



TIMBERWOLF NEWS

January 2025



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IMPORTANT DATES

January 2
School Resumes

January 5
FFA Banquet

January 8
Board Meeting

January 15 - 16
HS Semester
Exams

January 17
No School
Records Day

School Performance

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a wonderful first half of the year at River Ridge! We are excited about our students, our staff, and our community. As a learning community, we are continually looking to improve at the River Ridge School District. The school report card is one resource we use to reflect on our strengths and areas for improvement.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statute/115.385)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current school report card is primarily based on last year's performance during the 2023-24 school year, though multiple years of data are used throughout the report card. DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

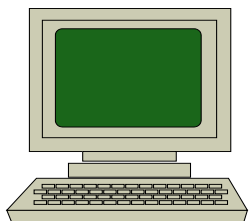
- **Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
- **On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement and is not aligned with traditional 0-100 grading scales. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from Fails to Meet Expectations to Significantly Exceeds Expectations, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

Performance continues to Page 2

Mission Statement

The River Ridge School District will strive to provide a safe, challenging environment for each individual student by promoting excellent staff development, encouraging meaningful parent involvement, and earning strong community support through honesty, integrity, and open communication.



Visit our website at
www.rrsd.k12.wi.us

District Administrator

Clay Koenig
608-994-2715 or
koenigcl@rrsd.k12.wi.us

Editor

Tamara Hoffman
hoffmanta@rrsd.k12.wi.us

Questions or suggestions for future articles, please call the District Administrator's Office at 608-994-2715

Performance from Page 1

Here's some information we'd like to share from our school/district report card:

School 2023-2024

River Ridge School District	68.5 Meets Expectations
River Ridge Elementary	75.8 Exceeds Expectations
River Ridge Middle School	72.7 Exceeds Expectations
River Ridge High School	61.6 Meets Expectations

I want to share these results with you because they help illuminate some of our successes and help pinpoint areas of focus in our school/district. But as DPI stresses, these report cards are just one source of information about our school. Here are some additional results that show we are moving in the right direction.

School and district report cards can be accessed online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards> along with resources that explain the report cards. Our school report card is also posted on school website.

Sincerely,
Clay Koenig, Superintendent

Title I Gingerbread House Building Night

by Karen Jeardeau



Our annual River Ridge Title 1 Gingerbread Family Night was held on Wednesday, December 11. Families enjoyed building gingerbread houses, playing games and explaining what happened to the gingerbread man! Thank you to everyone who attended for a fun night!

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers."

Amy Jones - Student Service Coordinator
608-994-2715 ext. 302
P.O. Box 78, 11165 County Highway P
Patch Grove, WI 53817

Bill Hannah - Elementary Principal
608-994-2715 ext. 102
P.O. Box 78, 11165 County Highway P
Patch Grove, WI 53817

Congratulations on Your Retirement



The River Ridge School District recently said goodbye to a member of its community, Stephanie Steffensmeier, who retired after 45 years of dedicated service. As she embarks on her next chapter, we wish her all the best. Thank you, Stephanie, for everything!

RRAP News

by Melanie Lindstrum



Happy New Year from RRAP! Students from Early Childhood through 8th grade were gifted with new River Ridge stocking hats. Thank you to all of our families and volunteers; with your help, we are able to provide wonderful opportunities and items to our students. Looking forward to seeing you in 2025!



Thank You, Blue Collar Nutrition

A heartfelt thank you to Blue Collar Nutrition for hosting the Gift Wrapping event. This fundraiser helped support a school family lunch account, making a meaningful impact. Your generosity and support for our school community are truly appreciated!

River Ridge Winter Program and Concerts



The High School and Middle School Winter Concert and Elementary Winter Program featured an array of outstanding performances by our talented students. The students sang popular and traditional Christmas songs along with some fun songs about the favorite things, a winter carol, Christmas lights, jingle bells, and rock the holly. The beautiful

instrumental music was complete with bells, warm sounds of brass, wind, and percussion. Thank you music teachers, Mr. Kylar Kinyon, Mrs. Diane Malcom, and Mr. Phil Stiemke for the wonderful music in our schools. Santa Claus made a special appearance at the Elementary program.



