

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

**FEBRUARY 13, 2025
6:00 P.M.
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

Mr. Rengert called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

Res. 016-25 Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Albright to approve adoption of the agenda as presented, except for the removal of the first executive session.

Discussion: Mr. Rengert shared that the Board would not need the first executive session, but that they would be using the second executive session. The Board did not plan to take any action after using the second executive session.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Res. 017-25 Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve adoption of the minutes from the January 9, 2025, Regular and Organizational Meeting.

Discussion: None

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

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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 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.

Mr. Frank Hickman attended tonight's meeting to honor River Valley's band director, Joshua Neff. Mr. Hickman is a Vietnam Veteran who helped organize the ceremony with the Moving Wall to honor Vietnam Veterans in Delaware County. Mr. Hickman had Mr. Neff and the Pleasant band director attend the ceremony and play echo taps while attendees were standing by the wall and picking a name off of the wall in remembrance. Mr. Hickman shared that Mr. Neff did an excellent job playing echo taps and that his performance was truly impactful, and that he represented River Valley very well.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

Superintendent Shares Oral/Written Correspondence/Communications

Mr. Wickham shared with the board that there is an online learning day plan on the agenda for approval that would outline the requirements if the district got to their 8th-10th calamity day this year. Currently, the district has had 6 calamity days so far this school year, so we still have one more day before the online day learning plan would have to be implemented. This is a state requirement to replace blizzard bags.

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Mr. Wickham also shared that the masonry through wall flashing project will begin at Liberty on Friday, February 14th. The demolition will take place over the long weekend since students will not be back in the building until Tuesday, February 18th. Any loud construction for this project will take place outside of the school day, so that there are minimal classroom disruptions.

The Career Tech Expansion Project is moving along, and they are planning on digging the footers beginning Friday, February 14th.

River Valley Local Schools Building Reports/Updates: At this time, we would like to have building updates and a report from our student representative.

Heritage Elementary School Principal, Melanie Comstock, provided an update on her building. She shared that they have been battling a lot of illness with students, but have thankfully been able to find staff coverage, when needed. The Heritage PTO hosted their first Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 7th and the kids loved it. Mrs. Comstock is working on ordering the Terra Nova for third graders that have not yet passed the third grade reading guarantee.

Liberty Elementary School Principal, Barry Dutt, presented on behalf of his building sharing that the Liberty Elementary PTO will be hosting their Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 14th. Liberty has also been working on ordering the Terra Nova for third graders that have not yet met the third grade reading guarantee. Both Heritage and Liberty will be hosting a 5th grade Career Day next week and Liberty is planning on having 5th graders go on a trip to a camp sometime this spring at Hopewood Pines. Mr. Dutt plans to share more information with the board at next month's meeting. On March 11th, Liberty will be hosting a specials night along with their annual Literacy Night. Specials teachers will showcase student work.

The Middle School Principal, Tom Bower, shared that they are already working on scheduling for staff and students for next year. The district's annual Wellness Night is taking place at the Middle School tonight, February 13th. The parent-teacher conferences will be on February 18th. The Middle School had a great winter sports season and are looking forward to spring sports kicking off soon. Middle School teacher Mrs. Smith will be hosting an Egypt Night on February 26th showcasing student projects. On February 27th 8th graders will attend the Junior Achievement Fair at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

The High School Principal, Travis Stout, shared that the 9th graders had a career café at the high school where they had lunch with 16 different representatives from various businesses that aligned with the students' areas of interest. The high school has already hosted the 8th grade parent meeting and recently held their CCP Night on February 11th.

Student Council Representative, Jocelyn Cummins, shared that winter sports are starting to wrap up and spring sports are already starting soon. Juniors are getting ready to take their ACTs and sophomores have been working on ACT prep during academic assist periods. Jocelyn shared that

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while the sophomores may not find it exciting to be doing ACT prep, as someone who has taken her ACT she thinks it is great that we are providing resources for the students to get more prep time ahead of their junior year. NHS will host their next blood drive on February 18th from 12-6, open to the public 3-6. Tri-M Honors Society members have been approved to provide some private lessons to students at the elementary level, which they hope will get more students interested in staying in music long-term. The musical cast have started practicing and will be performing "Big Fish" this year.

MS/HS Activities Director, Sage Brannon, shared that the girls bowling team won the MOAC tournament and the boys came in 5th place. District swimming begins tomorrow, February 14th. The boys' basketball team has their senior night tomorrow, February 14th as well. The River Valley Athletic Boosters held their annual gala last Friday, February 8th and had another very successful year. They estimate that they raised approximately \$45K after expenses.

