

RILEY COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL  
District 18  
9406 Riley Road  
Marengo, IL 60152

Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
7:00 PM

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

School Board Members Proberts, Wardzala, Schnable, Mitchell, Behnke and Olsen answered roll call at 7:00 PM. Member Peters was not present. Members of the public in attendance were Mr. Wardzala, Mrs. Northcutt, Mrs. Kasch, Mr. & Mrs. Hammortree, Shane & Nichole Hammortree, Mr. & Mrs. Millard, Mr. Green, Alexander Green, Mrs. Ehredt, Mrs. Haefflinger and Mrs. Kunde. Also in attendance were Mrs. Conkling, Mrs. Rooney, and Mr. Trickett.

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one Freedom of Information Act request from Government Reform Illinois Policy Institute regarding the Illinois School Code requiring all Illinois school districts to post on their existing website all contracts over \$25,000. Mr. Trickett respond to the letter informing them Riley CCSD 18 has submitted the information for posting to our website provider.

Member Wardzala queried Mrs. Schnable about a charge on the Chase Bank card for tuition at last months meeting. Mrs. Wardzala asked Mrs. Schnable if the \$200.00 listed in payables was the reimbursement for said tuition. Mrs. Schnable confirmed that it was reimbursement from the teacher.

Mr. Trickett commented on the \$250.00 charge from McHenry Analytical Water stating it is an annual fee. This fee was usually paid quarterly (62.50). This company supplies us with the bottles necessary for water testing and completes the necessary State reporting required.

President Schnable would like to add Item "I" to Section X - New Business on the agenda: Authorizing expenditure by the Superintendent for the development and design package for a structure to replace existing mobiles.

The Consent Agenda includes approval of the adoption of Personnel Policy 5:330 Vacation, Holidays and Leaves, approval of the first reading for policy revisions listed with adoption at the April 15, 2009 Board of Education Meeting, approve acceptance of Library Program Grant for \$222.77 for fiscal year 2009, approve the RPA's annual garage sale, June 4-6, 2009 and approval of one week's vacation for Principal Conkling beginning March 23, through 27, 2009.

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Member Behnke made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Member Wardzala seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Proberts – AYE  
Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke AYE

Member Wardzala – AYE  
Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE

Mr. Schnable introduced Mrs. Dawn Northcutt as a prospective individual to be appointed to the Board of Education. Mr. Schnable thanked Mrs. Northcutt for her interest in becoming a Riley School Board Member.

Principal Conkling and Board President Schnable presented Nicole Hammortree and Alexander Green with the February Viking Award. Congratulations to Nicole and Alexander for being outstanding Riley students.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mrs. Kasch is very concerned about the current 7<sup>th</sup> grade class of 30 students not being split for the 2009/10 school year. This class has some discipline issues and feels they would benefit being split for certain subjects. Mrs. Ehredt added that there are many parents concerned about this class not being split. Mrs. Kasch is also concerned if there are not enough qualified students to participate the Algebra program that it will be dropped for school year 2009-2010.

President Schnable reassured the public that these class lists are not set in stone. Mrs. Conkling also assured the public that there are other options we can look into. Mr. Trickett agreed that 30 students is a large number but if the only concern is discipline; will splitting the class just divide the discipline issues into two classes instead of one. Mr. Trickett assured the public that regardless of numbers the District will try to provide an opportunity for those eligible to participate in an Algebra program. The program was originally initiated and taught at Marengo Community High School District 154; then Marengo-Union Elementary District 165 taught the program. It will be a Board decision as to where the program will take place.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Spring break will begin March 23<sup>rd</sup>, through the 27<sup>th</sup> with school to resume on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class of 2009 graduation date remains, Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in the Marengo Community High School’s auditorium at 7:00 PM. All Riley School bus drivers will be attending the 2 hour required annual refresher course April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Marengo Community High School.

Mr. Trickett brought to the Board’s attention the action taken by the Regional Office of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education on January 29, 2009 to change Riley CCSD 18 from a status of Pending Recognition to Full Recognition for school year 2008/09.

