

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025  
5:30 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

**ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING** - 5:30 p.m.

Brittany Keller, Treasurer, presented the 2025-2026 tax budget.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** - 6:00 p.m.

President Pro Tempore, Don Rengert, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and led in the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mrs. Keller called roll call with the following members present: Mr. Albright, Colonel Beineke, Mr. Rengert, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Stump. Board members present at the meeting acknowledged receiving and reviewing a copy of the board meeting agenda, background material and any other pertinent information prior to being in attendance.

**ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT**

Colonel Beineke nominated Don Rengert as River Valley Board President for 2025.

**Res. 001-25** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Albright to close nominations for Board President for 2025.

Discussion: None

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

Don Rengert abstained.

President Pro Temp Don Rengert declared the motion carried.

Newly elected President, Don Rengert, continued presiding over the meeting.

**ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT**

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

Ben Albright nominated Cheryl Beineke as River Valley Board Vice President for 2025.

**Res. 002-25** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Rengert to close nominations for Board Vice President for 2025.

Discussion: None

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

Colonel Beineke abstained.

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA**

**Res. 003-25** Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Stump, to approve adoption of the agenda as presented, except for the removal of both executive sessions and the building reports.

Discussion: President Rengert explained that the Board would not be using either executive session and that the building representatives would not be presenting, so these items could be removed from the agenda.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Res. 004-25** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve adoption of the minutes from the December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Recognition of Visitors**

President Rengert welcomed all visitors and gave them the opportunity to speak. We had one visitor, Cory Gibson, who requested to address the board.

Cory Gibson, a resident and substitute employed by the district, thanked the board for bringing the new driver's education program to our community. He said that it is difficult for students and their families to find places to practice, so it is a great asset that our district is now providing a program and a space for students to practice.

**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

**REGULAR SESSION MEETINGS**

**Res. 005-25** Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Albright to establish the second Thursday of each month at 6:00pm as the time for the Board of Education Regular Board Meetings. The location will be at River Valley High School Media Center unless otherwise advertised.

Discussion: Board discussed whether everyone agreed to have board meetings continue on the same schedule as it has in the past.

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS/PROCEDURES**

**ESTABLISH BOARD SERVICE FUND**

**Res. 006-25** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3315.15 provides for setting aside from the general fund a sum not to exceed \$2.00 per child or twenty thousand dollars, whichever is greater, as the "service fund"; and

WHEREAS, this money shall be used only in paying members of the Board of Education expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, the October enrollment for 2024 was 1,901.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the River Valley Local School District hereby establishes a service fund to be set aside as an amount within the general fund. The amount established and appropriated will not exceed \$20,000, which shall be incorporated in the appropriations of the District for FY25.

Discussion: Mrs. Keller explained that this fund is established by law, following Ohio Revised Code, to be used toward professional development and payment of Board of Education members related to the performance of their duties, as outlined in the resolution.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING STANDING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE TREASURER**

**Res. 007-25** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following standing authorizations for the Treasurer for the Calendar Year 2025 as follows:

1. **Authorization for Advances on Tax Settlements**: Authorization for treasurer to

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

request advance draws from the county auditor on River Valley tax settlement as money becomes available.

2. **Authorization for Investment of Interim and Inactive Funds**: Authorization for the treasurer to invest interim funds as money becomes available in accordance with the district investment policy.
3. **Authorization for Appropriation Modifications**: The treasurer is hereby authorized to make appropriation modifications between fund accounts with these modifications being reported to the Board of Education for approval.
4. **Authorization for Payment of Bills and Payroll**: The treasurer is authorized to pay all bills and payrolls within the limit of the appropriation resolution as bills are received and when merchandise has been certified as received in good condition by the Superintendent or his designee.
5. **Authorization To Pay Stipends**: Authorization for the treasurer to pay stipends to staff and community members when authorized by grant applications, i.e., Local Professional Development Committee, Schoolnet, etc.
6. **Authorization for Advancement of Funds**: The treasurer is authorized to advance monies from the General Fund to other funds in anticipation of future receipts. When the anticipated money has been received, the advance will be returned to the General Fund.
7. **Authorization For Establishment Of Bank Accounts**: The treasurer is hereby authorized to establish the necessary banking account he/she sees necessary to properly account for district funds providing that said accounts are within the limits established in the depository contracts with the banking institutions.
8. **Authorization for Signatures on Check**: The treasurer is hereby authorized to Sign all checks drawn on bank accounts of the school district as provided for in Section 3313.08 O.R.C.
9. **Authorization for Expending Public Funds**: The treasurer is hereby authorized to expend public funds to purchase coffee, meals, refreshments or other amenities for professional development/meetings as a means to promote public health, safety, morals, general welfare, security, prosperity and contentment of all participants.

