

## **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2018 BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Riverview Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tim Bohr in the Council Chambers at Riverview City Hall, 14100 Civic Park Drive, Riverview, MI 48193.

The following members were present at roll call: President Bohr, Secretary Wright, Treasurer Laura-Frazier, Trustee Davis, Trustee Irving and Trustee Walker  
Vice-President O'Brien was excused

Also Present: Russell E. Pickell, Superintendent  
Cathy Rios, District Secretary

**PRESENTATIONS:** Principal Nicole Munoz introduced some parents who have been working day and night for this upcoming production. Next she introduced Mr. Glen Hoying and the Seitz Middle School Drama Club. Mr. Hoying spoke about the Drama Club and their upcoming performance of Beauty and the Beast. In this show alone there are 85 students both in the production and back stge. The dates are March 13, 14 & 15 with a free performance during Monday's dress rehearsal for staff and community nursing home residents. All show times are at 7:00 p.m. and the cost is only \$5.00 to attend. The Drama club then performed the song Beauty and the Beast for the Board members and the meeting attendees.

### **GUEST AND VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were 5 people addressing the Board of Education at this time.

Dr. Pickell indicated that we had a community forum scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the play production at Seitz. There should be a date published in the next couple of weeks. This will be the opportunity to get everyone together and voice their opinions, we also have some areas we have been investigating. The important thing would be to get your neighbors on board and get them interested. The community forum will be posted on the website, we want as many people as possible. We have had security on the bond proposal four different times and hopefully times have changed and we can get people to become engaged and follow through.

### **A-5 – ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Moved by Treasurer Laura-Frazier and supported by Secretary Wright that the Riverview Board of Education approves the Agenda for the February 27, 2018 regular meeting.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Irving, Laura-Frazier, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **A-6 - APPROVAL OF CONSENT GROUPING**

Moved by Secretary Wright and supported by Trustee Walker that the Riverview Board of Education approves the Minutes of the January 23, 2018 Organizational Meeting, Check Registers and Purchase Card Expense Reports as contained in the Consent Grouping.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Irving, Laura-Frazier, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

#### **STUDENT LIASON REPORT**

Ethan Kulaszewski gave a report of recent and upcoming events at the High School.

#### **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Hatzl reiterated the purpose of this committee since it was the first report of this new year. The committee includes members of the teaching staff, administrative staff, the Superintendent, as well as members of the Board of Education. He indicated the purpose of this committee shall be to consider problems of mutual concern and to recommend methods of improving the educational program in the schools. Their meeting in February shared several areas of concern and frustration and the determination was made as to how to move forward with district initiatives, particularly the launching protocol for new initiatives. The consensus was that all stakeholders, teachers, administrators, the school board and families would have a more defined role in helping to collectively establish how we would advance with all important programming goals. In addition, it was deemed imperative that all parties invested in this process would participate with a positive approach. Mr. Hatzl relayed that as a result of the committee's discussion, it has been determined that the new structure for innovation will begin with the district's English Language Arts curriculum. Members of all stakeholder groups will be asked to join in reviewing Riverview's K-12 ELA standards and common assessments. This committee will have a clearly stated purpose, goal, set of parameters, a timeframe for completion, and a method for reporting out the results.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of March.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS/LEGISLATIVE REPORTS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dr. Pickell indicated that there was not much to report as far as legislation goes. There is just a lot of ridiculous talk about how to better make schools safe such as training and arming teachers which is an initiative that is just not going to work. Fortunately, there is not that much discussion at the local level for that. One of the most recent articles talks about counseling services at the high school. The recommended ratio for counselors to students is 250:1. The national average is about 440:1. Michigan's average is about 789:1, which goes right into the adequacy and school funding report that has recently come out and has been getting quite a bit of discussion. A lot of our key

organizations have been involved in this bi-partisan presentation of basically what it will cost to educate a child in Michigan. It was a very well done comparison. Dr. Pickell is very happy to say that we took a strong initiative on this over the past couple of years by adding another middle school counselor and adding an elementary counselor that that we have not had for quite a while. When you compare ideal numbers at our high school, the counselor to student ratio is about 340:1 which is not to the recommended but it is far better than the national average and is about twice as good as what the state is doing and it's about the same numbers for the middle school. We put in those services to make sure that we are there for the students who have the greatest need and are most susceptible, unfortunately, to not only bad prompting in the social media which causes them to make bad decisions but in the television media as well.

Dr. Pickell said that It is a shame that each time something tragic like this happens we have to go through this continual cycle, and really beyond the front edge that we are dealing with children. We are dealing with susceptible children that they don't know the true meaning of consequences. One of the biggest recommendations that the superintendent had for our parents and our community is be on the lookout for each other and be supportive of each other and certainly monitor what is going on with your own child's social media because you don't want to be that parent that thinks everything is fine and all of a sudden you're the center of attention in the school because your child posted something inappropriate that is now going to cause the trashing that happens on social media and causes that frenzy.

We need to put our best foot forward in these times of crisis in our community not our worst. It is just a matter of remembering that we all want what is best for our kids. Dr. Pickell has sent his kids to the high school for the past 9 years and will continue to do that for the next three. We do the best we can with what we have, we have continual monthly meetings, we have a district safety committee that meets the last Monday of every month at 3:45 at Forest Elementary. If you want to be part of that discussion that is the place to be. We meet with the police chief, our first responders, and everyone we can to make sure we are putting things in place to best meet the safety needs of our kids. Dr. Pickell also brought up the Facilities Committee meeting and apologized that he does not yet have that date but it will be very well publicized. That is the time whether you are a choice parent or a resident parent to be there to provide not only your input but also to offer your support. This is a "we" problem and it needs to be a "we" solution and we need to have that taken care of for our kids.

We have another meeting set up with the church leaders, the city leaders and our school administrators this Friday to talk about these things. We are looking at everyone's best idea. Dr. Pickell indicated that the scariest part for him is that the facility needs we asked for in the last four bonds were the facilities they had in the last two school shootings. You can only do so much, we have to do a little more than just worry about brick and mortar when it comes to our protection of our kids. We have to be vigilant, cautious and not be afraid to speak up and make a phone call to the police and just say something is odd here. That is what will make a difference, brick and mortar and arming teachers will not make a difference. The Superintendent said that he has to remind people that we had a mass shooting at a military base, so if we are going to think that brick and mortar is going to be the solution for our district we need to really start thinking again.

**A-7 –ADOPT SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

Moved by Treasurer Laura-Frazier and supported by Trustee Walker that the Riverview Board of Education adopts School of Choice for the 2018-2019 school year as attached.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Irving, Laura-Frazier, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**GUEST AND VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were 2 people addressing the Board of Education at this time.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRESENTED BY BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNING WHICH NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN**

Trustee Irving sent condolences to the family of Coach Tony our Varsity Volleyball coach who passed away suddenly this past week. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and to his players both present and past as they grieve this loss. This was a great loss to our community.

Also she thanked the Drama Club, teacher & principal from Seitz. It just warmed her heart to see so many students involved and to see what amazing talent they had. Being involved in community theater herself, she knows how important to get our students involved at a young age.

Trustee Irving wished the best of luck to the RCHS Skating Club at States and to the Boy's Swimming & Diving Club as they go to States on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Treasurer Laura-Frazier and supported by Treasurer Walker that the February 27, 2018 Board of Education Regular Meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Irving, Laura-Frazier, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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Amy Wright, Secretary  
Riverview Board of Education

Accepted March 27, 2018