Director of Educational Technology & Communication, Tad Douce, updated the board on the PowerSchool data breach that occurred in January. Even though this breach did not occur due to an issue here at RV, we do have approximately 20 years of data that was breached. This equals approximately 5,000 students. Thankfully, we generally do not keep SSNs in PowerSchool, unless requested by the student, so minimal students were impacted to the degree of their SSNs being compromised. PowerSchool is offering free protection to anyone impacted by this breach through Experian. Mr. Douce highly recommends that anyone that has attended or worked for River Valley in the last 20 years sign up for the service as a precaution. Mr. Douce also shared that he has been working to get digital signage hung by the concession stand in the high school to be used by booster groups, but also by the high school staff to share information with parents and students in the building.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Keller shared that the district's annual Budget Hearing with the County Budget Commission will take place on February 25th. This continues the tax budget process, required by law, and begins the budget process for the 25-26 school year. She also shared that the district's new payroll specialist, Melody Meginness, is scheduled to begin next Tuesday, February 18th and that she will be a great addition to the district.

Mrs. Keller also shared that the Governor has released his budget proposal for the next biennium. Some school finance related items mentioned in his proposal were the continued phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan, freezing the inputs at the FY22 levels, and reducing funding guarantees to certain districts. Mrs. Keller and the board discussed the negative impact of freezing base cost inputs at FY22 levels and how this will cause a greater burden on local communities because of the shift from a decrease in state share of the funding to a greater share of the funding to a greater share of the local community. House members are raising concerns about property valuation increases and the negative impact this has had on our local taxpayers over the last few years, but if

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we don't also solve the difference between updating FY22 base cost levels we will be forcing more burden on those same taxpayers they are already concerned about. Less state share will force a higher reliance on local communities, forcing school districts to go back on the ballot more often. We are still early in the budget process, but advocacy will be critical to try and make the Fair School Funding Plan truly fair with all data being updated, not just those that benefit the state.

Res. 018-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke to approve the following information:

A. Treasurer's Report:

1. **Acknowledge Receipt:** Acknowledge receipt of the following financial reports for the month of January 2025:
 - a. Cash Reconciliation and Relevant Data
 - b. Appropriation Summary
 - c. Revenue Summary
2. **North Central Ohio Education Service Center - Substitute Teacher Approval:** Board approval of the updated Substitute Teacher List for February 2025 as recommended by the North Central Ohio ESC and as presented in your background material.

Discussion: None

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

Nathan Smith abstained due to his spouse being on the substitute teacher list.

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Superintendent Reports / Recommendations

Res. 019-25 Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following information:

1. **Agreements/Resolutions:**
 - a. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and Geotechnical Consultants, Inc.:** Board approval of the resolution selecting and ratifying the agreement with Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. (GCI) as a consultant for the Career Tech Expansion Project. As presented in your background materials.

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- b. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local School District and North Central Ohio Education Service Center:** Board approval of the agreement between River Valley Local Schools, North Central Ohio Education Service Center and North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center to collaborate in the operation and management of educational services supported by the Title I-D Grant for the FY2025 school year. As outlined in the background materials.
- c. **Resolution: Ohio Education Policy Institute Membership:** Board approval of the Ohio Education Policy Institute (OEPI) Membership for 2025, as outlined in your background materials.
- d. **Resolution: Updated Agreement for School Program Services Between the River Valley Local School District and the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center:** Board approval to enter into the updated FY2025 agreements between the River Valley Local School District and the North Central Ohio ESC, for the purpose of the ESC providing education services to assist the district per the terms and as set forth in the agreements in your background materials.
- e. **Resolution: 2024-2025 Revised Administration Salary Schedule:** Board approval of the revised 2024-2025 Administration Salary Schedule as presented in your background materials.
- f. **Resolution: Adopting a Calamity Day Alternative Make-up Plan:**
Board approval of the following resolution regarding calamity days and online learning:

WHEREAS, the River Valley Local School board of education desires that students have learning opportunities even when schools are closed for any of the reasons specified in section 3313.482 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, section 3313.482 authorizes a board of education to file an annual plan with the Ohio Department of Education by August 1 of each year to provide online learning opportunities for students in lieu of attendance on such days of closure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT, AND IT IS, HEREBY RESOLVED that the River Valley Local School Board of Education hereby approves the following plan and authorizes its filing with the Ohio Department of Education.

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g. Resolution: Membership in OHSA for the 2025-2026 School Year:

WHEREAS River Valley Local Schools, 197 Brocklesby Road, Caledonia, Marion County, Ohio has satisfied all the requirements for membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, a voluntary unincorporated association not-for-profit; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education ("Board") and its Administration desire for the schools with one or more grades at the 7-12 grade level under their jurisdiction to be voluntary members of the OHSA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION that River Valley Local Schools hereby voluntarily renews their membership in the OHSA and that in doing so, the Constitution and Bylaws of the OHSA are hereby adopted by this Board as and for its own minimum student-athlete eligibility requirements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to raise the student-athlete eligibility standards as the Board deems appropriate for the schools and students under its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the schools under this Board's jurisdiction agree to conduct their athletic programs in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations, interpretations and decisions of the OHSA and to cooperate fully and timely with the Commissioner's Office of the OHSA in all matters related to the interscholastic athletic programs of the schools. Furthermore, the schools under this Board's jurisdiction shall be the primary enforcers of the OHSA Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations, and interpretations and rulings rendered by the Commissioner's Office. The administrative heads of these schools understand that failure to discharge the duty of primary enforcement may result in fines, removal from tournaments, suspension of membership, and/or other such penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.