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

Discussion: Mr. Rengert reminded those in attendance that these are standard authorizations approved by board members across the state of Ohio annually at school districts' organizational meetings. These authorizations do not transfer the board's responsibility and authority to the Treasurer.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING STANDING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Res. 008-25** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following standing authorizations for the Superintendent for the Calendar Year 2025 as follows:

1. **Appointment of Purchasing Agent/Business Manager:** Appointment of the Superintendent as the purchasing agent/business manager for Calendar Year 2025.
2. **Authorization for Emergency Employment/Substitute Compensation:** Authorization of Superintendent to employ individuals and establish the rate of substitute compensation in emergency situations. Such employment(s) to be submitted for approval by the Board at the next meeting following the emergency.
3. **Authorization for Superintendent to Hire Staff between Board Meetings:** Authorization for the Superintendent to employ individuals between board meetings as follows:
  - a. Authorizes the Superintendent, during periods when this Board is not in session, to make offers for employment directly to candidates for either teaching or non-teaching positions on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptance of such offers on behalf of this Board, subject to a subsequent vote of ratification by this Board; provided, however, that upon ratification by this Board, the employment shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the employee's acceptance of the Superintendent's offer.
  - b. Nothing in this resolution shall require the Board of Education to employ or continue to employ an individual who has not provided a criminal records check satisfactorily to the Board or who has not

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

satisfied any other prerequisite to employment created by law or Board policy.

- c. Authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

- 4. **Authorization For Superintendent to Make Application For State and Federal Grants**: Authorization for the Superintendent to make application for state and federal grants as appropriate for the benefit of the River Valley Local School District during Calendar Year 2025.

- 5. **Authorization for Superintendent to Accept Resignations between Board Meetings**: Authorization for the Superintendent, on behalf of this Board, to accept resignations which have been submitted by employees during times when this Board is not in session. Such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance. The authorization provided by this Resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by the formal action of this Board.

Discussion: Mr. Rengert reminded those in attendance that these are standard authorizations approved by board members across the state of Ohio annually at school districts' organizational meetings. These authorizations do not transfer the board's responsibility and authority to the Superintendent.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**SPECIAL/SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS OF BOARD MEMBERS**: General discussion of Board members' desires and wishes for serving in the following special assignments or subcommittees for 2025.

- 1. **Special Assignments**:
  - a. OSBA Legislative Liaison- Cheryl Beineke
  - b. OSBA Student Achievement Liaison- Don Rengert
- 2. **Subcommittee Assignments**:
  - a. Finance Subcommittee- Nathan Smith, Don Rengert
  - b. Policy Subcommittee- Cheryl Beineke, Ben Albright

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

c. Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee- Don Rengert, Ben Albright

**3. Other:**

- a. Negotiations RVTA Team- Ben Albright, Bob Stump
- b. Negotiations RVEA Team- Cheryl Beineke, Don Rengert

**RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD GOALS**

**Res. 009-25** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Albright to approve the re-adoption and extension of the following five (5) proposed goals for the balance of this year and for the 2025-2026 school year:

- 1. To promote continuous educational improvement through the implementation and monitoring of our district and each building's One Needs Assessment.
- 2. To foster student learning and success through, but not limited to, the Achievement of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce criteria that are used for district and building report cards.
- 3. To increase the involvement of parents and community members in educational activities in order to build understanding and support of our children and reinforce the value of education.
- 4. To continue efforts in staff development and professional growth especially as it pertains to the accomplishment of district/building plans and goals.
- 5. To continue to support the integration of technology and emerging technologies into the curriculum and teaching /learning process for students and staff.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

**Superintendent Shares Oral/Written Correspondence/Communications**



**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

Mr. Wickham provided the board with an update on the roofing projects. Unfortunately, weather delays have led to less progress than desired, at no fault of the contractors. Certain temperatures are required to install the flat roofs and slick conditions have made it difficult to work on the steep sloped roofs. The contractors have been trying to work on trim and detail work, when possible, since they have been limited in other areas.

