

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**DECEMBER 12, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**In order to be successful with our mission, we focus on the following goals:**

- Safe Learning Environment
- High Student Achievement
- Effective and Efficient Operation
- High Performing Workforce

**OPENING OF MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT**

**ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Keller called roll call and the following board members acknowledged receiving and reviewing a copy of tonight's agenda, background materials, and any other pertinent information prior to being in attendance, as well as their presence at the meeting: Ben Albright, Colonel Beineke, Don Rengert, Nathan Smith, and Bob Stump.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

**Res. 120-24** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve adoption of the agenda as presented without the use of either of the executive sessions.

Discussion: The board decided that there was no need for either executive session, so they could be removed from the agenda.

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Stump, Smith, Beineke, Rengert  
Nays:

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Res. 121-24** Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke, to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Rengert, Beineke, Albright, Stump  
Nays:

Mr. Smith abstained due to being absent from the November meeting.

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President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used.

During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so.

Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of the Board to be placed on the regular agenda. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the board.

Board Policy BDDH - Adopted October 12, 1999

- A. Introduction of Visitors
- B. Comments from Visitors

Mr. Rengert welcomed all visitors. No visitors requested to address the Board.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**  
**Superintendent Shares Oral/Written Correspondence/Communications**

Mr. Wickham shared an update on the bond projects with the board. Heritage's roofing project is almost complete, Liberty will be finished in about three weeks, the Middle School is in progress, and the High School is waiting on finishing pieces. The weather lately has caused some delays, but they are working as much as possible, including the weekends, to get the projects completed.

Mr. Wickham also shared information with the Board regarding some recent leak issues we have experienced at Heritage. The recent leaks are not due to the new roof but are instead due to the failure of the original masonry through wall flashing that was installed when the building was built over 20 years ago. A sealant/waterproofing material had been installed in the past, so when Mays did their evaluations, they felt that the masonry through wall flashing didn't need to be addressed at the same time as the roof replacement since there had been no issues with leaks since the installation of the sealant. However, once the roof had been replaced the water that was previously infiltrating the masonry through wall flashing and circulating to the roof now had nowhere to go since the roof is now

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considered “watertight.” This meant that the infiltrating water needed to go somewhere, and leaks began to occur again. Due to the recent leaks, Mays is now recommending that the district correct the masonry through wall flashing at both Heritage and Liberty to prevent any future issues. Mr. Wickham explained that we want to make sure that we address this issue now before more damage is caused and the leaks are likely to continue to occur. The district hasn’t received the official quote for this project yet, but once we do, we will be sure to update the board with the estimated costs.

Mr. Wickham shared information regarding the CTE Expansion Project and CEP program participation numbers. On tonight’s agenda, the board will be able to discuss and approve the GMP2 (Guaranteed Maximum Price) for the CTE Expansion Project. The GMP for this project has exceeded what we originally had estimated by approximately \$100,000 due to soil boring findings, which will now require additional site prep costs. CEP participation numbers remain higher than last year’s participation numbers. On average, the district is serving approximately 900 breakfasts and 1,300 lunches per day.

**River Valley Local Schools Building Reports/Updates:** At this time, we would like to have district administrators and our student council representative provide the board with a brief update on each of their respective areas.

Mrs. Comstock presented on behalf of Heritage Elementary. Mrs. Comstock shared that Happy Heritage Holiday will take place Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Grinch Day is tomorrow, Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and the Grinch will make an appearance. The building is reviewing third grade reading test results and trying to plan for how they will move forward. Heritage raised \$1,500 for Christmas Clearinghouse by selling candy canes and smencils. The building staff adopted 3 Heritage families through Christmas Clearinghouse this year.

Liberty Elementary School Principal Barry Dutt shared that thirteen staff members from Liberty were able to attend a professional development event at Tiffin for behavior intervention recently. Liberty was able to get 4,700 items donated for Christmas Clearinghouse this year. The annual Breakfast with Santa event hosted by the Liberty PTO took place on December 7<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Friends of Caledonia craft show. They had approximately 200 people come for Breakfast with Santa this year. The Liberty PTO will be having a Santa Dance tomorrow, Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Jen Williams started a program for students where they could apply to be “Viking volunteers” and they had 26 students that applied and were accepted. They have volunteered to help during their “free times” throughout the day, such as during recess.