High School Semester Exam Schedule

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

1st hour – 8:00-9:30
 3rd hour – 9:40-11:10
 5th hour – 12:15-1:45
 7th hour – 1:55-3:25

Thursday, January 16, 2025

2nd hour – 8:00-9:30
 4th hour – 9:40-11:10
 6th hour – 12:15-1:45
 8th hour – 1:55-3:25

Rules:

1. Students are not required to be in school until their first scheduled exam. Once in school, students are to stay until exams are completed for the day. Students should report to study hall if between classes with exams. Seniors have open campus for lunch but **MUST** sign in and out from office if they leave the campus.
2. All students should sign in if they arrive after 8:00 AM. Students should sign out if they leave before 3:25 PM. Students that arrive late or leave before the end of the last hour of the day should have signed permission slips turned into office by Tuesday, January 14.
3. A student may not leave the exam area until the 90-minute period is over. There will be no loitering in the hallways. Teachers will keep students in their room.
4. Students are expected to be in the classroom on time when the bell rings to begin the exam.
5. Any student missing any exam time must make arrangements with the teacher for make-up time. Grades are due to the office by Monday, January 20 at 8:00 AM.



Resources

While Holidays can be a time of joy and good cheer, they can also be a time when feelings of sadness and stress can arise. Should a loved one need extra support to deal with emotional/behavioral health concerns, there are community resources to help.

Unified Counseling Services
 (Lancaster) - 608 723-6357

Family Advocates, Inc.
 - 24 hour helpline -
 1 800 924-2624

Grant County Dept. of Social Services
 608 723-2136

Grant Regional Health Center
 (Lancaster) 723-2143

Crossing Rivers Health
 (Prairie du Chien) 357-2000

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
 (call or text)

Text **"HOPELINE"** to 741741



Semester Ends

Thursday,
 January 16

No School
 Friday,
 January 17

--
 Records Day

New Year's Day.
A fresh start.
A new chapter
waiting to be
written.

-Sarah Ban Breathnach

Mandi Breaks the 3 Point School Record



Congratulations to Mandi Wehrle for breaking the school record for Most 3 Point Shots Made in a Career! The record was previously held by Skylar White with 192. During the December 16 girls' basketball game, Mandi Wehrle broke the record with 196. We are so proud of you!



Emergency School Closing Information

Although we make every effort to keep our students in school for the full session once school has started, certain circumstances may require our school schedules being adjusted. During the school year when it becomes necessary to close the school early due to inclement weather or an emergency, it is imperative that you make previous arrangements with your children in the event that they are to go to a neighbor's or relative's house or if someone else will be picking them up at school.

Please plan ahead and be sure you discuss the plan thoroughly with your child. If there is a change in the procedure during the school year, please make sure your child is aware of the change.



**Winter Time
Is Here**



Middle School First Quarter Incentive Activity

by Kennedy Raisbeck



The River Ridge Middle School Student Council put on a fun first-quarter incentive activity during the afternoon of November 26. We had multiple movies playing for eligible 5th-8th graders to watch and gym time after the movie was over. We ate popcorn trail mix, which included Goldfish, pretzels, M&M's, chocolate chips, and marshmallows, and we drank flavored water.

School Counselor News

by Caron Townsend

Dates to Remember

8th Grade Registration

January 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM (Students/Parents)

Registration for 2025-26 School Year

9th-11th grade students will start registering for their 2025-2026 classes the first week in February. If any parent has a question about their child's credits or classes needed for graduation or post-secondary education plans, please contact Ms. Townsend.

ACT for Juniors

All juniors will be required to take the ACT test on March 11, 2025. Because this is a mandated assessment from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, we ask that you avoid all appointments on this date.

We will be offering a free ACT Prep Workshop on March 4, 2025. This is voluntary and open to all juniors

Keep Collecting

River Ridge School District is continuing to collect:

* **Box Tops**-get the App and scan your receipt, it is so easy to do.

