

RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PRESS RELEASE  
Thursday, January 14, 2016

The River Ridge Board of Education held its January school board meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016. The meeting was held in the Cafeteria of the patch Grove school located at 11165 County Highway P. The following items were addressed:

- I. Board President, Dave Breuer, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. All members of the school board were present when the roll was called.
- III. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. Emilie Mumm stated that the meeting notice for this meeting was properly posted in a timely manner on January 8, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. Randy Martin moved to accept the posting protocol; Emilie Mumm seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.
- V. Under "Appearances," no one signed up to speak to the Board in the public comments section.
- VI. Lea Breuer moved and Ken Nies seconded to approve the minutes of the regular December 9, 2015, board meeting as presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.
- VII. The following Board Committees presented oral reports of their meetings held in December and early January.
  - A. Buildings and Grounds/Finance Committee

Troy Marshall and Trenton Smith (McKinstry) presented a construction update. Troy mentioned several projects needing to be addressed at both schools and brought forward these recommendations:

- A digital control update to two gym uninvents at the Upper Elementary school to fix the problems we have been having with the gym being too hot or too cold. Cost: \$5,000.
- Install a new cabinet heater with a thermometer in the Guidance Counselor office at the Upper Elementary school. Cost: \$1,600.
- Add spray foam insulation in the ceiling of the Guidance Counselor at the Upper Elementary to address cold air issues. Cost estimate: \$1,200.
- Install two destratification fans in the Ag Shop to push down warm air to keep the room warmer. Cost: \$400 plus the cost of the conduit.

Troy shared other maintenance issues with the Board:

- A frozen pipe in the Elementary wing of the Patch Grove school which broke on Monday night. The pipe was repaired the same night. McKinstry will reimburse the District for the cost of repair, labor, and materials. McKinstry will also inspect the area of the pipe freeze to ensure insulation is appropriate.
- A pump needed to be ordered for a compressor at the Upper Elementary. Cost: \$632. This was approved by Administration under the maintenance budget.
- A small leak on the front of the Upper Elementary boiler was discovered yesterday (1/13/2016); it will be addressed today (1/14/2016).
- On December 29<sup>th</sup>, an internet upgrade was done, but after hooking things back up, it was discovered there were problems with the Honeywell system. Troy had to re-program putting data back in. The problem was corrected.

Cory Raisbeck said he had spoken with Trenton Smith about lighting upgrades/controls. Trenton Smith said to the full Board that he (McKinstry) could do 1 of 2 mock-ups to show the difference in lighting:

- One option would be to do mock-ups in three classrooms in each of the two schools (e.g., three classrooms in the elementary wing; three classrooms at the Upper Elementary; and three classrooms in the Middle/High School. Cost: \$6,000 (which the district could roll into a plan if they wished to do more).
- The second option would be to mock-up just one classroom. No cost to the district.

The proposals will be placed on the February Board agenda for possible action.

Troy Marshall said that two bids for roof repair at the Patch Grove school had been received from Apex and Allen Roofing. Top Notch had indicated they would submit a bid only after a structural engineer would produce a plan on how to address the repair. After considerable discussion, Dave Breuer moved that any decisions about what to do to address the roof repair be tabled until the February Board meeting. This motion was seconded by Lea Breuer. During further discussion, it was indicated that Allen Roofing could re-submit a bid for only the portion of the roof that needs repair; and, that Top Notch be invited to the February meeting to speak to the full Board. The motion passed.

Randy Martin moved to accept the Buildings and Grounds report as presented. The motion was seconded by Kim Nies. The motion carried by voice vote.

Carol Harris presented the financial report to the Board. Lea Breuer expressed her praise and appreciation for all Lisa Clark does in raising money for materials (i.e., playground equipment) that benefits children. Lea also asked Carol if she foresees the District using anymore premium holidays. Carol said it is possible and the one used already this year had helped with the deficit gap, but that it wasn't budgeted for as ones in the past had been. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Cory Raisbeck and seconded by Emilie Mumm. The motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.

## B. Staff-Employee Relations Committee

Dave Breuer reported on the Dec. 14 and Jan. 11 Staff-Employee Relations Committee meetings. He said the Committee will be bringing recommendations to the Board in February for the following action items a) a retirement package which will benefit up to three teachers and b) employee handbook changes – including language that address staff reduction and recall policies for teachers and support staff.

