

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
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

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, Mr. Rengert, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Stump. Colonel Beineke came to the meeting around 6:45 and observed but did not participate. Board members present at the meeting acknowledged receiving and reviewing a copy of the agenda, background material, and any other pertinent information prior to being in attendance.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

Res. 128-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump, to approve adoption of the agenda as presented, except for the removal of the first executive session.

Discussion: The Board discussed that they would need to use the second executive session but would not need to use the first executive session this month. Therefore, the first executive session could be removed from the agenda.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Res. 129-25 Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve adoption of the minute from the November 13, 2025, Regular Session Board Meeting.

Discussion: None

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

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

No visitors requested to address the Board.

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

Mr. Wickham provided the Board with an update on the OpenGate Weapons Detectors. The demos will begin at the MS/HS with students on December 12th, training will take place on December 15th, and implementation will begin on December 16th. Information and graphics respective to the roll out of these devices will be shared with the students, parents, and the community.

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 in each of their respective areas.

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Heritage Elementary School Principal, John Wickersham, shared that the building raised approximately \$1,500 for Christmas Clearinghouse during its recent fundraiser. The building also accepted donations and adopted two families to bless this year. The high school band and orchestra students will be coming to Heritage Friday, December 12th to provide a preview of the Sounds of the Season to the students. The elementary buildings will be revising the building entry point for fourth and fifth graders when the OpenGate weapons detectors are implemented at the elementary buildings.

Liberty Elementary School Principal, Zach Burns, shared that Liberty will have its Santa Dance on December 18th, and breakfast with Santa took place on December 6th. The Mini Vikes Show Choir Camp performance will take place December 12th during the Sounds of the Season. Liberty students are excited for the winter weather and looking forward to getting out on the new hill to sled this year.

Middle School Principal, Tom Bower, shared that the weapons detectors test run will take place on December 12th to prepare students for the implementation the following week. The Middle School is reviewing schedule changes, Ms. Newman continues to do a great job, and Autumn Simpson has been working well with life skills and our special needs students. Mr. Bower gave a shoutout to Middle School coaches and their effort to collaborate with staff and find new ways to support our students both academically and through their extracurricular activities.

High School Principal, Travis Stout, shared that the High School continues to take students on workplace visits and to Tri-Rivers Exploring Careers Day. Students have taken the ASVAB test and staff are working with credit deficient students. NHS inductions have taken place, the CTE wing tours have received very positive communications, Sounds of the Season will take place December 12th, and the building has been working on the preparations for the upcoming weapons detectors implementation.

MS/HS Activities Director, Sage Brannon, shared that our golf team won their conference this year, we had four football players make All Conference, All District, and All Ohio. Girls' cross country placed second in conference and went to regionals for the first time since 2012. Girls wrestling preview was an assembly style this year, which ended up being a great way to showcase the newer varsity sport. On tonight's agenda is our new softball coach. Fall/winter band, choir, and orchestra concerts are taking place over the next week as well.

Director of Educational Technology & Communication, Tad Douce,

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Keller shared a presentation regarding the property tax reform bills that were delivered to Governor DeWine's desk. Governor DeWine has until Saturday, December 20th to act for or against these bills or they will become law. The tax budget process will begin in January and the fiscal year

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

2026 forecast will be presented in February. The February deadline is new this year under HB96 instead of the previous May filing. OSBA is transitioning to a new online platform, which will include a more intuitive experience, greater functionality, and powerful new features that simplify policy management and improve collaboration. Our current online policy services agreement will automatically roll over at the end of its current term to ensure that there is no interruption to our online policy services. OSBA will transfer all of our existing policies to the new platform for us. The required revised policy that allows this change was adopted by the Board at our October 9th board meeting under policy revision BF.

Res. 130-25 Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Stump to approve the following information:

A. Treasurer’s Report/Recommendations

1. Acceptance of Donations:

Rebates:

Date	Name	Amount	Purpose
11/5/25	Ohiopyle	\$55.83	HS Athletics

2. Resolution: Approval of Assorted Dumbbells Disposal: Board approval authorizing the disposal of assorted dumbbells, which will be sold on GovDeals for \$600, as presented in your background materials.

3. Acceptance of Financial Records: Board acknowledgment of receipt of the following financial reports for the month of November 2025:

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

4. 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026).

Date and Time of 2026 Budget Hearing January 8, 2026, at 5:30pm

5. Organizational Meeting: Board establishment of time and place for the 2025 Organizational Meeting; tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026 (2026 regular meetings will be set at the organizational meeting).

2026 Organizational Meeting January 8, 2026, at 6:00pm

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

6. **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 2026.

President Pro-Tempore: Don Rengert

7. **Certificated Personnel - Substitute Teacher Approval**: Board approval of Substitute Teacher List for December 2025 as recommended by the North Central Ohio ESC and presented in your background material.

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

Fund 401: Increase in appropriations by \$20,000

Discussion: Board decided that the Tax Budget Hearing would take place at 5:30 on Thursday, January 8, 2026, prior to the Organizational and Regular Meetings at 6:00 that same day. Mr. Rengert volunteered to be the President Pro Temp at the January meeting until a President and Vice President are voted in during the Organizational portion of the meeting.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

B. Superintendent's Reports/Recommendations

Res. 131-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Rengert, to approve the following information:

1. **Resolution**:

a. **Resolution: Ohio School Board Association Membership**: Board approval to join Ohio School Boards Association for CY 2026 at a cost of \$7,334 in dues and \$175 for email delivery of School Management News, and as presented in your background materials.

b. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and Specialized Education of Ohio**: Board approval of the Agreement between River Valley Local Schools and the Specialized Education of Ohio, Inc. that owns and operates the High Road School of Marion County to serve on of our students for the 2025-2026 school year, as outlined in your background materials.

