

River Ridge School District  
Press Release  
October 11, 2017

The River Ridge Board of Education held a Regular Board meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 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 6:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Jason Cathman, Adam Guthrie, Karla Irish, Cory Moravits, Kenny Nies, Cory Raisbeck and Kerri Schier.

Absent: None

Also in attendance were Superintendent/Elementary Principal Dr. Jeff Athey, Business Manager Kevin Kocer, 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal Clay Koenig, Special Education Director Amy Mezera 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 October 4, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Kenny Nies declared this an official legal meeting.

V. Appearances

None at this time.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Cory Raisbeck made the motion to approve the following minutes:

- May 10, 2017, Closed Session
- May 30, 2017, Closed Session
- June 14, 2017, Closed Session
- September 6, 2017, Closed Session
- September 6, 2017, Regular Board Meeting

Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

VII. 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. Adam Guthrie seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all seven board members approved the motion. There were "0" no votes. The motion carried.

ii. 2017-18 Budget Update

Kevin Kocer provided an update of the 2017-18 budget. He reviewed some changes that have occurred since the last report to the Board related to General Fund Expenditures (e.g., transfer to Special Education Fund +\$55,448, additional 1.41 FTE special education aids needed and insurance benefits due to enrollment increases +\$42,092) and General Fund Revenues (e.g., per pupil aid +\$27,050, sparsity

aid -\$51,190, high cost transportation -\$9,532, property taxes +\$115,662, state equalization aid -\$23,520, enrollment higher than estimated (533 estimated on July 12, 2017, actual 549), lag in state aid totals, and completed audit expenditure total). The change from the last time he reported went from a surplus of \$7,000 to a deficit of \$34,294.

*B. Buildings and Grounds Committee*

- i. The Buildings and Grounds Committee met earlier this evening from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Kenny Nies shared the items contained on Jim Wunnicke’s written report. Much of that report was about updates regarding the construction project.

Kenny shared four project alterations and additional costs from our contingencies as prepared by Mitch Gilbertson (Kraemer Brothers):

#15 Gymnasium moisture sealer	\$9,750
#16 Full exposed aggregate polished concrete	\$5,640
#17 Storm water underground drain system at playground wood chip area	\$2,900
#18 Omit section of concrete sidewalks near east playground	<u>(\$3,950)</u>
Pending Proposals	\$14,340
Remaining contingency after pending proposals are approved	(\$5,085)

The Board express their concerns about #16 (aggregate polished concrete). The Board was not happy with the look of the combined salt and pepper and aggregate rock and said it needed to all look the same. So, because additional work had to be performed to go deeper into the concrete, the Board said the district should not have to pay this additional charge.

Cory Moravits made the motion to approve #15, 17, and 18 change orders, but not approve #16. Adam Guthrie seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all seven board members voted “yes” in support of the motion. There were “0” no votes. The motion carried 7-0.

The Board directed the superintendent to contact Mitch Gilbertson, project manager, to say Kraemer Brothers will have to cover the entire cost of change order #16 (\$5,640).

Kevin Eipperle (FEH Design) was present and said his firm would create a drawing(s) and lay out a plan for the outdoor grounds of the Patch Grove site if the Board was interested in him talking with others, then coming up with a master plan for the price of \$3,690.00. Whether or not the district wishes to do something now with its outdoor campus or at a later time, this work (plan) could be done now ready for implementation when the Board deems it is timely. Adam Guthrie made the suggestion that taking action on this matter (“yes” or “no”) be tabled until next month’s regular board meeting. The Board agreed with this suggestion.

- ii. Discussion of Bloomington Site  
The Board intends to make this the focal point of the next regular meeting.

*C. Policy/Curriculum Committee*

Kerri Schier reported that the Policy/Curriculum Committee met last Wednesday (October 4) and said five policies are ready for second reading and seven other policies are ready for a first reading tonight.

- i. 412.1 - Full Time Student, Second Reading

- Jason Cathman made the motion to accept the policy for a second reading. Karla Irish seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
- ii. 420 - School Admissions, Second Reading  
Adam Guthrie made the motion to accept the policy for a second reading. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - iii. 420 Rule – Procedure for Placing Transfer Students, Second Reading  
Adam Guthrie made the motion to accept this policy for a second reading. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - iv. 443 - Student Conduct, Second Reading  
Karla Irish made the motion to accept this policy for a second reading. Kerri Schier seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - v. 443 Rule - Code of Classroom Conduct, Second Reading  
Adam Guthrie made the motion to accept this policy for a second reading. Cory Moravits seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - vi. 431 – Student Attendance, First Reading  
Jason Cathman made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Karla Irish seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - vii. 431 Rule – Student Attendance Procedure, First Reading  
Kerri Schier made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Adam Guthrie seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - viii. 443.1 - Student Dress Code, First Reading  
Cory Moravits made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - ix. 443.2 – Student Conduct on School Buses, First Reading  
Adam Guthrie made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Karla Irish seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - x. 443.5 – Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices, First Reading  
Kerri Schier made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - xi. 443.6 – Student Possession/Use of Weapons, First Reading  
Kerri Schier made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Karla Irish seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.
  - xii. 443.6 Rule – Student Weapons Policy Enforcement Procedure, First Reading  
Cory Moravits made the motion to accept this policy for a first reading. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

*D. Technology Committee Report*

Dr. Athey shared that the district's Technology Committee had met on October 3. Agenda items for that meeting addressed Samsung laptops/tablets, Patrick Gokey's replacement at Dependable Solutions, the line of site problem between Patch Grove/Bloomington has been resolved, the TEACH Grant, Chromebooks, school Facebook pages, and the relocation of printers/copiers from the Upper Elementary when everyone is at the Patch Grove site.