## C. Policy/Curriculum Committee

Lea Breuer reported on the January 6, 2016 Policy/Curriculum Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed three policies (346-Student Assessment policy; 342.7 – Services/Programs for English Language Learners; and 424 - Open Enrollment policy) that are coming up for readings at tonight's meeting. She said the Committee also discussed 462 – "Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship" policy which they are recommending that the Board adopt tonight; waiving the first reading. L. Breuer talked about three new policies that are being brought forward tonight for first readings. She shared that the Committee also looked at a strategic planning policy which will be brought to the board in February for a first reading.

The Board approved each of the following motions by unanimous voice vote:

- Lea Breuer moved, Emilie Mumm seconded to accept 346 – Student Assessment policy (2<sup>nd</sup> reading).
- Lea Breuer moved, Dave Breuer seconded to accept 342.7 – Services/Programs for English Language Learners (2<sup>nd</sup> reading).
- Ken Nies moved, Lea Breuer seconded to accept 424 – Open Enrollment policy (2<sup>nd</sup> reading).
- Randy Martin moved, Cory Raisbeck seconded to accept 462 – Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship policy – waiving the first reading and adopting the revised policy on January 13.
- Lea Breuer moved, Kerri Scheir seconded to approve 343.4 – Course Options Program policy (1<sup>st</sup> reading).
- Cory Raisbeck moved, Ken Nies seconded to approve 345-6 – Graduation Requirements proposal revised policy (1<sup>st</sup> reading).
- Lea Breuer moved, Kerri Schier seconded to approve 345.61 – Early Graduation policy (1<sup>st</sup> reading).

## D. Technology Committee

Dr. Athey reported on the Dec. 22, 2015 Technology Committee meeting. The Committee continued its planning for the February 10, 2016, teacher In-service where hands-on technology training sectionals will be provided from 10:00 a.m. – noon. Sectional choices may include: Google Docs, Twitter overview, video editing, Pinterest, YouTube, Nearpod.com, Smartboard overview, and sequence of computer skills (for K-6<sup>th</sup> grade). Teachers from River Ridge, as well as staff from CESA#3, will facilitate the sections. Jan Block will also review BadgerLink and WISNET with teachers

as well as talk about E-Books. The Technology Committee will meet again on January 26<sup>th</sup> to finalize plans for the February 10<sup>th</sup> in-service. The Committee will also be discussing 363.1 – Internet Safety and Responsible Use policy – specifically, how we teach safe, ethical, legal, and responsible use of the internet to students and staff and the districts internet system, and their rights and responsibility under this policy.

VIII. Under “Old Business”, Dr. Athey provided the Board with an update on the progress for creating a long-range plan for the River Ridge School District. He shared that 5 community input sessions were held in December (in Bloomington, Mount Hope, Bagley, and Patch Grove). On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 28 community members and school staff met and were divided into six task force committees (e.g., Facilities, Fiscal Efficiencies, Academics, Co- & Extra-curricular Activities, Community Relations/Communications, and Technology). Each group was given the findings from the community input meetings with the charge of developing goals/recommendations for the topic assigned to their committee. Committee goals/recommendations are due to the Superintendent no later than February 5<sup>th</sup>. At the February 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, a spokesperson from each committee will present their goals/recommendations to the full Board. At the Feb. 10 meeting, the “raw data” gathered at the December public input sessions will also become available to the Board and general community. The Board will oversee development of a long-range plan and will have the option of incorporating goals and recommendations from the community input process.

IX. The Board addressed two topics under “New Business”

- A. District policy 424 – Open Enrollment requires that each year, in January, the Board indicate whether building space will play a role in the number of open enrollment applications accepted by the district. Lea Breuer moved and Ken Nies seconded, that “the River Ridge School District will not deny 2016-17 open enrollment applications due to space.” The motion was approved by voice vote.
- B. Austin Morrow presented the “Student Activities Update”. He mentioned that Student Council has already begun planning for Homecoming Week for fall of 2016. He also shared that high school students will be taking semester exams on January 20 and 21. Board president Breuer asked Morrow if he would like to present earlier on the agenda. Morrow indicated that it’s fine to leave the report near the end of the agenda.

X. Under “Information”, the following was reviewed:

- 1. Upcoming meeting schedule
- 2. Technology Committee – Jan. 26, 2016 at 7:30 AM
- 3. Policy Curriculum Committee – Feb. 3, 2016 at 5:15 PM
- 4. Buildings/Grounds and Finance Committee – Feb. 10, 2016 at 5 PM
- 5. Regular Board Meeting – Feb. 10, 2016 at 6 PM

Board of Education Member suggestions and recommendations for future items: No suggestions or recommendations were made.

## Adjournment

Lea Breuer moved adjournment. Randy Martin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.