

## **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 2017 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 Gary O'Brien in the Council Chambers at Riverview City Hall, 14100 Civic Park Drive, Riverview, MI 48193.

The following members were present at roll call: President O'Brien, Secretary Laura-Frazier, Treasurer Bohr, Trustee Davis, Trustee Walker  
Vice-President Wright arrived at 7:04 p.m.  
Trustee Irving was absent

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

### **PRESENTATION:**

Athletic Director Jeff Stergalas discussed fall sports in general and then introduced the Boys Varsity Tennis Team congratulating them on All-Academic honors. Next, Coach Aaron Shupe came up and spoke about the Cross-Country Team and their accomplishments. Coach Sean Gill then honored the Girls' Varsity Swim Team. Lastly, Coach Derek McLaughlin congratulated the Varsity Football Team on a fine season and finishing in the final four for the State. All fall athletes were presented with certificates honoring their accomplishments.

### **GUEST AND VISITOR COMMENTS**

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

### **A-49 – ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Moved by Secretary Laura-Frazier and supported by Treasurer Bohr that the Riverview Board of Education accepts the Agenda for the November 28, 2017 meeting.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Laura-Frazier, O'Brien, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### **A-50- APPROVAL OF CONSENT GROUPING**

Moved by Treasurer Bohr and supported by Vice-President Wright that the Riverview Board of Education approves the items listed in the Consent Grouping which contains the Minutes of the October 24, 2017 Regular Meeting, Check Registers and Purchase Card Expense Reports, individual contracts, and the field trip to Stratford, Ontario.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Laura-Frazier, O'Brien, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

### **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Elena Tyler commented on the final exam schedule for this week and talked about the current events and accomplishments at the high school.

Superintendent Pickell said that he was happy to report that the legislation was not in session so he had nothing to report legislatively. He is more concerned at this time as to what is going on in Washington as opposed to what is going on in Lansing.

Administratively, Superintendent Pickell congratulated all of the fall athletes for their accomplishments. It was great having the football season extended for as long as it was. It was exciting to see how the boys came together and really played as a team. It was nice to get some wins over some schools that we traditionally don't have that much success with. The Superintendent mentioned that he had attended all of the Cross-Country matches and it has been a remarkable joy to watch Robert Diebold from his Freshman year all the way to his Senior year, he has done a phenomenal job and works very hard. Robert has had remarkable accomplishments in Cross Country and has his 3200 meter record in his track season as well. He is one of the greats that has come through the doors both as a student and as an athlete. Dr. Pickell also commended all of the athletes as well.

The Superintendent thanked all of the parents that have come out and he certainly wants them to know that he is aware of their frustrations and concerns with the PowerSchool system. When it is up and running it is a very formidable and cooperative system and it is going to give you a lot of data. It is used throughout the nation and it really is a much better program. Nobody is happy where we are right now and he has communicated those concerns to the representatives at PowerSchool and they are sending all of the resources they can to get this resolved as quickly as possible and hopefully within the next couple of weeks you will see very drastic results as far as user ability.

As far as the Parent Teacher Conferences, the public comments and desires will be discussed when we negotiate our next teacher contract. He thanked everyone again for coming and relayed that their frustration with PowerSchool is shared. The Superintendent assured everyone that we are going to work very hard to make sure that system is where we need it to be and where you want it to be as well.

**A-51-RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT: SCHOOL FINANCE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE**

Moved by Treasurer Bohr and supported by Secretary Laura-Frazier that the Riverview Board of Education supports the School Finance Research Collaborative as attached.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Laura-Frazier, O'Brien, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **GUEST AND VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were 8 people addressing the Board of Education at this time.

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

President O'Brien began by saying even from the standpoint of the Board, they recognize the management of the PowerSchool transition and the number of changes that have taken place this fall that have been problematic. Some of this responsibility falls on the Board, hindsight is 20/20 but clearly, they have allowed more change than should have probably been undertaken so they do hear what the public is saying. There is obviously some responsibility that lies with Administration. Public concerns are not falling on deaf ears, however from what we have been presented, PowerSchool is a better system to go to. Talking with teachers in other districts they say how powerful this system is and so this is the right thing to do but the execution was not done perfectly.

President O'Brien went on to explain that even in a company like Ford, when they roll out a major system very rarely does everything go smoothly especially when IT is involved along. Compounded on this were issues from the resignation of our IT Director. Other things that are unique to the education system is that teachers don't work during the summer so the idea of forcing every teacher to learn PowerSchool over the summer is difficult. The model that was applied here was a coaching model where some teachers from each building were trained with the intent of training other teachers in their building but that didn't work perfectly either. Obviously, people that sell these programs are pretty good salesmen and they assured us that everything was going to go smoothly and it rarely does.

As far as containment, we have to move forward and work with this system, we are not going to revert back to the old system. President O'Brien is confident that we can work through these difficulties and we definitely understand the frustration and the pressure on the teachers.

As for conferences, if the parents at large don't like the fact that the traditional conferences have been removed at the elementary level then please continue to keep that feedback coming. If that is the overwhelming consensus that you would like things back the way they were we will listen to that and discuss it and make a decision accordingly.

Lastly, we have a District Improvement Committee that consists of 3 of the board members, administration and teachers that meets monthly and the issues that are being brought up tonight are a lot of the issues they discuss at these meetings. This is an excellent forum to talk and brainstorm ideas on how to make things better. President O'Brien agrees 100% that we need a better mechanism to get solid feedback from the teachers. We need to figure out how to get feedback and solve problems with the focus on how to solve the problems and not get diverted by personality issues and individual axes that are put on the grinder. The Board is very receptive to fixing issues in a positive way but without information it is very difficult for them to make any decisions or provide any guidance

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Secretary Laura-Frazier and supported by Treasurer Bohr that the November 28, 2017 Board of Education Regular Meeting be adjourned.

Yeas: Bohr, Davis, Laura-Frazier, O'Brien, Walker, Wright

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Amy Laura-Frazier, Secretary  
Riverview Board of Education

Accepted December 19, 2017