Middle School Principal, Tom Bower, shared that the Middle School was able to get 1,200 items donated for the Christmas Clearinghouse this year. Staff is adopting families as well. The building is participating in the 12 days of Christmas along with the other buildings. The band and

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orchestra concerts were great. The Middle School will have career explorations day on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

High School Principal, Travis Stout, shared that they will be providing hot chocolate to parents before school on December 17<sup>th</sup> and then to students during their lunchtimes that same day. The High School participated in the Christmas Clearinghouse food drive and were adopting families as well. The annual Christmas Craft Show hosted by the Track Program seemed to go really well again this year with a lot of vendors and attendees. Second semester schedules are being finalized and students recently took the ASVAB test.

Student Council Representative, Jocelyn Cummins, shared that Sounds of the Season is tomorrow, Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Exams will be the last week before the holiday break and students are also participating in the spirit week events. There were 11 new NHS inductees this year. The Tri-M music honors society adopted 1 girl through Christmas Clearinghouse this year.

Mr. Stout also provided an update on MS/HS Athletics. He shared that there are two high school students that will have signings soon, Eva Moran and Kathryn Garrison. Winter sports are underway. Girl's wrestling is appreciative of the board's support to be recognized as a Varsity sport and have designated coaching staff.

Director of Instruction and Assessment, Don Gliebe, shared a report with the district's "like districts" determined by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. He talked about where River Valley falls in comparison to these like districts and what we need to do to remain successful in test scores, but also in per pupil spending moving forward.

Director of Educational Technology & Communication, Tad Douce, shared that Park National Bank visited the eSports arena this week to see the space that they previously sponsored and expressed interest in the possibility of renewing their sponsorship to help grow the program. Technology-related areas seem to be functioning well. The district is now requiring that all extracurricular advisors and coaches use ParentSquare now, too, so that we have one communication tools for all district-related communications.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Keller shared that December is the medical insurance premium holiday for the 2024-2025 school year. The premium holiday means that the board, nor the employees enrolled in the plan, have to pay any medical insurance premiums for the month of December. The 2023-2024 fiscal year audit is underway, and the auditors were onsite yesterday, December 11<sup>th</sup> for the first time this year. They anticipate being finished with the audit by March. The 2025-2026 fiscal year tax budget and

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presentation will be on the agenda in January. The fiscal office is also preparing for calendar year end W2 and 1099 processing.

**Res. 122-24** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following information:

**A. Treasurer's Report/Recommendations:**

**1. Acceptance of Donations:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
11/4/24	Ashley Klingel	\$20.00	MS Volleyball
	Jill Larson	\$12.00	
	Brandy Mooney	\$35.00	
	Jocelyn Stout	\$15.00	
11/25/24	Great Midwest Sports	\$1200.00	Athletics

**Rebates:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
11/6/23	Great Midwest Sports	\$1200.00	HS Athletics
11/15/23	Ohiopyle Prints	\$77.01	HS Athletics

**2. Acceptance of Financial Records: Board acknowledgment of receipt of the following financial reports for the month of November 2024:**

- a. Cash Reconciliation and Relevant Data
- b. Appropriation Summary
- c. Revenue Summary

**3. Set Budget Hearing: Board establishment of the time and place for the budget hearing review of proposed tax budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2025).**

Date and Time of 2025 Budget Hearing January 9, 2025, at 5:30pm

**4. Organizational Meeting: Board establishment of time and place for the 2025 Organizational Meeting; tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2025 (2025 regular meetings will be set at the organizational meeting).**

2025 Organizational Meeting      January 9, 2025, at 6:00pm

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5. **Naming of President Pro-Tempore**: Board approval to name a president pro-tempore to oversee the organizational meeting until the President is elected for the calendar year 2025.

