

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

**MARCH 19, 2026
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

President 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 will be entering the meeting around 6:20pm due to travel delays. Board members present at the meeting acknowledge receiving and reviewing a copy of the board meeting agenda, background materials, and other pertinent information prior to being in attendance.

APPROVAL OF BOARD AGENDA

Res. 031-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve adoption of the agenda as presented, except for moving the approval of February minutes to after Colonel Beineke enters the meeting, as well as the removal of the second executive session.

Discussion: The Board discussed that Mr. Rengert and Mr. Smith were not present at the February meeting and therefore needed to abstain from approving the minutes from that meeting. Mr. Rengert recommended that we move the item to later on the agenda after Colonel Beineke enters the meeting, so that she, Mr. Albright, and Mr. Stump could vote on the approval of the minutes at that time. Mr. Rengert also shared that the Board would be using the first executive session but would not need to use the second executive session.

Votes: Ayes: Albright, Smith, Rengert
 Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

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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 those in attendance.

Ms. Christy Neff requested to address the Board. Ms. Neff is running for County Commissioner. She shared that she is a 1989 graduate of Pleasant High School. Ms. Neff is going to community events, including school board meetings, to get to know people and understand how various entities work. Ms. Neff shared that she is very active in the community and welcomes questions and loves gathering information to come up with solutions and collaborations as she feels running for County Commissioner is a "big job interview." Ms. Neff thanked the board for the opportunity to introduce herself to them and stated that she looks forward to learning more about River Valley.

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

Mr. Wickham provided the board with a letter he intends to send to our State Representatives, Mr. McClain and Ms. Richardson, as well as our State Senator, Mr. Reineke, and ODOT, in opposition to the US23/I-71 connector. Feedback is being accepted through April 14th, so Mr. Wickham encouraged anyone in opposition to send letters such as the one he shared with the Board to the above-mentioned individuals ahead of this deadline. There were three local public sessions and Mr. Wickham shared that he attended one of the three and saw many community members in attendance. The connector is still in the study/proposal phase, and no funding has been allocated to it yet.

Mr. Wickham shared that the capital funding applications with First Consolidated and Tri Rivers for the "Frontline Future" project have been submitted at the state level and will also be submitted at the federal level to Husted's office in the next week or two. This project would allow First Consolidated to build an EMS and Fire Training Center alongside its new station that they have

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already received funding for. Having a training center as a resource for our community along with surrounding counties would be extremely beneficial to try and recruit and keep staff in our county or surrounding counties. It would also provide hands-on learning opportunities for career technical education students and adult education students attending Tri Rivers or their affiliate districts.

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

Heritage Elementary School Principal, John Wickersham, shared that the implementation of the weapons detectors has gone smooth so far and all students are getting in before the tardy bell; Ohio State Testing will begin after Spring Break; and over 4,000 items were collected during the building's recent food drive in collaboration with the Backpack Blessings program.

Liberty Elementary School Principal, Zachary Burns, shared that implementation of the weapons detectors has gone well in his building, too, with all students getting in before the tardy bell; Liberty held its annual specials night and literacy night and had great participation; Liberty's PTO held its annual Fun Night and despite the windy weather they still had great attendance from families and a lot of local support through donations; and Ohio State Testing will gear up once students return from Spring Break.

Director of K-5 Teaching & Learning at Heritage & Liberty Elementary, Melanie Comstock, also shared that she is preparing for testing season to begin and monitoring the progress of the newly introduced math improvement initiatives at the state level or "MIMPS".

Middle School Principal, Tom Bower, shared that the Middle School held its Egypt Night recently, which students and parents really seemed to enjoy again this year; Concert season has begun as we near the end of year concerts for the building's music programs; Ms. Songer received donations again to allow students to celebrate "Pi Day"; and the building has been having fun doing various "March Madness" challenges to boost both staff and student morale.

High School Principal, Travis Stout, shared that things are going well at the high school as the music department continues to do great in their recent concerts and attending various trips and events, including Nashville over Spring Break and Cedar Point this spring; Show Choir season is wrapping up; Guidance continues to schedule visits with various branches of the military during lunch; Students are attending the Kiwanis luncheon; FFA office team has been selected for the 26-27 school year; and ACTs are done.

MS/HS Activities Director, Sage Brannon, shared that the HS Musical, Wizard of Oz, will be April 17th-April 19th; Winter sports have wrapped up, and spring sports are starting.

Director of Instruction and Assessment, Don Gliebe, shared that this time of the year is the "calm before the storm" as we near testing season, but are completing annual reporting requirements,

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such as through the nonpublic and federal reporting. Mr. Gliebe also said that he has been preparing for the end of year professional development days.