* **Pop Tabs** -from the tops of cans-this helps families stay at the Ronald McDonald House

* **Country Hearth**
(UPC label--Loaves4learning)

* **Prairie Farms**--milk caps

The items can be dropped off in the main office or with Lisa Clark.

Any questions, please call:

Lisa Clark - 994-2715 ex 221 or
email: clarkli@rrsd.k12.wi.us

RIVER RIDGE FFA Banquet

Sunday,
January 5th
6:00 PM



Join us to
look back on
another successful
year with our
River Ridge FFA Chapter.



Fuel Up Deliver Milkshakes and Smoothies



The Fuel Up members made and served milkshakes and smoothies during the month of December to the middle school students and staff. Everyone enjoyed the special delivery to the classrooms.

FFA Visit from Farm Babe



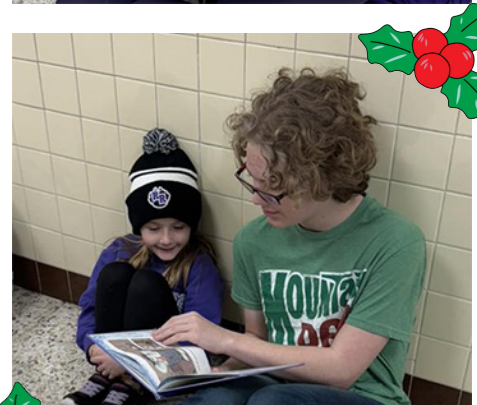
Farm kids are the best kids! Michelle Miller, the Farm Babe, spent the day with River Ridge High School agriculture classes, inspiring students to pursue careers in agriculture and media. Cheers to our youth and the future of food! Thank you for Michelle for visiting with our students.



The Joy of the Season



During the holiday season, 8th-grade students spread joy by reading Christmas stories to the 1st graders.



Youth Risk Behavior Survey Information Grades 6-12

Our school is taking part in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction. Middle School students in grades 6-8 will take the survey on February 5 and High School students will take the survey on February 25. The survey will ask about health behaviors that keep young people healthy, as well as behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries, tobacco use, and alcohol and other drug use. It will also ask about bullying, sexual risk behaviors (mostly for high school students), online risk behaviors, stress and anxiety, self-harm, dietary behavior and physical activity. It also focuses on positive things like strong connections to the school and to other people.

Students will be asked to fill out an anonymous, online questionnaire that takes about 25-35 minutes to complete. They will take the survey during regular class time.

Completing this anonymous survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey and it does not ask for student IDs or any other individual identifiers. The classroom setting will be set up like a test so that students' answers remain private. The school will only not have access to individual students' answers and no class or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. Your child will get no benefit right away from taking part in the survey. However, the results of this survey do help students by providing schools and the community with information that is used to improve health and safety programs. We would like all selected students to take part in the survey, **but the survey is voluntary**. No action will be taken against you, or your child, if your child does not take part. Students can skip any question that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty. If you have questions about the survey, you may ask your child's teacher or school counselor. If they cannot answer your questions, they can direct you to the proper person at the Department of Public Instruction.

Please read the section below. **If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, check the box, sign and date the form and return the form to the school no later than [1/29/25].** Signing and returning this form will dismiss your child from taking the survey. **If you have no objection to your child taking part in the survey, you should do nothing with this form.**

Thank you.

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

[] My child MAY NOT take part in this survey.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

You may apply for **open enrollment** from **February 3 - April 30, 2025**

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Who may participate in open enrollment?

Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2024-2025 school year is from February 5 -April 30, 2024. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.

Parents may apply online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>.

Can I apply to a virtual charter school under open enrollment?

A pupil may only open enroll to an online/virtual school if: (1) the school has been created as a virtual charter school that meets the requirements of the charter school law [Wis. Stats. 118.40 (8)] or (2) the pupil is required to physically attend school in the nonresident school district every day that school is in session. Other important things to know about applying to virtual charter schools:

*A virtual charter school is not homeschooling. Pupils attending

virtual charter schools are public school pupils.

