

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN:
January 7, 2015

The Special Meeting of the River Ridge Board of Education was called to order by President Lea Breuer on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 5:34 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present:

Lea Breuer
Randy Martin
Kenny Nies

Dave Breuer
Kerri Schier

Bob Key and Bob Mathre were absent. Also present were Lee Pritzl, Carol Harris, Carol Wirth, Dave Cihasky, and members of the public.

Kenny Nies presented proof of posting showing notice of the meeting posted on January 5, 2015, at 3:12 p.m. at the River Ridge Elementary, Middle/High School, Upper Elementary School and the post offices in Bagley, Bloomington, Glen Haven, Mt. Hope and Patch Grove. The motion was made by Kerri Schier and seconded by Randy Martin to approve the posting. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

IV. APPEARANCES

Bart Breuer discussed his opinion that the public had been misled during the last referendum in that the number to “bare minimum fix” the buildings was never provided. Sarah Breuer stated her opinion that there are many issues that need to be addressed within the school system that are not addressed by the State’s inspection report. A representative of Lewis Consulting, who is representing Darlene Mueller, explained some of their concerns about the school district’s ADA compliance, the transparency required by school districts to promote referendums similar to the last one and the feeling that they want to sustain this school district in northwest Grant County.

Bob Mathre arrived at 5:38 p.m.

V. INFORMATION

A. Presentation by Carol Wirth. A presentation by Carol Wirth discussed all the school district’s options for obtaining the funding to complete the school building upgrades. There is only one regular election date available in 2015. The deadline to call for a referendum for the April 2015 election is January 22, 2015. A special election can be called by a school district for a different date, but the district will have to pay the costs associated with the election. If funding is considered to be from within the operating budget, then the payments will have to be taken from the annual operating budget and some cuts will have to be made elsewhere to allow for that payment. If funding is considered to be from outside the operating budget, then the payments will be made from the tax roll and will not affect the annual operating budget. Riverdale School District’s energy efficiency project was discussed. There was a huge amount of information presented during this discussion.

B. Identify and Discuss Possible Projects/Solutions for the Future of the District. There was an extensive discussion between several members of the public and members of the board about our options for the school district’s future. It was discussed whether we should be at one site or two. Future upgrades for the education, health, and well-being of the students and staff of the district were also discussed. There were no final conclusions decided upon. The conclusion that has been determined is that the issues we face are not going away. Some members of the board and the public feel that a referendum in April is necessary. Some others feel that we don’t have enough time to get it done by the January 22 deadline. The final thought is that we need to contact the State Inspectors to determine what timeframe they will allow for the repair of their reported violations.

C. Identify the Project and Related Costs Regarding the State’s Updated Deadline Regarding the District’s Violations. Dave Cihasky presented the project and related costs regarding the state’s updated deadline in relation to the district’s violations. He reported that the state is requiring that the district provide them with a written plan explaining the intentions and timeframe for addressing the violations in the reports. Also minor repairs that can be taken care of on our own should be noted in the written plan as well. It was mentioned that the inspectors will be at the Patch Grove site on Friday, January 9, 2015, and that they are the people to ask the questions that have been brought up. The new deadline from the state is January 16, 2015.

D. Discussion on Resolutions that the Board Will Need to Address at the Regular Board Meeting on January 14, 2015, in Order to Comply with the State's Deadline. Eileen Brownlee provided most of the information for this discussion.

VI. APPROVAL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT FOR 2015-2016

The motion was made by Lea Breuer and seconded by Bob Mathre to table this discussion until next week's regular meeting. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

The board may move into closed session in accordance with Wisconsin Statute sections 19.85(1)(c) for the following purpose: Considering performance and evaluation of district employees.

The motion to convene into closed session was made by Bob Mathre and seconded by Kenny Nies. On a roll call vote, the following voted yes:

Bob Mathre	Lea Breuer
Dave Breuer	Randy Martin
Kerri Schier	Kenny Nies

The following voted no: none. Bob Key was absent. The motion carried. The meeting convened into closed session at 8:35 p.m.

VIII. RETURN TO AND RECONVENING IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting returned to open session at 9:46 p.m.

IX. ACTION, IF ANY IS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN IN OPEN SESSION, ON CLOSED SESSION MATTER

No action needed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Kenny Nies and seconded by Bob Mathre. On a voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Kenneth D. Nies, Clerk