Director of Educational Technology & Communication, Tad Douce, shared that his department continues to focus on the “TE(A)CH” mindset with a focus on cybersecurity due to requirements included in HB96 effective July 1, 2026. Our technology department utilizes software, such as Public School Works, Sophos, and a Disaster Recovery Plan to support cybersecurity efforts. Mr. Douce’s team decided to work through the new cybersecurity requirements internally and feel they had great success through the assessment period and are coming up with a plan to address any areas that we need to strengthen our operations moving forward to be compliant and best protecting the district. Apple recently released the MacBook NEO, which the district will be purchasing for our 8th grade students instead of Chromebooks this year. The 8th grade students will get to keep these computers when they graduate, which gives them more of an incentive to take care of the devices during their 8th grade and high school years. Our 4th graders will get new Chromebooks, and our kindergarten class will get Chromebooks redistributed from other grade levels.

ROLL CALL AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT- MEMBER ENTERING THE MEETING

Colonel Beineke entered the meeting at 6:21pm and at 6:55pm once building reports were completed Mrs. Keller took roll call again to indicate the members present at the meeting: Mr. Albright, Colonel Beineke, Mr. Rengert, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Stump were all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Res. 032-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke, to approve adoption of the minutes from the February 12, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Beineke, Smith, Stump, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Keller shared with the board that pursuant to their cash balance policy the district will need to formulate a plan to prevent it from falling below the minimum 90 days cash on hand, which is projected to occur during the 2028-2029 school year per the most recent financial forecast. Mrs. Keller informed the board that this was brought up at the most recent administration meeting and will be discussed during negotiations this spring as well. Mrs. Keller also provided the board with

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information regarding two new property tax reform bills that are still early in the legislative process but should be watched closely. The bills are HB421 and HB422. Mrs. Keller will provide updates on the status of these bills as they become available. Insurance claims have been submitted for property damaged during the recent windstorm. The district continues to use programs such as threshold cost and excess cost through DEW to get reimbursement from the state and/or resident districts to apply toward costs associated with educating our special education students. Threshold cost, which is for residential special education students, allows a percentage reimbursement of costs incurred for qualifying students while excess cost, which is for open enrolled special education students, allows districts to file for reimbursement from the district of residence for the costs associated with educating qualifying students above what we receive in state funding. The excess cost program applications were submitted in January, and the threshold cost applications are due by April 30th.

Res. 033-26 Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Stump, to approve the following information:

A. Treasurer's Report:

1. Acceptance of Donations:

Date	Name	Amount	Reason
2/3/2026 Soccer	RV Athletic Boosters	\$234.00	Boys
2/4/2026 Department	First National Bank	\$250.00	Athletic
2/25/2026	American Legion Post 584	\$1,000.00	HS Softball

Rebates

Date	Name	Amount	Purpose
2/4/2026 Athletics	Ohiopyle	\$39.68	High School

2. Financial Reports: Board Approval of the following financial information for the month of February, 2026:

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

3. Approval of Tax Rates: Board approval of the tax rates for tax year 2025:

Assesses Property Values

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Tax Year 2025
Collection Year 2026**

Assessed Values

	Tax Year	2025	2024
Residential/Agriculture		373,428,060	303,955,430
Other Real**		78,070,840	74,189,710
Public Utility Real		543,247	534,370
Public Utility Personal		23,095,321	22,528,100
Total		475,137,468	401,207,610

**Other real includes commercial, industrial and mineral properties

Calendar year collection potential with rollback and homestead:

Purpose	Full Millage	Eff Mills Res/Ag	Eff Mills/ Other Real	Est Yield @ 95%- All Classes
Inside:				
General	4.2*	4.2	4.2	1,895,866.02
Outside:				
76 Current	23.6*	13.834084	15.192665	6,067,087.47
78 Current	3.2*	1.965920	2.306611	884,175.44
Bond Levy	1.53	1.53	1.53	690,612
Permanent Improvement Levy	2.5*	2.015870	2.375480	947,404
Total TY 2025	35.03	23.545874	25.604756	10,485,144.93
Total TY 2024	35.43	24.380555	26.929330	9,709,990
Total TY 2023	35.43	24.381286	26.984655	9,580,461
*20 Mill status		20.000004	21.699276	

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4. **Certificated Personnel - Substitute Teacher Approval:** Board approval of the updated March Substitute Teacher List as recommended by the North Central Ohio ESC and presented in your background materials.