* You must know the nonresident school district in which the virtual charter school is located. If you have any questions about this, call the virtual charter school.

* You must know your resident school district in order to apply.

* A list of virtual charter schools may be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools/virtual-charter-schools>.

Can an application be rejected?

Yes. Nonresident school districts may deny an application if regular or special education space is not available for the pupil; special education or related services are not available; or if the pupil has been referred for a special education evaluation but has not yet been evaluated. Nonresident school districts may also deny an application if the pupil has been expelled during the current or preceding two years for certain violent conduct or if the pupil was habitually truant from the nonresident school district during any semester in the current or previous school year.

If there are more applications than spaces, pupils must be selected randomly, after giving preference to pupils already attending school in the nonresident school district and siblings of currently-attending pupils.

Some school districts establish waiting lists to fill unused spaces, but others do not.

Can a resident district prevent a pupil from leaving?

Yes, in limited circumstances. A resident district can deny a pupil's application for an invalid application (early or late application or missing information), ineligibility due to age (too young or too old), or if the resident district does not offer the same type of prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, or early childhood program as the nonresident district or the pupil is not eligible for the program in the resident district. These are also reasons that a nonresident district can deny an application.

Can parents appeal if an application is denied?

Parents whose applications are denied may appeal to the DPI within 30 days of the denial. State law requires the DPI to uphold the school district's decision unless DPI finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable. The DPI's decision may be appealed to circuit court.

Must pupils reapply every year?

Once a pupil is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that:

*The nonresident district may require a pupil to reapply one time—at the beginning of middle school, junior high or high school.

*A pupil may be returned to the resident school district if the special education required in a new or revised IEP is not available in the nonresident district or there is no space.

Open Enrollment Continues

*A pupil who has become habitually truant in the nonresident district may be returned to the resident district.

Is there a cost for parents to participate in the open enrollment program?

There is no tuition cost to parents for participation in open enrollment. Parents of open enrolled pupils may be charged the same fees as resident pupils.

Who is responsible for transportation?

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school. If transportation is required in the IEP for a child with a disability, it must be provided by the nonresident district. School districts may provide transportation to open enrollment pupils if they wish. Usually, if transportation is provided, parents must transport the pupil to a location in the nonresident district.

Low-income parents may apply to the DPI at the end of the school year for partial reimbursement of their transportation costs.

Can a parent select a specific school in the pupil's nonresident school district?

Yes. A parent may request a specific school or program in the nonresident district. However, assignment to the requested school or program is not guaranteed and your pupil may be assigned to a different school other than the one requested. It is up to each nonresident district to determine a pupil's school assignment.

Can an open enrolled pupil participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?

Open enrolled pupils have the same rights and responsibilities as resident pupils.

Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has rules concerning transfer pupils. Parents should check with the school district's athletic director about eligibility.

For more information contact:
Public School Open Enrollment
Program Wisconsin Department of
Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI
53707-7841

Toll-free: 888-245-2732, option 2

Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov

[wi.gov](http://dpi.wi.gov)