The Career Technical Education (CTE) Expansion project is now underway and Elford, the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) for the project has installed a construction drive to try and reduce the amount of heavy equipment traffic on our new asphalt drives. This expansion is possible because of the \$2.5M grant that the district applied for and was awarded last year.

**River Valley Local Schools Building Reports/Updates:** No reports this month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Keller presented information regarding the District's cash balance compared to December 2023, calendar year-end processing of W2s and 1099s, fiscal year 2024 excess cost filing with Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW), first half fiscal year 2025 per diem filing with ODEW, the Social Security Fairness Act being signed into law on January 5<sup>th</sup> by President Biden, and the new biennium budget discussions happening at the state legislature.

**Res. 010-25** Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke to approve the following information:

**A. Treasurer's Report:**

1. **Tax Budget:** Approving the 2025-26 Fiscal Year Tax Budget (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026).

*Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.28 requires each school district to approve the tax budget for the next fiscal year, by January 15th, and that the tax budget be filed with the County Auditor no later than January 20th. The tax budget is a preliminary estimate of the school district's operating revenues and disbursements. The purpose of the tax budget is to demonstrate the district's need for existing inside and outside millages to the County Budget Commission. The tax budget projects the need for our operating levies. A public hearing, as required by Ohio Revised Code, was held on January 9, 2025 at 5:30 pm prior to the 2025 organizational/regular board meeting.*

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

It is recommended by the Treasurer that the tax budget for Fiscal Year 2026 be approved by the Board of Education, as presented.

**2. Acceptance of Donations:**

**Donations:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
12/19/24	Caledonia Memorial Methodist Church	\$500.00	LES sponsored family

**Rebates:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
12/19/24	Kroger	\$241.51	Class of 2027
12/19/24	Kroger	\$107.62	General Fund

**3. Acceptance of Financial Reports:** Acknowledge receipt of the following Financial reports for the month of December, 2024:

Cash Financial Summary  
Appropriation Summary  
Revenue Summary

**4. North Central Ohio Education Service Center Substitute Teacher Approval:**

Board approval of the updated Substitute Teacher List for January 2025 as recommended by the North Central Ohio ESC and as presented in your background material.

**5. Appropriation Modifications: Board approval of the following appropriation modifications:**

Decrease Fund 587 by \$4.48  
Decrease Fund 516 by \$2,105.97  
Increase Fund 584 by \$11,414.94  
Increase Fund 572 by \$93,877.75  
Increase Fund 590 by \$12,108.89

Discussion: The board asked Mrs. Keller to share her school funding advocacy letter with them, so that they can advocate for school districts by reaching out to our state legislators as well.

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

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

Mr. Smith abstained.

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Superintendent Reports / Recommendations**

**Res. 011-25** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following information:

**1. Agreements/Resolutions:**

**a. Resolution - Proclamation School Board Recognition Month:**

Superintendent announces OSBA's/RV's designation of January, 2025 as "School Board Recognition Month" and distributes a Certificate of Appreciation for each Board member and asks the Board to approve the following Proclamation/Resolution at this time. Further, all River Valley citizens are encouraged to publicly and privately thank our school board members for serving this community and for their dedicated service to our children.

WHEREAS, it shall be the mission of the River Valley School District to provide all students with the best possible education;

WHEREAS, the school board sets the direction for our community's public schools by envisioning the community's education future; and

WHEREAS, the school board sets policies and procedures to govern all aspects of school district operation; and

WHEREAS, the school board keeps attention focused on progress toward the school district's goals and maintains a two-way communication loop with all segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, serving on a school board requires an unselfish devotion of time and service to carry on the mission and business of the school district; and

WHEREAS, the school board must respond on behalf of the community to the educational needs of students; and

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

WHEREAS, the school board voluntarily accepts the above-mentioned responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Adam K. Wickham, Superintendent of the River Valley Schools, on behalf of staff, students, parents and community, and in concert with the Ohio School Boards' Association, does hereby proclaim January 2025 as School Board Recognition Month in the River Valley School District.

b. **Resolution: Ohio School Board Association Membership:** Board approval to join Ohio School Boards Association for CY 2025 at a total cost of \$6,660 which includes electronic subscriptions to School Management News, and as presented in your background materials.