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

Increase Fund 516 IDEA-B appropriations by \$1,105.18
Increase Fund 572 Title appropriations by \$462.51
Increase Fund 584 Title IV-A appropriations by \$131.16
Increase Fund 587 IDEA ECSE appropriations by \$6.63
Increase Fund 590 Title II-A appropriations by \$1,103

6. **Asset Disposals:** Board approval of the disposal of the following assets, per the information presented in your background materials:

Disposal of Assorted plates with plate rack sold on Gov Deals

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Smith, Stump, Beineke, Albright, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Superintendent Reports / Recommendations

Res. 034-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the following information:

1. **Agreements/Resolutions:**

a. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and Kleingers Group:** Board approval of the agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Kleingers Group for the 2026 Pavement Rehabilitation Project retroactive to March 3, 2026, at Heritage and Liberty Elementary, River Valley Middle School and River Valley High School. As outlined in your background materials.

b. **Resolution: 2025-2026 Substitute Rates:** Board approval of the 2025-2026 Revised Substitute Rates as outlined in your background materials.

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- c. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and the North Central Ohio Educational Center (NCOESC)**: Board approval of the 2025 2026 agreement between River Valley Local Schools and the NCOESC for Ancillary Services at the North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center. Effective February 17, 2026 and as presented in your background materials.
- d. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and ERATE911 LLC**: Board approval to enter into an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and ERATE911 LLC for consultant services through the end of the 2026-2029 funding year of the Federal ERate Program, and as outlined in your background materials.
- e. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local School District and Cardington Lincoln Local School District**: Board approval of the revised agreement with Cardington Lincoln Local School District and River Valley Local School District to share the position of Director of Food and Nutrition. Beginning August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027. As presented in your background materials.
- f. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools and River Education Services, INC.**: Board approval of the agreement between River Valley Local Schools and River Education Services, INC. for the sole purpose of providing education services in accordance with placement at the River Education Services, INC. "Leap Program".
- g. **Resolution: Resolution Between River Valley Local Schools and Marion Acquisition, LLC**: Board approval of the resolution authorizing the filing of an increase complaint with the Marion County Board of Revision for certain properties owned by Marion Acquisition LLC and as presented in your background materials.
- h. **Resolution: Resolution Between River Valley Local Schools and Southpoint Holdings, LLC**: Board approval of the resolution authorizing the filing of an increase complaint with the Marion County Board of Revision for certain properties owned by Southpoint Holdings, LLC and as presented in your background materials.
- i. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local School District (RVLSD) and Sheakley**: Board approval of an agreement between River Valley Local Schools and Sheakley to participate in their Group Retrospective Rating Program for Workers' Compensation services. Effective for the period January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027, and as presented in your background materials.

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- j. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local School District (RVLSD) and the Ohio Schools Council:** Board approval of the agreement between River Valley Local School District (RVLSD) and the Ohio Schools Council authorizing the execution and delivery of master electric energy sales. For the period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027, and as presented in your background materials.

- k. **Resolution: Agreement Between River Valley Local Schools (RVLSD) and META Solutions:** Board approval of the agreement between River Valley Local Schools and META Solutions for the Master Agreement, Schedule I and Schedule II, for the 2026-2027 school year and as presented in your background materials.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Smith, Beinke, Stump, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Executive Session

Res. 035-26 Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Smith to enter into executive session at 7:09pm 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.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Beineke, Smith, Stump, Albright, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Res. 036-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke, to reconvene into Regular Session at 8:05pm and upon roll call vote the following board members were present: Mr. Albright, Colonel Beineke, Mr. Rengert, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Stump.

Certificated Personnel

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Res. 037-26 Colonel Beineke moved, seconded by Mr. Albright to approve the following information:

a. **Certificated Personnel - Leave of Absence**: Board approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Lesley Hess, Gym Teacher at Heritage and Liberty Elementary Schools, for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented in your background materials.

b. **Certificated Personnel - Administrative Contract**: Board approval to grant a one (1) year limited administrative contract to Erin Jackson, as the Speech Language Pathologist at River Valley Local Schools for the 2026-2027 school year. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, per information in your background materials.

c. **Certificated Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to grant a one (1) year limited contract to Barry Egan, Online Coordinator at River Valley High School. Contract effective for the 2025-2026 school year. Contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, per information in your background materials.

d. **Certificated Personnel – Employment**: Board approval to employ the following people, through a Produce Food Safety Training grant to create produce handling procedures as well as create lesson plans for K-5 students at Heritage and Liberty Elementary Schools Innovation Lab classrooms. Effective June 30, 2025, through June 30, 2026. As presented in your background materials, and contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification.