Website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>

Breakfast/Lunch Menu - Lunch - January, 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
30	31	1 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>	2 <u>Cereal & PopTart</u> Chicken Nuggets French Fries/Sweet Potato Fries Peas Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	3 <u>Scrambled Eggs & Toast</u> BBQ Pork Sandwich Chips Baked Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk
6 <u>Pancakes & Sausage</u> Cheese Quesadilla Spanish Rice Corn Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	7 <u>Cereal & Toast</u> Chicken Noodle & Chili Soup Cinnamon Rolls Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	8 <u>Breakfast Bowl</u> Hamburger/Cheeseburger on a Bun Potato Wedges Green Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	9 <u>Cheese Omelet & Hashbrown</u> Popcorn Chicken Loaded Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Dinner Roll Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	10 <u>Sunrise Biscuit w/Bacon</u> Hot Dog /Chili Dog on a Bun Macaroni & Cheese Baked Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk
13 <u>Rise & Shine Croissant w/Ham</u> Crispy Chicken Wrap Sun Chips Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	14 <u>Banana Crumb & Chocolate Chip Coffee Cake</u> Spaghetti & Meat Sauce Green Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit Garlic Toast, Milk	15 <u>Banana Split Parfait & Berry Parfait w/Cereal Bar</u> French Bread Pizza Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh/Canned Fruit Cookie, Milk	16 <u>Buttermilk Biscuits w/Sausage Gravy</u> Chicken Alfredo Steamed Carrots Fresh/Canned Fruit Garlic Breadstick, Milk	17 <u>NO SCHOOL</u>
20 <u>Breakfast Bagel w/Sausage</u> French Toast Sticks Sausage Links Hashbrown Patty Fruit Juice/Fruit, Milk	21 <u>Frosted Long John</u> Soft Shell Taco Buttered Corn Fruit Salad/Fruit Milk	22 <u>Breakfast Pizza</u> Corn Dogs Tater Tots Baked Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	23 <u>Cereal & Muffin</u> Mozzarella Dippers w/Marinara Green Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit Milk	24 <u>Farmer's Casserole & Toast</u> Meatballs & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Steamed Carrots Fresh/Canned Fruit Dinner Roll, Milk
27 <u>Banana Bread & Yogurt Cup</u> Chicken Fajita Wild rice Buttered Corn Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	28 <u>French Toast Sticks & Sausage</u> BBQ on a Bun Cheesy Potatoes Green Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	29 <u>Cereal & Donut Holes</u> Pizza Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh/Canned Fruit O'Henry Bar, Milk	30 <u>Cinnamon Sugar & Blueberry Coffee Cake</u> Hot Ham & Cheese Tater Tots Baked Beans Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk	31 <u>Scrambled Eggs & Toast</u> Chicken Nuggets French Fries/Sweet Potato Mixed Vegetables Fresh/Canned Fruit, Milk

Breakfast is served with choice of 1/2 cup of fruit and 1% chocolate milk, FF white milk, or 1% white milk.

Two entrees will be offered each day. Students may choose one. The second option for PK - 4th grade is a yogurt lunch (consists of 4 oz. yogurt, uncrustable, vegetable, fruit, and 1% chocolate milk, FF white milk, or 1% white milk). Protein and cheeses are available for 5th - 12th as a second option.

Each meal must have a combined 1/2 cup total of vegetables and/or fruit on the tray in order to qualify for a reimbursable lunch.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			No School	School Resumes 6:00 PM HSGB at Barneveld	6:00 PM HSBB vs Monticello RR Alumni Night	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6:00 PM FFA Banquet		6:00 PM HSBB vs Shullsburg	12:30 PM MS Spelling Bee 5:30 PM Board Meeting	4:30 PM MSGB @ Fennimore 6:00 PM HSGB @ Highland	6:00 PM HSBB @ Argyle	9:30 AM Wrestling at Kickapoo
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Dorian Choral	Dorian Choral 6:00 PM HSBB vs Belmont	4:30 PM MSGB vs Boscobel 6:00 PM HSGB vs Wauzeka/Steuben	HS Semester Exam	End of 2nd Qr/ 1st Semester HS Semester Exam 4:30 PM MSGB vs Potosi/Cassville 6:00 PM HSBB @ Highland	FFA Conference No School Staff In-Service 5:00 PM MSWR at Viroqua 6:00 PM HSGB vs Juda	9:00 AM Wrestling at Weston
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	3rd Qtr begins 4:30 PM MSGB at Riverdale 6:00 PM HSGB at Belmont	5:00 PM MSWR home 6:00 PM HSBB at Potosi	7:00 PM 8th Gr Registration	4:30 PM MSGB vs Highland 6:00 PM HSGB @ Shullsburg 7:00 PM Wrestling home	Elem. Kick Off to Wellness week 6:00 PM HSBB vs Black Hawk	9:30 AM Wrestling at Arcadia
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Elementary Wellness Week					
	6:00 PM HSBB vs Benton	4:30 PM MSGB vs at PdC 6:00 PM HSGB @ Cassville		4:30 PM Wrestling North Crawford 4:30 PM MSGB @ Boscobel 7:00 PM HSBB @ Cassville	6:00 PM HSGB @ Argyle	

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN September 11, 2024, AT 5:30 PM.

