

Riverside Minutes
Regular Meeting

March 18, 2026
Riverside Administration Office

A Regular Meeting of the Riverside School Board was held on the above date in the Riverside Administration Office with Vice President Kobeski presiding and the following members present: Carol Armstrong, Mary Burke, Barbara Fedor, Linda Joyce, Laura Kobeski, Brandi Luckasavage, Mary Antoniaci McHugh, Anthony Mattioli and Marion Maurer.

Also present was Paul M. Brennan and Attorney Moran.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS – None

Motion by Ms. Maurer, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to remove motion #12 from the amended board agenda, said motion pertaining to the hiring of a Junior High Assistant Coach. Roll call vote: All in favor. The agenda was amended and posted on March 19, 2026 to reflect this.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Ms. Maurer by to approve minutes of 18 February 2026 Regular Meeting and to dispense with the reading and accept as delivered. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Maurer, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve payrolls of 13 February 2026 of \$469,710.45 and 27 February 2026 of \$442,103.50. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Maurer, seconded by Ms. Luckasavage to approve estimated payrolls of 13 March 2026 of \$455,000 and 27 March 2026 of \$460,000. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Maurer, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to approve Treasurer's Report for January 2026 and the un-reconciled ending balances for February 28, 2026. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to approve and pay bills when found correct and funds are available. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to appoint Bryan Besecker as Football Assistant Coach effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mrs. Antoniaci McHugh to appoint Brian Jones as Football Assistant Coach effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to appoint Christopher Stecik as Football Assistant Coach effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli.

Motion by Ms. Maurer, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to appoint Corey Talerico as Football Assistant Coach effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Luckasavage, seconded by Mr. Mattioli to appoint Ron Pavalonis as Football Junior High Coach effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to appoint Jessica McCauley as Junior High Cross Country Coach effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Fedor, seconded by Ms. Burke to appoint Amanda Talipski-Perechinsky as Unit Advisor effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Burke, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, and Fedor. ABSTAIN, Mattioli. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Ms. Maurer to post for two Spring Weightlifting Instructors effective the 2025-2026 school year at stipends established as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Luckasavage, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve the readings of the following Policy Guides: 832 – Educational Equity – 3rd reading; 823 - Opioid Antagonist – 2nd reading; and 246 – Wellness – 1st reading. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Armstrong, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to accept the Letter of Intent to Retire from Ron Geise, Secondary Teacher, effective the last day of the 2025-2026 school year. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh to post and advertise for the following positions for the 2026-2027 school year: Music Teacher, Chemistry Teacher, Elementary Teacher, and Long-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Maurer, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve the Leave Request of Melissa DiStasi, Secondary Teacher, as outlined in her letter on file in the Superintendent's Office. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Burke to approve the following Use of Facilities Request(s): **SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENT(S):** Paul Stefani, United Way – Community Resource Event – REW Multi-Purpose Room - April 11, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.*; National Honor Society – Walk for Warriors – High School Track – April 26, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.*; Lake Vikes Softball Booster Club – 4th-6th Grade Dance – High School Cafeteria & Commons – April 1, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*; Spikes for Vikes – Volleyball Tournament –

High School Gym, Commons & Cafeteria – May 9, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*. Use is contingent upon adherence to the District Policy on Use of Facilities. *The School Board recognizes that this is a school-sponsored event. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve the Leave Request of Meghan Borzell, Special Education Teacher, as outlined in her letter on file in the Superintendent's Office. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh, seconded by Ms. Burke to enter into a contingent trading of facilities agreement with Riverfront Sports. This motion is pending Superintendent and Solicitor review. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Antoniaci McHugh to appoint Dana Bozym as Aide. This position is 6 hours per day, 5 ½ hours paid, ½ hour unpaid lunch, at \$15.00 per hour. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Burke to appoint Mina Ardestani as Principal at \$125,000. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Luckasavage, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Riverside School District and the Riverside Education Association with mutual approval of District Solicitor and the UniServ Representative. Roll call vote: YES, Joyce, Luckasavage, Maurer, Armstrong, Kobeski, Antoniaci McHugh, Fedor, and Mattioli. ABSTAIN, Burke. MOTION CARRIED.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Moran reported that Plan Con is not being funded and that PDE is not reinforcing building code regulations. Mrs. Armstrong asked about any potential changes to the rule for posting the board meeting agenda to our website. Attorney Moran responds that it currently stands it does not apply singularly to school boards. That law was changed significantly around Thanksgiving of 2025 and it was eliminated.

Education Committee – Mrs. Joyce reported that there will be a new reading series at Riverside Elementary West. She also reported that cursive writing will be added to the curriculum. She talked about Success by Six.

NEIU 19 – Mrs. Joyce reported on a 3-day school training, Improvement Practices (needs assessment) that was presented through NEIU 19.

Board Policy Committee – Mrs. Luckasavage reported that policies are up-to-date.

Maintenance Committee – Mrs. Fedor reported on completed and on-going work orders.

Finance Committee – Ms. Antoniaci McHugh stating that work is being done on the budget. She talked about county assessment and new assessments.

Sports Committee – Mrs. Armstrong spoke about new coaches. She congratulated the basketball teams on a winning season.

Student Affairs Committee - None

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Brennan thanked Ron Geise for his service to the District and wished him a happy retirement. He recognized student Tommy Schechterly on his silver state medal win in wrestling and student Landon Yarem on his participation in the regional spelling bee competition. He reported that a few 9th grade Honors Physical Science students participated in the PA Junior Academy of Science at Wilkes University. He also reported that the Read Across America activities were very successful this year. Mr. Brennan introduced newly-appointed

Superintendent Dan Gilroy to the audience. Mr. Gilroy stated he was excited to be back at Riverside.

OLD BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Joe Labrosky, Taylor, asked about the Chief Advisor position and salary moving forward, including how the District will ensure accountability. The Board President mentioned that the position was approved by board action and is governed by a written agreement on file with the District. Mr. Labrosky questioned about having two positions. Mr. Brennan mentioned that grant writing is only one small part of his job description. Sarah Bowman, Moosic, encouraged others to rally around a current House and Senate Bill. Liza Balcerzak, Taylor, asked about a grant firm that was previously approved as a vendor with the District. She questioned the flexibility of the new Chief Advisor position. Ms. Antoniaci McHugh added that the work would be in tandem, as the vendor will help us to utilize and provide access to lobbyist firms. Although the Chief Advisor position is flexible, Mr. Brennan explained that his plan is to be in the office as much as possible as he was there today setting up his new office. Mimi Tilberry, Scranton, made public comments regarding the hiring process and selection for the Unit Advisor. Eugene Gallagher, Taylor, questioned Mrs. Armstrong about having a relative working for the grant vendor and another relative working under contract at the District.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to adjourn. Roll call vote: All in favor.