
- B. **Camera at west end of high school** – Troy Marshall said our current camera system doesn't allow for another camera being added to the building. He is seeking pricing for a new system and will report to the Board at a future meeting.
- C. **Videotaping of Board Meetings for placement on website** – The Board deferred decision on this item, pending receipt of more information at a future meeting about necessary equipment, policy changes, and staffing for videotaping.
- D. **Board packet materials on-line, and at meetings, for general public** – The Board deferred decision on this item, pending receipt of more information at a future meeting about necessary hardware and software.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) – Request for district funding effective 2016/17 school year** – The Board acted to recognize FBLA as a school organization. The Board added \$2,000 to the 2016/17 budget for FBLA and added

the position of FBLA advisor to the extra-curricular compensation schedule at a rate of 5%.

- B. **Approve Applications for Open Enrollment (In and Out) for 2016-17** – The Board approved the open enrollment requests for 2016-17.
- C. **Approve Student Fees and Hot Lunch Meal Prices for 2016-17** – The Board acted to raise 2016/17 meal prices for grades 9 – 12 by 5 cents.
- D. **Approve 2016-17 Transportation Rates with WARCO Transportation** –The Board approved WARCO’s pricing proposal for 2016/17 which represents a 3.17% increase from 2015/16.
- E. **Accept Resignations/Retirements**– The Board accepted, with thanks and regrets, the retirement letters of three teachers: Sandra Mergen (Art), Jill Faurote (4K) and Jeff Graewin (Grade 6).
- F. **Approve Amendment of 403(b) Plan to Allow Employer Contributions** –The Board approved amendment of the 403(b) plan to allow for employer contributions. (The action is a corollary to the Board’s recent decision to provide a retirement package for up to three teachers.)

G.

XII. **Appearances Pertaining ONLY to Today’s Agenda Items** - Three people spoke under the Appearances segment:

- Brian Nichols complimented the board on the night’s meeting and on good hiring decisions by the board and administration.
- Bob Woods expressed dissatisfaction with the microphone system and explained that he has difficulty hearing the meeting proceedings.
- Darlene Mueller asked for a copy of the site operations costs and a copy of the bus contract with WARCO. [Mrs. Mueller will be able to obtain copies under our Open Records request policy/procedure.]

XIII. INFORMATION

A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- i. Technology Committee – May 17, 2016 at 7:15 am
- ii. Special Board Meeting – May 19, 2016 at 6:00 pm (2016/17 Preliminary Budget discussions)
- iii. Policy/Curriculum Committee – June 1, 2016 at 5:15 pm
- iv. Building & Grounds Committee – June 15, 2016 at 5:00 PM
- v. Regular Board Meeting – June 15, 2016 at 6:00 PM

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

- Bus bids discussion (Moravits)
- Parking/pick-up at end of school day (Raisbeck)
- Signage for baseball and softball fields re: no alcoholic beverages permitted on school property or at school events (Schier)

C. Adjourn –The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.