I. Call to Order- Board president Ken Nies called meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. Roll Call- Present; Ken Nies, Jason Cathman, Josh Copsey, Adam Guthrie, Jeff Thornton, Kirk Hamann, Megan Kussmaul

III. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Statement of Notice- Board President, Kenny Nies approved the posting and called the meeting official.

V. Appearances – Mickey Quick talked about the upcoming referendum

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. August 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- i. Jason Cathman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jeff Thornton. Motion passed on a voice vote.

VII. Reports

A. Finance

- i. Financial statements, receipts, and expenditures – Clay Koenig presented the financial statements, receipts and expenditures for August 2024. Jason Cathman made a motion to approve the financial statements and expenditures pending an audit of 2023/2024 year of revenues of \$1,374,829.73 and expenditures of \$1,172,115.00. Jeff Thornton seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.
- ii. Marine Credit Union Authorization – Motion was made to support the following statement by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. “The School Board of River Ridge has determined it to be in the best interest of the district to allow Clay Koenig and Sue Christ to all banking privileges and access to all Marine Credit Union Accounts held by the district. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

B. Buildings and Grounds Report

- i. Maintenance Director’s Report – Jim reported that the new donated sound system for the high school gym and stage has been installed and ready to be used.

C. Administrative Reports

- i. Superintendent: The school will have a meeting with Skyward next week. Clay will be having a policy update meeting with NEOLA next week. Title IX training went well with the whole staff. TRICOR and Aflac were present and available for the staff prior to the start of the school year. The open house on August 28th was well attended.
- ii. MS/HS Deam of Students: I-Ready testing in in progress. The 6th graders have their annual trip to Wyalusing State Park. The FFA judging contest is Friday the 12th. The high school is geared up for homecoming next week.
- iii. Elementary Principal: High school athletes have been and will be reading to the elementary students. They will also be taking the students to play different games with them during homecoming week. Friday is grandparents’ day. I-Ready is in progress.
- iv. Special Education Director: Everything is off to a great start.

VIII. New Business

- A. Hiring/Resignations - Adam Guthrie made a motion to accept the resignation of Jen Drew, seconded by Josh Copsey. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- B. Set Date for Annual Meeting - Kirk Hamann made a motion and seconded by Jeff Thornton to have the meeting on October 30 at 6:00 PM
- C. Referendum Information Planning - The board will have an informational meeting after the annual meeting on October 30th. The board will also send out a mailer and put information on the radio.
- D. Student Athletic Passes
- i. Jason Cathman made a motion to allow all River Ridge students into all athletic events free of charge, seconded by Megan Kussmaul. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.
 - ii. Jason Cathman made a motion to allow the school to refund all purchased student passes, seconded by Jeff Thornton. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.
- E. Boy/Girls Soccer Co-op - Adam Guthrie made a motion to not renew the co-op due to the lack of interest at this time, seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

IX. Appearances - There were no public appearances.

iii. Special Board Meeting – October 30, 2024, immediately following the Annual Meeting.

X. Information

A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

i. Regular Board Meeting – October 9, 2024, at 5:30 PM

ii. Annual Meeting – October 30, 2024, at 6:00PM

XI. Adjourn – Kirk Hamann made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Adam Guthrie. Motion passed on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN October 9, 2024, AT 5:30 PM.

I. Call to Order- Board president Ken Nies called meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. Roll Call- Present; Ken Nies, Jason Cathman, Josh Copsey, Adam Guthrie, Jeff Thornton, Kirk Hamann, Megan Kussmaul

III. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Statement of Notice- Board President, Kenny Nies approved the posting and called the meeting official.

V. Appearances – None

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. September 11, 2024, Regular Board Mtg. Minutes
 - i. Jeff Thornton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion passed on a voice vote.

