

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

**MAY 8, 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. 051-25 Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve adoption of the agenda as presented, except for the removal of both executive sessions.

Discussion: Mr. Rengert shared that the Board would not need either executive session.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Res. 052-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2025, Regular Meeting.

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

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.

Mr. Neff, River Valley Band Teacher/Director, shared information with the board regarding the revised Marching Band handbook that he hopes to have on the agenda for the board's approval in June. Mr. Neff shared that the handbook has been revised to reflect current expectations of marching band participants, such as cell phone usage and caring for the new uniforms. Mr. Neff also thanked the board for their collaboration with the Music Boosters in replacing the band uniforms.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

Superintendent Shares Oral / Written Correspondence / Communications

Mr. Wickham shared information regarding HB96, the biennium budget bill, that is currently in the Senate. He also provided an update on having seat belts installed on buses using Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid (DPIA). The plan is to install seat belts on 5-10 buses as a pilot, and then eventually install them on the remaining buses next year. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) has been very successful this year with a continued upward trend in participation. On average, 900 breakfasts and 1,300 lunches were served per day during the 2024-2025 school year.

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, shared that super games will take place on May 15th. Field trips are planned for every day over the next week with various grade levels. The Rotary Club commended two fifth grade students for displaying great citizenship, May 9th is kindergarten registration and orientation day at the middle school for current fifth graders. May 9th is also the first 5th grade “lock in” at Heritage. The updated elementary handbook for Heritage and Liberty will be on the June agenda for the board’s review and approval.

Liberty Elementary School Principal, Barry Dutt, shared similar sentiments as Mrs. Comstock regarding field trips and the upcoming field day. First grade will be having “camp week” and the fourth-grade camp trip is coming up as well.

The High School Principal, Travis Stout, shared that they had 99 students participate in their first ever signing day with fifty-two different entities. Students were recognized for choosing enrollment, enlistment, or employed pathways following graduation. Scholarships are being awarded, students are going on field trips, staff and student appreciation weeks are coming up, and graduation will take place on May 23rd.

Student Council Representative, Jocelyn Cummins, shared that students felt like the signing day was really cool and they enjoyed being recognized no matter which pathway they were choosing (enrolled, enlisted, or employed) following graduation. The Harry Alexander, NHS County Induction, and FFA State Convention have all taken place recently and gone really well.

MS/HS Activities Director, Sage Brannon, shared that we will be hosting the D2 track meet May 20th, 21st, and 24th. A new sound system is being installed at the football stadium, which will also be used for soccer and track events. The spring band concert was May 5th, choir concert is tonight (May 8th), and the orchestra concert will be May 12th.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Keller shared additional information regarding HB96, presented her May 2025 five-year forecast and assumptions, fiscal year-end processing, and meetings that her and Mr. Wickham have had with State Representatives recently. Mrs. Keller shared with the board that there may be some transfers for approval at the June meeting to align with the district’s capital improvement plan that they created prior to going on the ballot in May 2023 and have kept updating since. It was also shared that depending on what happens with HB96 a revised forecast may need to be presented to the board in June or July as well.

Res. 053-25 Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Albright, to approve the following information:

A. Treasurer’s Report:

1. **Presentation of Five-Year Forecast:** The treasurer will present the May submission of the five-year forecast for review and discussion.

B. Treasurer’s Report/Recommendations:

1. **Financial Reports:** Board Approval and acknowledgement of receipt of the following

financial information for the month of April 2025:

- a. Cash Reconciliation and Relevant Data
 - b. Appropriation Summary
 - c. Revenue Summary
2. **Approval of Five-Year Forecast and Assumptions:** Board approval of the 5-year forecast and assumptions, as presented in your background material.
3. **Approval of Special Cost Center:** Board approval of the following Special Cost Centers:

SCC 9026: Fiscal Year 2026 Grants
SCC 9126: Fiscal Year 2026 Grants
SCC 9225: Fiscal Year 2025 Grant
4. **Fund Transfer:** Board approval of the following fund transfer:

Transfer from General Fund 001: \$390.37
Transfer to ARP Homeless Grant Fund/SCC 507 9023: \$390.37
5. **Certificated Personnel - Substitute Teacher Approval:** Board approval of May Substitute Teacher Revised List for the 2024-2025 school year as recommended by the North Central Ohio ESC and presented in your background materials.

Discussion: The board asked questions regarding the impact of HB96 on River Valley specifically, but also for other districts statewide. The board understands how important advocacy will be for the district, as well as how important our current five-year forecast, capital improvement plan, and levy cycle is for River Valley specifically.

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

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Superintendent's Reports/Recommendations

Res. 054-25 Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Rengert to approve the following information:

1. **Agreements/Resolutions:**
 - a. **Resolution: Approval of Public Notice Regarding Re-employment Following Resignation:** Board approval of the public notice of the River Valley Board of Education public meeting on the issue of the re-employment following the resignation of Lavone Novotny, held on June 28, 2025, and as outlined in your background materials.