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SEDOM Executive Board hosted a Special Meeting March 11, 2009 at 6:30PM to approve the installation of photovoltaic roof panels.

It is under the recommendation of Superintendent Trickett that we do not participate in the Illinois School Board Policy Press Plus Service saving the District approximately \$3,200.00. This is a clerical duty that can be completed at minimal cost to the District.

Mr. Trickett is pleased to inform the Board of Education that the Technology Plan passed the "Peer Review" status. This plan was completed by Ms. Moore, Principal Conkling and Committee members. The Technology Plan has been approved by KIDS and awaits ISBE final approval. Riley had not complied with submitting a Technology Plan during the past three years for approval. Thank you for a job well done.

The Marengo Area School Education Foundation (MASEF) brought to our attention an error in the distribution of funds and outlined the discrepancies. Riley will receive less money next year due to the error and the high school district will receive its full share.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Principal Conkling congratulated the students for good attendance during the two weeks of ISAT testing. There were very few absences which made the make up testing minimal. All tests will be shipped, Friday, March 20, 2009. Once again, a stellar performance by our 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and chorus members at the direction of Ms. Burns March 10<sup>th</sup> Spring Concert. Many students show cased their talent performing solos and ensembles, vocally and instrumentally. The girls' basketball season ended with a thrilling championship game for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade squad ending in a championship for Riley School. The boys' volleyball season will consist of 3 games ending the week we return from spring break. Co-ed track and girls' soccer will begin after spring break as well. Mrs. Conkling attended a Community Workshop held at Marengo Community High School entitled "Help Your Children Help Themselves". There were about 50 people present. This workshop emphasized the emotions of bullying with break out sessions. This will be an annual workshop provided to the community. Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> will be a half day for students and an in-service day for staff with a representative from SEDOM for Response to Intervention training. The RTI Committee will be viewing webinars on universal tools and costs and will be working on recommendations to be presented at the April Board of Education Meeting. Our Young Authors' assembly will be Tuesday, March 31, 2009 for our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who participated. All participating students will be recognized at the assembly and the award winning books will be read to the audience with pictures illustrated on the projection screen.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Riley School's greatest asset is the dedicated faculty and principal. The test scores reflect this dedication by having some of the highest scores in the County. However, Riley's greatest deficit is the aging building and the

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existence of three temporary mobile classrooms that have become permanent for the past 12-15 years. With the projection of little to no new housing, the possibility of housing assessments to decline, and the Consumer Price Index dropping to almost zero there will be considerably less revenue over the next few years. Mr. Trickett believes the Board needs to consider alternative means to house students in the future and prepare to address the escalating costs of the aging building. The recent replacement of a \$3,200 heating coil will become the standard soon. The stimulus package proposed for schools may not help us due to the funds being so restrictive; however, the possibility still exists that we may receive some revenue for building and operational purposes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

President Schnable would like to address the possible refinishing of the gym floor. It has been 15 years since this floor has been refinished by totally stripping and restriping. Due to flood damage last year to the northwest corner, the floor is two different colors. This floor is resealed on an annual basis, but Ms. Marsh would like new lines to accommodate badminton and volleyball and restore the gym floor to one color. A full re-sanding of the gym floor would cost \$7,838.00 with an additional \$200-\$300 for additional lines. Member Olsen asked if the damage to the floor last year was covered under our insurance. Mr. Schnable said the repairs to the floor cost \$15,000.00 and was covered under the insurance plan.

Member Mitchell made a motion to approve the sanding and relining of the gym floor for the summer of 2009. Member Behnke seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Wardzala – AYE  
Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE

Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE

**NEW BUSINESS**

Member Mitchell made a motion to pass resolution for the McHenry County Safe School Program. Member Behnke seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Wardzala asked Mr. Trickett for an explanation of this particular transfer. In the past we have done a temporary transfer why a permanent transfer?