Discussion: Mr. Wickham explained that the GCI resolution is for soil testing services for the CTE Expansion Project and that OEPI is Howard Fleeter's organization that is very supportive of public schools in Ohio.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session – Not needed

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Certificated Personnel

Res. 020-25 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 Jayne Klingel, Guidance Counselor at River Valley Middle School, with regrets and best wishes. Letter received January 14, 2025. Retirement is effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Certificated Personnel - Resignation**: Board approval to accept a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from LaVone Novotny, Fifth Grade Math Teacher at Liberty Elementary School, with regrets and best wishes. Letter received January 28, 2025. 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 grant a one year limited contract to the following people as a Permanent Substitute, at River Valley Local Schools, for the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon completion of any necessary coursework and/or requirements for certification/licensure and as presented in your background materials.

Kyle Kaiser - Heritage Elementary School
Izabella Pinardi - Heritage Elementary School
Mackenzi Thompson - River Valley Middle and High Schools

- d. **Certificated Personnel - Employment**: Board approval to employ Dawson Pike as the Long-Term Art Teacher Substitute for Holly Gardner on maternity leave at River Valley High School. Effective February 18, 2025. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/ certification, and per the information in your background materials.

Discussion: None

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

Mr. Stump abstained due to his nephew being approved as a permanent substitute.

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

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Classified Personnel

Res. 021-25 Mr. Stump moved, seconded Colonel Beineke to approve the following information:

- a. **Classified Personnel - Resignation:** Board approval to accept a letter of resignation from Marla Edington, Payroll Specialist at River Valley Local Schools. Effective January 31, 2025, with regrets and best wishes, as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Classified Personnel - Per Diem Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a per diem contract to Eline Widman, Payroll Specialist, effective January 21, 2025 through the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. A per diem rate will be based on the salary and conditions of the administrative contract beginning August 1, 2024.
- c. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a one-year administrative contract to Melody Meginness, Payroll Specialist with River Valley Local Schools, for the 2024-2025 school year. Effective February 18, 2025, contingent upon completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- d. **Classified Personnel - Substitute:** Board approval to employ the following people as a classified substitute for the 2024-2025 school year. Contingent upon completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.

Jennifer Kelley - Classified substitute bus driver - Effective January 30, 2025

Kathryne Regules - classified substitute educational assistant - Effective November 5, 2024

- e. **Classified Personnel – Personal Service Agreement:** Board approval to employ Gerald Smith on a personal service agreement for the Junior Varsity wrestling tournament on February 1, 2025, as outlined in your background materials.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Supplementals

Res. 022-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following information:

- a. **Personnel – Supplementals:**

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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.

a. Personnel - Employment:

Amanda Zucker - River Valley High School Musical Assistant Director/Stage Manager
Dan Arndt - High School Junior Varsity Baseball Coach (33%)
Michael Blevins - Middle School Assistant Track Coach (25%)
Cody Castline - Middle School Assistant Track Coach (25%)
Ryan Daum - Middle School Head Track Coach (25%)
Bill Fegley - High School Varsity Assistant Track Coach
Todd Kellogg - High School Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach (33%)
Corey Niese - High School Assistant Baseball Coach (33%)
Lori Peterson - Middle School Assistant Track Coach (25%)
Mark Starrs - High School Varsity Assistant Track Coach

b. Personnel - Employment:

Jeremy Kanagy- High School Assistant Baseball Volunteer Coach
Kevin Keller- High School Assistant Track Volunteer Coach
Josh Rivers- Middle School Assistant Track Volunteer Coach

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

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Students

Res. 023-25 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 High School Varsity Volleyball Team to the Friendship Cup Volleyball Tournament in Mason, Ohio on Monday, July 7, 2025, through Wednesday, July 9, 2025.
- b. **Students – College Credit Plus Handbook:** Board approval of the River Valley Local Schools College Credit Plus (CCP) Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Board Policies

Res. 024-25 Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Rengert to approve the following information:

- a. **Board Policy Update - Approval of Updated Board Policies:** Board approval of the updated policies/regulations as outlined below and presented in your background materials.

Discussion: Colonel Beineke shared that this change in policy is an OSBA (Ohio School Board Association) suggested language change due to a court case that required more clarity as to the allowable reason(s) to go into executive session during a board meeting, specifically those related to district property.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session

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Res. 025-25 Mr. Albright moved to enter into executive session at 6:55pm for the purpose of:

In accordance with ORC 121.22G1 – The appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual.

AND

In accordance with ORC 121.22G6 – Details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Res. 026-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to reconvene in Regular Session at 7:37pm and upon roll call vote the following members were present: Albright, Smith, Stump, Beineke, Rengert.

DISCUSSION: Any items of discussion by the Board- No additional items were brought up for discussion.

ADJOURN - Thank you for coming.

Res. 027-25 Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting of the River Valley Board of Education at 7:38pm.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

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Board President

Attest