c. **Resolution: OSBA Legal Assistance Fund:** Board approval of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the River Valley Board of Education wishes to support the efforts of other boards of education to obtain favorable judicial decisions and,

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund has been established for this purpose,

THEREFORE, the Board hereby resolves to join the OSBA LAF for calendar year 2025 and authorizes the treasurer to pay the LAF \$250.00.

d. **Resolution: Agreement Between Meade Construction and River Valley Local School District (RVLSD):** Board approval to enter into an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Meade Construction, to furnish materials, labor, and equipment required to replace the masonry through wall flashings at Heritage and Liberty elementary schools, as outlined in your background materials.

e. **Resolution: 2026-2027 Calendar:** Board approval of the 2026-2027 school calendar, as outlined in your background materials.

f. **Resolution: Agreement Between Transfinder and River Valley Local School District (RVLSD):** Board approval of the one year

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

contract, software license and hosting agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Transfinder to provide the Transportation Routefinder PLUS System, as outlined in your background materials.

- g. **Resolution: Resolution Authorizing the Treasurer to Pay Stipends:** Board approval of the resolution authorizing the treasurer to pay science of reading stipends of \$1,200 and \$400 according to the requirement set forth by House Bill 33, the state operating budget, during the 2024-2025 school year. As presented in your background materials.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Executive Session-** Not Needed

**Certificated Personnel-** Not Needed

**Classified Personnel**

**Res. 012-25** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following information:

- a. **Classified Personnel – Resignation:** Board approval to accept the letter of resignation from Rachel Foster, Bus Driver for River Valley Local Schools, effective January 17, 2025, with regrets and best wishes and as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Classified Personnel – Employment:** Board approval to grant a one year contract for Cynthia Glock, Bus Driver for River Valley Local Schools, effective January 21, 2024. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification and as presented in your background materials.
- c. **Classified Personnel – Substitute:** Board approval to employ the following people as a classified substitute on an as needed basis, for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

certification or employment, and per your background materials.

Rachel Foster - Substitute Bus Driver

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Supplementals**

**Res. 013-25** Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith 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 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:**

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025  
5:30 PM  
MINUTES**

Melissa Bollinger - River Valley High School Choreographer

Nick Denino - River Valley High School Musical Vocal Director

Josh Neff - River Valley High School Musical Orchestra

Karla Osborne - River Valley High School Musical Financial Director

Brea Turner - River Valley High School Musical Director

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Students**

**Res. 014-25** Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following information:

- a. **River Valley Local Schools Athletic Entry Fees:** Board approval of the following Athletic Entry Fees for the 2025-2026 school year as outlined below and in your background materials:

Wrestling - 2/1/2025 - JV - \$250/school

Discussion: Board clarified that this is an entry fee paid to River Valley when other teams participate in an event that we host.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

**Executive Session-** Not Needed

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

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

Mr. Wickham proposed to the board implementing a 2-hour delay on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> due to the water being shut off at the high school on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for the CTE Expansion Project and wanting to ensure that everything was working properly first thing Tuesday morning before students return.

The board also discussed the River Valley Athletic Boosters fundraising for the weight room project (being added on with the CTE Expansion). The RVAB would like to offer sponsorship opportunities for businesses and/or individuals that contribute to the project. The board decided that they are amenable to sponsorship opportunities, but not naming rights. The board would like to see an agreement in place between the sponsoring business/individual and the district that would protect the district and not give power away to others. The board would like to have language included that would allow the district to sever the agreement if the business/individual became a disadvantageous partner to the district due to circumstances, such as legal issues, etc.

Mr. Wickham discussed with the board that he would like the district to express interest in a project with the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for electric charging stations on our campuses. Mr. Wickham verified that we would have no cost either at the time of implementation or ongoing. At this point, the district is not in an agreement of any kind, so if the circumstances were to change the board could reassess. The board was amenable to expressing interest and pursuing this opportunity further.

**ADJOURN** - Thank you for coming.

**Res. 015-25** Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting of the River Valley Board of Education at 7:05pm.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.



**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BUDGET HEARING, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER (LMC)**

**JANUARY 9, 2025  
5:30 PM  
MINUTES**

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Board President

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Attest

The records commission will meet at the conclusion of the 01/09/25 regular board meeting in order to comply with annual meeting requirements. The records commission consists of the Board President, Superintendent Wickham, and Treasurer Keller. The commission had no items to approve for disposal.