VII. Reports

- A. Finance
 - i. Financial statements, receipts, and expenditures
Adam Guthrie made a motion to approve the finances, Jeff Thornton seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.
 - ii. Marine Credit Union Authorization
1 A motion was made to support the following statement by Kirk Hamann and seconded by Josh Copsey. "The School Board of River Ridge has determined it to be in the best interest of the district to remove Tracy Stagman and Jeff Athey from all banking privileges and access to all Marine Credit Union Accounts held by the district. Motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Report
 - i. Maintenance Director's Report.
1 Jim has locked in a price for natural gas for the upcoming heating season. Per the five-year plan on the athletic fields, the infield mix for both fields will be added as needed.
- C. Superintendent Reports
 - i. Third Friday count: the count showed we are down to 511 this year, from last year's 519.
 - ii. Summer School Report: Looked at the number of kids and hours that were involved in the summer school program.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Referendum: Talked about the early numbers for the 24-25 budget and how they will affect the upcoming referendum.
- B. Student Passes: It was discussed on whether to allow the St. Mary's students in on the free admission. The board said that they were included in the free admission.

IX. New Business

- A. Hiring/Resignations
 - i. Jeff Thornton made a motion, seconded by Kirk Hamann to approve the hire of Brian Kazda as 7-8th grade boys basketball coach. Motion carried on a voice vote.
 - ii. Jeff Thornton made a motion, seconded by Adam Guthrie to approve the hire of Julie Mezera as a full time Special Education Aide. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- B. Virtual Learning Days/Instructional Time: Megan Kussmaul made a motion, seconded by Adam Guthrie to approve up to 3 days of Virtual Learning Days if they are needed after the already built in days. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- C. Volunteer Coaches: Jeff Thornton made a motion, seconded by Kirk Hamann, to approve the list of volunteer coaches for the winter sports season. Motion carried on a voice vote.

X. Appearances - There were no public appearances.

XI. Information

- A. Upcoming Meeting Schedule
 - i. Annual Meeting – October 30, 2024, at 6:00 PM
 - ii. Special Board Meeting – October 30, 2024, at 6:30 PM or immediately following the annual meeting.
 - iii. Referendum Information Meeting – October 30, 2024, at 7:00 PM
 - iv. Policy and Curriculum Meeting – November 6, 2024
 - v. Regular Board Meeting – November 13, 2024, at 5:30 PM

XII. Adjourn – Megan Kussmaul made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN:
OCTOBER 30, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

1. **Call to order** – Board President Kenny Nies called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the school district multipurpose room.

2. **Report as to Notice Given** – School Board Clerk Adam Guthrie presented the following proof of posting: “As required by WI state statutes, notice of this meeting was published for two weeks preceding the meeting. A Class 1 Notice of the Annual District Meeting and Budget Hearing was published in the Grant County Herald Independent on October 17, 2024. A second Class 1 Notice of the Annual meeting was published in the Grant County Herald Independent on October 24, 2024. The same notices were also posted at the River Ridge School District. Each notice was sent to the following post offices for posting: Bagley, Bloomington, Mt. Hope, and Patch Grove. The notices were also posted to the school district’s website.

3. The motion to approve the posting was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. The motion carried on a voice vote.

4. **Declaring Meeting Official** – The meeting was declared official by Board President Kenny Nies.

5. **Elect Chair Person of Meeting** – Adam Guthrie nominated Kenny Nies to serve as Chairperson. The motion to elect Kenny Nies as Annual Meeting Chairperson was made by Jeff Thornton and seconded by Kirk Hamann. The motion carried on a voice vote.

6. **Designating Clerk of Meeting** – Chairperson Kenny Nies designated Adam Guthrie, River Ridge School Board Clerk, as Clerk of the Annual Meeting.

7. **Treasurer’s Report** – River Ridge School Board Treasurer, Kirk Hamann, read the treasurer’s report. A motion to approve the report was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Jeff Thornton. The motion passed on a voice vote.

