

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 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, Vice President O'Brien, Treasurer Laura-Frazier, Trustee Davis, Trustee Irving and Trustee Walker
Secretary Wright arrived at 7:12 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE – Cub Scout Pack 1659

PRESENTATIONS: Cub Scout Pack 1659 Presentation - Dave Wright Pack Leader

GUEST AND VISITOR COMMENTS

There were 3 people addressing the Board of Education at this time.

A-39 – ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Moved by Secretary Wright and supported by Trustee Walker that the Riverview Board of Education approves the Agenda for the September 25, 2018 regular meeting.

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

A-40 - APPROVAL OF CONSENT GROUPING

Moved by Treasurer Laura-Frazier and Vice President O'Brien that the Riverview Board of Education approves the Minutes of the August 28, 2018 Regular Meeting and approves the check registers, expense reports and individual contracts as all contained in the Consent Grouping.

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

STUDENT LIAISON REPORT: Mackenzie McMahon gave a summary of current and upcoming events.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS/LEGISLATIVE REPORTS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS

Superintendent Pickell began his report discussing the School Finance Research Collaborative. There was a statewide study started by the Governor's office that will be discussed by the gubernatorial candidates. A 250-page document has been published and really brings to light how under-funded our schools really are in the state of Michigan. If we have the expectations to be one of the top 10 states in the country with regard to our educational program we are going to have to make sure we follow through with the proper funding.

The current structure for school funding is Proposal A back from 1994. The focus then was to close the gap as to how schools were funded. At that time, it was done by local millages but it left an extensive gap. After all this time, the gap has closed however we have had a lot of new information since then and this old way does not work anymore. One of the big things we found from Proposal A was that it only funded the operating budget and it really depended on the strength of the economy. The base per pupil costs to educate a K-12 student in Michigan is \$9590.00 which does not include transportation, food service or capital costs which are our infrastructure needs and only includes 4.6% of pension costs. Right now, we are funded at \$7,900.00 so we are already falling short of that mark and we still need to fund our transportation, food service or capital costs and the remainder of our pension costs. The findings show that it really costs \$14155.00 to educate a preschool student age 3 or 4 and we are only getting about half of that. Last year we started with only one GSRP program, which is funded by the State of Michigan. This year we have two so we actually doubled our number of students in our State program but we are still significantly underfunded to meet their needs.

They also had adjustments showing special education students cost more to educate based on the level of the disability. Mild disability adds about 70% to the base and for severe disability we need to have total state reimbursement. The average transportation cost should be about \$731.00 per rider and we are not getting those funds as well. The other one is Career Tech, that should be about 10% above the base in order to adequately fund those programs. These are the things that the community and the public need to be aware of when listening to the gubernatorial candidates. They keep telling us we need to fix the schools but they need to fix the funding first. We all want to compete with all those other states that are very successful. We need to determine how to operate more efficiently with the tax dollars that are already coming into the state and figure out how to close these gaps. We wanted everyone to be aware of that study that is going on so when you hear about it in the many campaign ads that are already being bombarded with you will have some information on this.

Secondly, Dr. Pickell spoke of the upcoming bond, he thanked President Bohr and Vice President O'Brien, for doing a great job with the pictures that they took for the website. Also, Matt Dominski and Mike Pelkey have been working really hard with the rest of us to get awareness out. More pictures from our educational staff will be forthcoming. One of the things that we heard in our committees was that our buildings look really good from the curb and people don't see what's inside. We are trying to get the information out there as to how critical these needs are.

Dr. Pickell briefly went over the two proposals that are on the ballot for November 6th. The first Proposal is a bond that will generate 12.925 million dollars and we did a lot of work to structure it so that it is actually a zero-tax mil increase over a 15-year period. We presented this to City Council and got a great deal of support from them. We wanted to make sure we could take care of our needs without over-taxing the community. The second Proposal is a sinking fund with only \$2.00 assessed on each \$1,000 of taxable value for only 6 years generating 3.5 million dollars. With a sinking-fund we will get only one year's worth of revenue per year and it will be up to the Board, the community and various committees to decide where this part of the money is going to be spent. We have a lot greater need than we have resources so it is all about prioritizing. This is where we can talk about redoing the middle school and high school science labs or including more technology where it is needed. If there is an emergency with some system or another we can address that. If we took a serious look at air conditioning for Huntington Elementary this is where that money would come from. These are things you can put in place a little at a time where with a bond you are doing bigger projects with a longer life expectancy.

The things that we are looking at fixing on the bond itself:

- Resurfacing parking lots at every school in the district (2.3 million)
- Providing vestibules and secure entranceways in every school (1.3 million)
- Surveillance systems at every school (160,000)
- Replacing mechanical systems throughout the district/boilers & HVAC (3.6 million)
- Electrical systems throughout the district to adhere to technology (1.6 million)
- Roof repairs, window replacements and brick repairs where needed (275,000)
- Renovation of the Seitz pool, dig out and rebuild for ADA compliance (1.5 million)
- Playground equipment for all elementary schools (345,000)
- Emergency & PA Systems (310,000)

We have a lot of things that were put in place during the 1997 bond so for things with a 20-year life cycle that have been around for 25-27 years we certainly have gotten our money's worth. Seitz kitchen is where we prepare all the meals for all of the elementary schools and the middle school. The kitchen equipment dates back to when that building was built.

These are all essential things to make sure that our buildings are secure and will last another 20 years. On the website under the Frequently Asked Questions you can do a debt comparison to see our millage debt rate compared to the rest of Wayne County and right now we are at the bottom 30% of the county. With the 2-mil increase on the sinking fund we are still going to be in the bottom third of the county. We are under-funding what needs to be done and as a result a lot of the work has to be taken out of the classroom. It is a common theme that people want to compare us to Grosse Ile and to Trenton but until we start showing the same amount of commitment it is just not realistic.

The best line that we got when we were at City Council and it came from Councilman Workman and he said "you know what, it's time" and it is time for our community to start supporting our schools because if we don't get caught up we are going to be so far behind that we can't compete

and we can't afford to lose kids to districts because their facilities are that much better and if we don't start the work now we are just going to be out of the running.

The website is constantly being updated with regard to all of this information.

A-41 –SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY UPDATES

Moved by Secretary Wright and supported by Treasurer Laura-Frazier that the Riverview Board of Education waives the second and third readings and immediately adopts the Board of Education Policy Updates as proposed.

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

GUEST AND VISITOR COMMENTS

There were 4 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 thanked Boy Scout Troop 1659 on their hard work and dedication. Her son had earned his Eagle Scout through that same troop. She also thanked Mackenzie for volunteering to be our Student Liaison. She has gotten to know Mackenzie at the Student Council state camp last year and she is a very promising young leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice President O'Brien and supported by Secretary Wright that the September 25, 2018 Board of Education Regular Meeting be adjourned.

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Amy Wright, Secretary
Riverview Board of Education

Accepted October 23, 2018