*E. Superintendent's Report*

Dr. Athey shared letters written by four 6<sup>th</sup> graders addressed to the School Board thanking them for granting them permission to hold the outdoor education experience at Wyalusing on September 27-29. He thanked the Board for having had the opportunity to attend the WASDA State Superintendents Conference in Madison on September 20-22, and talked about some of the general/concurrent sessions he attended for professional development. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Enrollment Count day showed the district is up 26 students from this time a year earlier. The superintendent shared the moving day and inservice day plans for November 16 and 17. He mentioned that

Kevin Kocer would be sharing the Chromebook purchase plan with the Board under New Business.

VIII. Old Business

There was none.

IX. New Business

A. *Bus Contract RFP (Request for Proposal)*

Kevin Kocer asked the Board if they want to request bus contract proposals as the current contract with WARCO Transportation expires June 30, 2018. If “yes”, then the RFP process needs to start now. After discussion, Cory Moravits made the motion to start the RFP process now. The motion failed due to a lack of a second. The Board voiced that the district continue its bus service with WARCO Transportation and that we move forward with a new contract with them. Jason Cathman asked Doug, Tom and Tim Hoffman to keep track of the cost savings to the district between now and June and then report back to the Board what those cost savings were and for how much.

B. *Purchase of Chromebooks*

Kevin Kocer shared that the Administrative Team has been meeting with BJ Birkholz and Jennifer Gallagher of Dependable Solutions to develop a 5-year plan for the purchasing of Chromebooks. There is \$24,000 already built into this year’s budget to purchase 115 Chromebooks. A plan is in place for the (re)distribution of Chromebooks throughout the district and where these new Chromebooks will go. Kerri Schier made the motion to approve the purchase of these 115 Chromebooks out of this year’s budget. All seven board members voted “yes.” There were “0” no votes. The motion carried 7-0.

C. *Special Education Aide Hours Adjustment*

Kevin Kocer shared that one of our special education aides (Lynn Schreiber) needed to have her work hours of employment changed from 4 to 4 ½ hours. Adam Guthrie made the motion to approve this change. Jason Cathman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

D. *FFA Investment CDE Authorized Signers*

Kevin Kocer stated that because Shea Esser is our new Ag teacher/FFA advisor (no longer Bret Iverson), there is a need to get names changed on the bank signature card to Dr. Jeff Athey, Clay Koenig, Kevin Kocer and Shea Esser. Jason Cathman made the motion to grant this action. Kerri Schier seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

X. Closed Session

The Board waived going into Closed Session to discuss staffing reductions. They felt not enough information is known on what our staffing needs will be once everyone is at one site. Administration shared that they are studying staffing reductions, but has nothing tonight to report in Closed Session. Maintenance Director Jim Wunnicke did receive a report today from MATC, who had done a custodial staffing study for the square footage of our facility and what FTE it takes to clean and maintain it, but we have had no time to process it yet. Realistically, we are not in any position to recommend staffing reductions until at least midyear; and, maybe not until closer to the end of the 2017-18 school year.

XI. Reconvene in Open Session

Did not go into Closed Session

XII. Action, if any

None at this time.

XIII. Appearances

Nelda Krogman shared that a posting for tonight's board meeting was not up at the Post Office in Bloomington. She asked who is responsible for making sure it is posted there. Kenny Nies said that administration will look into the matter.

Nelda also asked what is happening with the Bloomington School/property. This has been an ongoing agenda item for the past several months. The Board responded by saying they would like to make this topic the primary focus of the next board meeting.

Nelda also asked how many acres are at the Bloomington site. No one could answer this question tonight. The Board will look into this.

XIV. Information

A. *Upcoming Meeting Schedule*

Kenny Nies reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

- i. Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing – October 25 at 7:00 p.m.  
(With a very short Special Board Meeting to follow to approve the levy)
- ii. Policy and Curriculum Committee Meeting – November 1 at 5:15 p.m.
- iii. Technology Committee Meeting – November 7 at 7:15 a.m.
- iv. Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting (Jim Wunnicke will provide a written report for the November 8 Regular Board Meeting)
- v. Regular Board Meeting – November 8 at 5:30 p.m. (Focus will be on what to do with the Bloomington site)

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

Adam Guthrie wants to know what is it that needs to be done regarding snow removal at the Bloomington site once everyone is at the Patch Grove site. He would like Jim Wunnicke to let him know.

The Board wants to meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, for its next regular meeting. Cory Raisbeck said he would check to see if he has a conflict with that date. If he does, the Board would change the meeting to Monday, November 6. The focus of the November meeting will be what to do with the Bloomington school/site/next steps.

XV. Adjournment

Kerri Schier made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Cory Raisbeck seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.