- b. **Resolution: Online Services Agreements Between TRECA and River Valley Local Schools:** Board approval to enter into a Credit Recovery Service Agreement and Service Package, an iCredit Service Agreement and Service Package with TRECA to provide online instruction, for the 2025-2026 school year, as outlined in your background materials.
- c. **Resolution: Agreement Between Earthworm Construction, LLC and River Valley Local Schools:** Board approval to enter into a contract with Earthworm Construction, LLC, for the 2025 Pavement Rehabilitation portion of the Capital Improvements Project as presented in your background materials.
- d. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and the North Central Ohio Educational Center (NCOESC):** Board approval to enter into a Service Agreement with NCOESC for the FY26 year, as outlined in your background materials.
- e. **Resolution: River Valley Local Schools Interagency Agreement:** Board approval of the Interagency Agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Ohio Heartland Head Start, North Central Ohio Education Service Center (NCOESC), Marion County Board of Developmental Disabilities (MCBDD), Marion County Family & Children First Council, Marion Area Pregnancy Prevention (MAPP) and the school districts of Marion County, from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. To provide Program Coordination for Transition and Services for young children and their families, as outlined in the background materials.
- f. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and Parentsquare:** Board approval of the agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Parentsquare effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, as outlined in your background materials.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session – Not needed

Certificated Personnel

Res. 055-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following information:

- a. **Certificated Personnel – Resignation:** Board approval to accept a letter of resignation from Laura Moore, Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher at River Valley Middle School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, with regrets and best wishes, and as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Certificated Personnel – Resignation:** Board approval to accept a letter of resignation from Melinda Boes, Intervention Specialist at River Valley High School, effective at the end of the

2024-2025 school year, with regrets and best wishes, and as presented in your background materials.

- c. **Certificated Personnel – Resignation:** Board approval to accept a letter of resignation from Barry Dutt, Principal at Liberty Elementary School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, with regrets and best wishes, and as presented in your background materials.
- d. **Certificated Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a three-year administrative contract to Marty Schuster, Assistant Principal at with River Valley Middle Schools Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- e. **Certificated Personnel – Employment:** Board approval to grant a one-year limited contract to Emily Bruskotter, Physical Therapist, for 2025-2026 school year, up to 26 hours per week, hours are flexible within the month to accommodate peak times, contingent upon completion of any necessary course work and/or requirements for certification/ licensure, and as presented in your background materials.
- f. **Certificated Personnel: Employment:** Board approval to employ Shannon Haberman on a one year contract, as a River Valley Local Schools Psychologist Assistant for the 2025-2026 school year, up to 25 hours per week and flexible within the month if needed, contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, per information in your background materials.
- g. **Certificated Personnel - Employment:** Board approval to employ Madison Wagner, on a one-year limited contract, as a Second Grade Teacher at Liberty Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials, and contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification.
- h. **Certificated Personnel–One/Two /Three Year Limited Contract Recommendations:**
Board approval to grant limited contracts to the following individuals beginning with the 2025-2026 school year contingent upon completion of any necessary coursework and/or requirements for certification/licensure:

One Year

Christine Bellamy

Two Year

Nick Denino

Lauren DeWeese

Hannah Jarvis

Samantha Lodge

Joshua Neff

Kali Stage

Kelly Triplat

Ainsley Work

Three Year

Jack Albert
Ashley Barnett
Jonathan Edwards
Madeline Elfrink
Ashley Emans
Amanda Friend
Elena Gantt
Marsha Hammond
Rachel Hawerlander
Amy Jarvis
Kim Robinson
Brooke Scheff
Emily Staiger
Brian Stamm
Deb Tilford
Heather Ulsh

- i. **Certified Personnel - Continuing Contract Recommendations:** Board approval to grant continuing contracts to the following individuals effective at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

Emilie Kitts

- j. **Certificated Personnel - Extended Service Days:** Board approval of the following individuals for extended days as indicated below:

Effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Madeline Elfrink – 20 days

Greta Kanagy – 15 days

Adrienne LaBarge – 15 days

Karen Seckel – 20 days

- k. **Certificated Personnel – Education Level Adjustment:** Board approval of an education level adjustment for Lisa Rinker, effective April 24, 2025, who has completed the necessary requirements for such an adjustment, as presented in your background materials.
- l. **Certificated Personnel – Education Level Adjustment:** Board approval of an education level adjustment for Bridget Barber, effective May 6, 2025, who has completed the necessary requirements for such an adjustment, as presented in your background materials.
- m. **Certified Personnel - Reasonable Assurance letters:** Board approval of reasonable assurance letters to be sent to current Substitute Teaching staff informing them that the Board wants to retain them in their current substitute role for the school year 2025-2026.