President Pro-Tempore: Don Rengert

6. **Certificated Personnel - Substitute Teacher Approval**: Board approval of Substitute Teacher List for December 2024 as recommended by the North Central Ohio ESC and presented in your background material.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Stump, Beineke, Rengert  
Nays:

Nathan Smith abstained.

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Superintendent's Reports/Recommendations**

**Res. 123-24** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following information:

1. **Resolution**:

- a. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and VAZA Consulting**: Board approval to enter into an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and VAZA Consulting on its proposal for services offered to River Valley Local Schools. VAZA Consulting services will be effective December 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, as outlined in your background materials.
- b. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and ERATE911 LLC**: Board approval to enter into an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and ERATE911 LLC for consultant services through the end of the 2024-2025 funding year of the Federal ERate Program, and as outlined in your background materials.

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- c. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and ERATE911 LLC:** Board approval to enter into an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and ERATE911 LLC for consultant services through the end of the 2025-2026 funding year of the Federal ERate Program, and as outlined in your background materials.
  
- d. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and the River Valley Athletic Boosters:** Board approval to enter into an agreement between the River Valley Local Schools and the River Valley Athletic Booster to approve the Athletic Booster to fundraise for finishing materials, labor, and equipment for the exercise science/weight room as part of the Career Technical Education (CTE) expansion, as outlined in your background materials.
  
- e. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and Elford, Inc.:** Board approval to enter into an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Elford, Inc. to approve the GMP Amendment 2 for the remaining balance of work for the Career Tech Expansion Project, and as outlined in your background materials.
  
- f. **Resolution: 2025-2026 Calendar:** Board approval of the 2025-2026 school calendar, as outlined in your background materials.

Discussion: Matt Patton and DJ Fett from Elford spoke to the Board regarding the GMP2 that is on the agenda for the board to approve. They shared information about the soil boring and how it was going to require additional site work prep, which was causing an increase in the total cost of the project, however they would continue to do all that they could to find a way to complete the project at a lower cost than the GMP1 and GMP2 total now. Mr. Fett and Mr. Patton also mentioned that there were already a few cost-saving opportunities, such as replacing the polished concrete with sealed concrete instead. The board decided that the alternate replacing the polished concrete with sealed concrete would be a good idea and ultimately approved that alternate within the GMP total.

Vote: Ayes: Beineke, Smith, Albright, Stump, Rengert  
Nays:

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Executive Session: Not Needed**

**Certificated Personnel**

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**Res. 124-24** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke to approve the following information:

- a. **Certificated Personnel - Resignation**: Board approval to accept a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Annette Bame, History Teacher at River Valley High School, with regrets and best wishes. Letter received November 22, 2024, retirement is effective February 28, 2025, as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Certificated Personnel - Resignation**: Board approval to accept a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Kecia Stewart-Slob, Science Teacher at River Valley High School, with regrets and best wishes. The letter received November 21, 2024, retirement is effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as presented in your background materials.
- c. **Certificated Personnel - Employment**: Board approval to employ Aurel Toska as the Long-Term Social Studies Substitute Teacher for River Valley High School, effective January 6, 2025, through the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, and per the information in your background materials.
- d. **Certificated Personnel – Education Level Adjustment**: Board approval of an education level adjustment for Emilie Kitts, effective November 18, 2024, who has completed the necessary requirements for such an adjustment, as presented in your background materials.
- e. **Certificated Personnel - OSUM Substitute Teacher Approval**: Board approval of OSUM Student Teacher List for the 2024-2025 Fall Semester, according to the guidelines below and as presented in your background materials.
  1. Ask our students if they have or are getting their sub license.
  2. Some of the field placement students are leery right now about getting it and some just have too much of a load to sub.
  3. We hope all of our student teachers get their sub license.
  4. While they are in their field placement, you can ask them to sub for their mentor teacher.
  5. On days they are not in their field placement and do not have classes at OSUM they can sub for anyone in any building.
  6. They can also sub for any teacher in their basic field of study on the day of their



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field placement in your building.