Katie Isler
Jen Miley

e. **Certificated Personnel – Education Level Adjustment**: Board approval of an education level adjustment for Natalie Darst, Third Grade Teacher at Heritage Elementary School, effective March 2, 2026, who has completed the necessary requirements for such an adjustment, as presented in your background materials.

f. **Certificated Personnel – Education Level Adjustment**: Board approval of an education level adjustment for Devan Cox, Reading Intervention Teacher at Heritage Elementary School, effective February 23, 2026, who has completed the necessary requirements for such an adjustment, as presented in your background materials.

g. **Certificated Personnel – Education Level Adjustment**: Board approval of a step correction previously approved on the February 12, 2026, board agenda, regarding an education level adjustment for Brooke Scheff, Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher

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at River Valley Middle Schools who has completed the necessary requirements for such an adjustment. Education level adjustment effective January 8, 2026, as presented in your background materials.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Beineke, Albright, Smith, Stump, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Classified Personnel

Res. 038-26 Mr. Rengert moved, seconded by Mr. Albright, to approve the following information:

- a. **Classified Personnel – Resignation**: Board approval to accept a letter of resignation from Brittany Keller, Treasurer, at River Valley Local Schools. Resignation is effective June 30, 2026, as presented in your background materials.

- b. **Classified Personnel – Substitute**: Board approval to employ the following people as a classified substitute on an as-needed basis, for the 2025-2026 school year, contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for certification or employment, and per your background materials.

Cindy McClenathan - Substitute Bus Aide
Kandace Mustard - Substitute Educational Aide
Charles Osborne - Substitute Educational Aide
Melinda Wilkins - Substitute Educational Aide

- c. **Classified Personnel - Volunteer Student Worker**: Board approval of Chris Davis as a Volunteer Student Worker as part of the CBI Program at River Valley Local Schools. Effective February 15, 2026, contingent upon completion of any necessary requirements for employment/certification, per information in your background materials.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Rengert, Albright, Beineke, Smith, Stump
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

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Supplementals

Res. 039-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Rengert, 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. **Personnel - Employment:**

1. **Bowling:**

a. Nick Manning - River Valley High School Junior Varsity Bowling Coach

2. **Events Coordinator:**

a. John Klingel - River Valley High School Fall & Winter Events Coordinator

3. **Volleyball: 2026-2027**

a. Tori Fritz - River Valley Middle School 8th Grade Head Volleyball Coach

b. Morgan Nemeth - River Valley Middle School 7th Grade Head Volleyball Coach

Discussion: None

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Vote: Ayes: Albright, Rengert, Beineke, Smith, Stump
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Students

Res. 040-26 Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Rengert, to approve the following information:

- a. **Extended Field Trip Preliminary and Final Approval:** Board preliminary and/or final approval of an extended field trip by the River Valley High School Girls Soccer Team for team bonding and Preseason scrimmages in Hammersville, Ohio on Friday, August 8, 2025, through Sunday, August 10, 2025. As outlined and presented in your background materials.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Smith, Rengert, Beineke, Stump, Albright
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Board Policies

Res. 041-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Colonel Beineke, to approve the following information:

- a. **First Reading of Recommended Revised Board Policies:** Board approval of the 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 the policies, you may do so.

DLC - Expense Reimbursements (Revised)
DLC-R - Expense Reimbursements (Revised)
EBDE - Procurement and Administration of Overdose Reversal Drugs (New)
EDEC - Artificial Intelligence (Revised)
JEB - Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten) (Revised)
JEFB - Released Time for Religious Instruction (Revised)

- b. **Waive of First Reading and Adoption of Recommended Revised Board Policies:** Board approval of the first reading, waiver of the second reading, and

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therefore the adoption of the revised board policies/regulations, as outlined below, and presented in your background materials.

EFD - Misbranded Foods and Cultivated- Protein Food Products (New)

Discussion: The board decided to take more time to read through and make changes to the policies listed under item a, therefore requiring a second reading and adoption to be approved at the April meeting. The board decided that policy EFD was ready for adoption and therefore the second reading could be waived.

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Beineke, Smith, Stump, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION: Any items of discussion by the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Wickham again for putting together the letter regarding the US23/I-71 connector.

Adjourn - Thank you for coming.

Res. 042-26 Mr. Albright moved, seconded by Mr. Stump, to adjourn the meeting of the River Valley Board of Education at 8:29pm.

Discussion: None

Vote: Ayes: Albright, Stump, Beineke, Smith, Rengert
Nays: None

President Rengert declared the motion carried.

Board President

Attest