Discussion: The Board thanked Mr. Dutt for stepping up and helping at Liberty Elementary this year.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Classified Personnel

Res. 056-25 Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Albright, to approve the following information:

- a. **Classified Personnel – Resignation:** Board approval to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Teresa Mitchell, Full Time Cook at River Valley Middle Schools, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, with regrets and best wishes and as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Classified Personnel – Resignation:** Board approval to accept the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Norma Friar, Educational Aide at River Valley High School, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, with regrets and best wishes and as presented in your background materials.
- c. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a two-year administrative contract to Melody Meginness, Payroll Specialist with River Valley Local School. Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- d. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a two-year administrative contract to Victoria Fritz, Financial Support Specialist with River Valley Local Schools Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- e. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a three-year administrative contract to Brent Herdman, Director of Food Services with River Valley Local Schools Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- f. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a three-year administrative contract to Jenny Kitts, Assistant Director of Food Services, with River Valley Local Schools Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- g. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a three-year administrative contract to Brad Morrow, Director of Buildings & Grounds with River Valley Local Schools Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- h. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a three-year administrative contract to Trista Thorpe, Transportation Supervisor with River Valley Local Schools Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.
- i. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract:** Board approval to grant a three-year administrative contract to Katie Herdman, Student and Family Support Provider at Heritage Elementary School. Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.

- j. **Classified Personnel - Employment:** Board approval to employ Lupe Geyer as an ELL Tutor for students at Liberty Elementary School, on an as needed basis as presented in your background materials, for the 2025-2026 school year. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/ certification.

- k. **Classified Personnel - Non-Renewal of Limited Contracts:** Board approval to non-renew the following limited contracts effective July 1, 2025.

Sarah Kitts - Bus Driver - Retire/Rehire
Gladys Lucas - Bus Driver - Retire/Rehire

- l. **Classified Personnel - Limited Contract Recommendations:** Board approval to grant limited contracts to the following individuals beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure:

One Year

Sarah Kitts - Bus Driver
Gladys Lucas - Bus Driver

Two Year:

Jamie Gibson - Educational Aide - Liberty Elementary School
Cynthia Glock - Bus Driver - River Valley Local Schools
Ashlea Klee - Educational Aide - Liberty Elementary School
Nichole Lochlear-Fenn - Assistant Cook - River Valley Middle School
Shellie Montgomery - Assistant Cook - Heritage Elementary School
Brian Moore - Part-time Mechanic - River Valley Local Schools
Rebecca Pfeiffer - Assistant Cook - River Valley Middle School
Sue Schuler - Bus Aide - Heritage Elementary School

- m. **Classified Personnel - Continuing Contract Recommendations:** Board approval to grant continuing contracts to the following individuals effective at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

Paula Mc Beth - Secretary - Liberty Elementary School
Lori Miller - Bus Driver - River Valley Local Schools
Joanne Price - Bus Driver - River Valley Local Schools
Sydney Wolfe - Full Time Cook - River Valley Middle School

- n. **Classified Personnel - Administrative Contract Correction:** Board approval to grant a corrected two-year administrative contract to Jennifer Williams, Student and Family Support Provider at Liberty Elementary School. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, contingent upon the completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure.

- o. **Classified Personnel - Limited Contract Correction:** Board approval to grant limited contracts to the following individuals beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon completion of necessary requirements for certification/licensure: *Please reference agenda IV.C.4.I.

One Year

Jamie Gibson - Educational Aide - Liberty Elementary School
Ashlea Klee - Educational Aide - Liberty Elementary School

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Supplementals

Res. 057-25 Colonel Beineke 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:**

Laura Carey - Middle School Yearbook Advisor
Amanda Friend - High School National Honor Society Advisor
Dan Nolting - High School Musical Set Manager
Brea Turner - Middle School Musical Director
Brea Turner - Middle School Show Choir Director
Jennifer Watkins - Substitute Catering - 2024-2025

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Students

Res. 058-25 Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the following information:

- a. **2024-2025 Graduation Class**: Board approval, subject to their meeting all graduation requirements of the Board of Education, of the members of the River Valley High School Class of 2025, our 64th graduation, on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM. At this time there are 127 students slated to graduate.
- b. **Students – Preschool Handbook**: Board approval of the Preschool Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials.
- c. **Students – Special Education Operating Standards**: Board approval of the Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials.
- d. **Students - High School Handbook**: Board approval of the High School Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials.
- e. **Students - Middle School Handbook**: Board approval of the Middle School Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials.
- f. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval**: Board preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the River Valley High School Boys Basketball Team to attend a Team Camp at Ohio University in Athen, Ohio on Friday, June 6, 2025, through Sunday, June 8, 2025. As outlined and presented in your background materials.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Board Policies– First Reading of Recommended Revised Board Policies:

Board approval of first reading of the revised board policies/regulations, as outlined below, and presented in your background materials. If the board desires to waive the second reading and adopt, you may do so.

Res. 059-25 Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Albright, to approve the following information:

IGBLA - Promoting Parental Involvement – New

Discussion: Mr. Wickham shared that this policy was approved at the April meeting, but the wrong attachment was uploaded to the board’s background material.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session – Not needed

DISCUSSION: Any items of discussion by the Board.

The Board did not have any additional items that they wished to bring up for discussion.

Adjourn: Thank you for coming.

Res. 060-25 Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting of the River Valley Board of Education at 8:04pm.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Board President

Attest