7. Since our students will expect to get compensated at the going rate in your district.

They will need to complete the necessary paperwork.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Beineke, Smith, Stump, Rengert  
Nays:

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Classified Personnel**

**Res. 125-24** Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following information:

- a. **Classified Personnel – Substitute**: Board approval to employ the following people as a classified substitute bus driver on an as needed basis, for the 2024-2025 school year, effective December 10,2024. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for certification or employment, and per your background materials.

Cynthia Glock - Classified Substitute Bus Driver

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Rengert, Stump, Albright, Smith, Beineke  
Nays:

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Supplementals**

**Res. 126-24** Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke to approve the following information:

WHEREAS, this Board has posted positions as being available to employees of the district who hold educator licenses, and no such employee meeting all of the Board's qualifications

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has applied for, been offered, and accepted such positions, and

WHEREAS, this board then advertised these positions as being available to licensed individuals not employed by this district, and no such person meeting all of the Board's qualifications has applied for, been offered, and accepted such positions,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT coaching positions may be granted to non-licensed individuals for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, per information in your background materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the individual(s) listed are employed for the 2024-2025 school year with the understanding that they WILL NOT be able to direct, supervise or coach a pupil activity program that involves athletics, routine or regular physical activity (practices, scrimmages, workouts, etc..) or health and safety considerations until they have obtained a valid Pupil Activity Permit, and said permit is on file in the Superintendent's Office. The Athletic Director along with the respective building Principal will be responsible for assuring that the individual(s) listed are in full compliance with the above requirements.

a. **Supplemental - Employment:**

Janelle Buchanan - River Valley High School Junior Varsity Softball Coach  
Courtney Kelley - River Valley High School Varsity Assistant Softball Coach

b. **Volunteer - Employment:**

Chelsie Blevins - River Valley High School Volunteer Gymnastics Club Coach  
Amanda Wilfong - River Valley High School Volunteer Gymnastics Club Coach

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Smith, Beineke, Albright, Stump  
Nays:

Don Rengert abstained.

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Students**

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**Res. 127-24** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Albright to approve the following information:

- a. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval:** Board preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the River Valley Middle School 8th Grade to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg, PA on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, through Friday, May 16, 2025 per information in your background materials.
- b. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval:** **Board** preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the High School Wrestling team to the Franklin Wrestling Tournament in Franklin, Ohio on Friday, December 6, 2024, through Saturday, December 7, 2024.
- c. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval:** **Board** preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the High School Wrestling team to the Nelsonville York Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Nelsonville, Ohio on Friday, January 3, 2025, through Saturday, January 4, 2025.
- d. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval:** **Board** preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the High School Wrestling team to the Western Brown Tournament in Mt. Orab, Ohio on Friday, January 17, 2025, through Saturday, January 18, 2025.
- e. **River Valley Local Schools Athletic Entry Fees:** Board approval of the following Athletic Entry Fees for the 2024-2025 school year as outlined below and in your background materials:

Volleyball - 9/6/2025 - MS - \$150/school

Volleyball - 9/20/2025 - HS - \$150/school

Discussion: Board discussed that the entry fees in item E are money that is paid to River Valley by districts attending this tournament, not a fee that River Valley is required to pay. These entry fees help River Valley cover the costs of hosting the tournament. The Board also mentioned that these overnight trip requests need to be turned in and board approved prior to the event. The Board also inquired as to whether summer events need to be approved, and the administration is going to look into this for future summer events.

Vote: Ayes: Beineke, Albright, Smith, Stump, Rengert  
Nays:

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President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Executive Session- Not Needed**

**DISCUSSION:** Any items of discussion by the Board.

Colonel Beineke asked about the ruts in the yard at the High School and Middle School campus from the roofing project and whether the contractor will be fixing these. Mr. Wickham shared the plan is to have remediation of all yard damage at each of the four buildings addressed in the spring once grass seeds would be able to grow successfully, and it would be easier to even out the ground to make it level.

**ADJOURN:** Thank you for coming.

Res. 128-24 Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting of the River Valley Board of Education at 7:08pm.

Vote: Ayes: Stump, Smith, Albright, Beineke, Rengert  
Nays:

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

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Board President

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Attest