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

c. **Resolution – Personal Service Agreement:** Board approval of the Personal Service Agreement between and River Valley Local Schools and Gerald Smith to serve as a Tournament Manager for the following events:

HS/MS Girls Wrestling Tournament Manager on December 21, 2025
Junior Varsity Boys Wrestling Invitational Manager on December 22, 2025
As presented in your background materials.

d. **Resolution – Revised Personal Service Agreement:** Board approval of the revised Personal Service Agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Max Warren to provide Show Choir choreography services for the River Valley High School Show Choir for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented in your background materials.

e. **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 2026 and authorizes the treasurer to pay the LAF \$250.00.

f. **Resolution: Therapy Dog Program:** Board approval of a Therapy Dog Program at Liberty Elementary, led by Jennifer Williams, pending all required documentation is submitted. The program would begin on January 5, 2026, with parents being notified and procedures in place to allow parents/guardians to opt out students who may have allergies or for any other reasons.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session- Not Needed

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Classified Personnel

Res. 132-25 Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Stump, to approve the following information:

- a. **Classified Personnel - Resignation**: Board approval to accept a letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from Jay Ulsh, Head Custodian at River Valley High School, with regrets and best wishes. Letter received November 21, 2025, retirement is effective January 31, 2026, as presented in your background materials.
- b. **Classified Personnel - Resignation**: Board approval to accept a letter of resignation from Rebecca Pfeiffer, Assistant Cook at Heritage Elementary School, with regrets and best wishes. Resignation is effective December 5, 2025, as presented in your background materials.
- c. **Classified Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to employ Rebecca Pfeiffer, as an Educational Aide at Heritage Elementary School, effective December 8, 2025. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification and as presented in your background materials.
- d. **Classified Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to employ Ryan Shelton as a 5 Hour Assistant Cook at Heritage Elementary School, effective December 8, 2025. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification and as presented in your background materials.
- e. **Classified Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to employ Michelle Near as a Custodian at River Valley High School, effective November 25, 2025. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/ certification and as presented in your background materials.
- f. **Classified Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to employ Brenda Lowe as a 3 Hour Assistant Cook at River Valley Middle School, effective December 2, 2025. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification and as presented in your background materials.
- g. **Classified Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to employ Samantha Potts, as a Full Time 7 Hour Cook at River Valley High School, effective November 10, 2025. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification and as presented in your background materials.
- h. **Classified Personnel – Substitute**: Board approval to employ the following individuals as a classified substitute, on an as-needed basis, for the 2025-2026 school

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

year, with River Valley Local Schools, contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, per information in your background materials.

Emma Nutbrown - Substitute bus driver - Effective November 22, 2025
Zoe Parrott - Substitute van driver - Effective December 10, 2025

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Supplementals

Res. 133-25 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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:

Alyx Conkright - River Valley High School Assistant Band Director - Retroactive to August 1, 2025

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Candi Culler - River Valley High School Color Guard Advisor - Retroactive to August 1, 2025
Tyler Granlee - River Valley High School Freshman Football Co-Coach 50% - Retroactive to August 1, 2025
William Law - River Valley Middle School Wrestling Assistant Co-Coach
Jarrid Miracle - River Valley Middle School Wrestling Assistant Co-Coach
Kyle Miracle - River Valley High School Junior Varsity Wrestling Coach
Logan Miracle - River Valley Middle School Wrestling Assistant Co-Coach
Ryan Murphy - River Valley High School Girls Softball Coach
Jason Nutbrown - River Valley High School Girls Wrestling Head Coach
Ken Osborne - River Valley Middle School 7th Grade Head Boys Basketball Coach

b. Volunteer - Employment:

Ky Emmerson - River Valley High School Volunteer Wrestling Coach
Chuck Osborne - River Valley Middle School Volunteer Basketball Coach

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Students

Res. 134-25 Mr. Smith 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 Girls Wrestling team to the Women of Ironmen Wrestling Tournament in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, on Saturday, December 13, 2025, through Sunday, December 14, 2025.
- b. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval:** Board preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the High School Girls Wrestling team to the State Wrestling Tournament in Columbus, Ohio on Friday, March 13, 2026, through Sunday, March 15, 2026.
- c. **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:

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Middle School Boys Wrestling Tournament - 12/20/2025 - \$250/team
High School Girls Wrestling Tournament - 12/21/2025 - \$200/team or \$35/athlete
Middle School Girls Wrestling Tournament - 12/21/2025 - \$200/team or \$35/athlete
Junior Varsity Wrestling Invitational - 12/22/2025 - \$250/team or \$40/athlete
Bender Wrestling Duals - 2/7/2026 - \$275/team

Discussion: Mrs. Keller shared with the Board that the girls' wrestling forms that were missing from last month ended up being canceled trips, so there will be no forms for them to sign for those specific field trip requests this month.

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session

Res. 135-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump, to enter into executive session at 6:47pm 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.

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, Stump, Smith, Rengert
Nays:

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Res. 136-25 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to reconvene in Regular Session at 8:30pm and upon roll call vote the following members were present: Albright, Rengert, Smith, and Stump.

DISCUSSION: Any items of discussion by the Board.

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2025
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

The Board discussed that the resolution to appoint a new Tri Rivers representative will need to be on the January 8, 2026, board agenda to replace Dr. Haas.

ADJOURN: Thank you for coming.

Res. 137-25 Mr. Stump moved, seconded by Mr. Albright, to adjourn the meeting of the River Valley Board of Education at 8:31pm.

Discussion: None

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

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Board President

Attest