8. **New Business** – No new business topics were voiced by meeting attendees.

9. **Authorization of Audit by a Certified Public Accountant for Succeeding Year** – A motion to forgo the reading was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Josh Copsey. The motion passed on a voice. A motion to authorize audit for the succeeding year was made by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Jeff Thornton. The motion passed on a voice vote.

10. **Transportation Resolution** – A motion to forgo the reading of the resolution was made by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. The motion passed on a voice vote. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Kirk Hamann. The motion carried on a voice vote.

11. **Resolution Authorizing Accident Insurance Coverage** – A motion to forgo the reading of the resolution was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Josh Copsey. The motion carried on a voice vote. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. The motion carried on a voice vote.

12. **Board Salaries** – A motion to keep board salaries the same was made by Jeff Thornton and seconded by Kirk Hamann. The motion carried on a voice vote.

13. **School Lunch Program** – A motion to forgo the reading of the resolution was made by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Jason Cathman. The motion passed on a voice vote. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Josh Copsey and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. The motion carried on a voice vote.

14. **Resolution as to Textbooks** – A motion to forgo the reading of the resolution was made by Jeff Thornton and seconded by Kirk Hamann. The motion passed on a voice vote. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Megan Kussmaul and seconded by Jason Cathman. The motion carried on a voice vote.

15. **Budget Hearing** – A motion to declare the start of the budget hearing was made by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Josh Copsey. The motion carried on a voice vote. Superintendent, Clay Koenig presented the budget information. (NOTE: the 2024/25 budget will be established by the RRSD school board at a special meeting immediately following the annual meeting.)

16. **Tax Levy Resolution A** – A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Jason Cathman and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. The motion carried on a voice vote.

17. **Tax Levy Resolution B** – A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Adam Guthrie and seconded by Kirk Hamann. The motion carried on a voice vote.

18. **Adjournment** – A motion to adjourn was made by Megan Kussmaul and seconded by Josh Copsey. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM

Adam Guthrie, Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE RIVER RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN: OCTOBER 30, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M. OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING.

I. Call to Order- Board president Ken Nies called meeting to order at 6:28 PM

II. Roll Call- Present; Ken Nies, Megan Kussmaul, Adam Guthrie, Jeff Thornton, Kirk Hamann, Josh Copsey, Jason Cathman

III. Statement of Notice- Board President, Kenny Nies approved the posting and called the meeting official.

IV. New Business

A. Review of 2023-24 Budget

B. Set 2024-2025 Tax Levy, motion was made by Jeff Thornton to set the tax levy at \$2,941,900.00 and a levy rate 6.98 and seconded by Kirk Hamann. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.

C. Set alternative (November Referendum Passing) 2024-2025 Tax Levy, motion was made by Jason Cathman to set the tax levy at \$4,041,900.00 and a levy rate 9.98 and seconded by Adam Guthrie. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.

D. Adopt 2024-25 Budget(s), motion was made by Josh Copsey to adopt the 2024-2025 budget as presented and seconded by Megan Kussmaul. Motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.

V. Adjourn – Kirk Hamann made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jason Cathman. Motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM



River Ridge School District
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Patch Grove, WI 53817

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River Ridge School District - Educating Tomorrow's Future



Administration

Clay Koenig - District Administrator994-2715 Ext. 100
Bill Hannah - Elementary Principal.....994-2715 Ext. 102
Wade Winkers - MS/HS Dean of Students994-2715 Ext. 114
Amy Jones - Special Education Coordinator.....994-2715 Ext. 302

Other Contacts

Wade Winkers - Athletic Director994-2715 Ext. 114
Technology Coordinator994-2715 Ext. 130

Board of Education

Kenneth Nies - President 988-4536
Jason Cathman- Vice President..... 994-3263
Adam Guthrie - Clerk 778-7080
Kirk Hamann - Treasurer 778-0700
Josh Copsey - Member..... 732-5773
Megan Kusssmaul - Member..... 412-0924
Jeff Thornton - Member 306-3378

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.