Mr. Trickett believes that your past resolutions have always stated “permanent” transfer; he explained that the Working Cash Fund’s primary purpose is to serve as a means to have sufficient funds in its treasury at all times to meet demands for ordinary and necessary expenses. The money may only be permanently transferred to the education fund. Districts levy a .05% rate for this fund which decreases the amount of the rates to be levied in other funds. If you temporarily transfer the funds then you need to repay them. The fund is used to loan money to other funds. The School Code already allows Districts to interfund loan from any of

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the three major funds to other funds, which in essence is what the Working Cash Fund does. We are not eliminating it; we are just not building up reserves in this fund via repayment from year to year. It is in his opinion that the ability to borrow is already established by interfund loan and to repay the Working Cash Fund serves no purpose but to decrease the District's ability to distribute the revenues generated by the rate to the funds showing the greatest need.

Member Behnke made a motion to pass resolution to permanently transfer \$57,281.79 from Working Cash Fund to Education Fund for fiscal year 2009. Member Proberts seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE

Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE

Mrs. Conkling explained the new science books for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades as being not grade specific and interchangeable. Pearson/Prentice Hall will provide us with full sets of the 2009 series. It has been 8 years since this program received new textbooks. Any staff member who teaches science was part of the committee deciding on the best fit for Riley School. The elementary classrooms 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> will also receive a new science series from McMillan/McGraw Hill. These books are geared for Illinois demographics with great diagrams and illustrations. Both junior high and elementary science books are valued at \$26,873.00. With the text book loan program (\$3,327.38) and negotiations with both companies, the cost to District 18 will be \$15,085.24 plus shipping. The present third grade text books were evaluated by the staff and felt that they are more geared to second grade levels. Therefore, the present third grade textbooks will be handed down to the second grade; second grade text books will be given to first grade students. Our junior high Social Studies textbooks were replaced last year.

Member Behnke made an amended motion to approve Illinois Textbook Adoption Loan Program for \$3,327.68; and District funding of \$15,085.24 plus shipping for the purchase of textbooks for third through junior high level. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE

Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE

Member Wardzala made a motion to authorize Superintendent Trickett to pursue development of the fiscal year 2010 school budget. Member Proberts seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Superintendent Trickett is recommending the purchase of a 2009 IC/CE – 71 passenger bus. The State' funding formula through depreciation helps to indirectly reimburse Districts the cost of a new bus.

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Member Proberts made a motion for the purchase of one year old 2009 IC/CE – 71 passenger bus with MFDT 466 diesel engine with 5,000 to 8,000 miles from Midwest Transit Equipment through a five year lease purchase plan for \$69,918.00 leas \$5,000.00 trade of bus #7 for a total price of \$64,918.00. Member Behnke seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE

Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE  
Member Schnable – AYE

Mr. Trickett would like to amend Policy 7:60 to include tuition charge for non-resident students at a rate not to exceed 110 percent of the per capita cost of maintaining the school(s) of the district for the preceding school year in accordance with The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a. This is to deter tuition students, which is in the best interest of the taxpayers of Riley School. We have had several inquiries as to the tuition for non-residence of the Riley School District. He believes the policy serves as a deterrent and in the best interest of the local taxpayer.

Member Olsen made a motion to amend Policy 7:60 to include tuition charge for non-resident students at a rate not to exceed 110 percent of the per capita cost of maintaining the school(s) of the district for the preceding school year in accordance with The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12a. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE  
Member Schnable – AYE

Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE  
Member Mitchell – AYE

The litigation between several McHenry County schools and the Attainable Housing Authority initiated in 1993 has come to a settlement for \$200,000. The District’s portion of the settlement is \$11,764.71. It is recommended that the Riley Board of Education pass the resolution approving Settlement Agreement regarding the Attainable Housing Authority et al vs. County of McHenry et al.

Member Behnke made a motion to pass resolution approving Settlement Agreement regarding the Attainable Housing Authority et al vs. County of McHenry et al; and approve all documents and signatures of officials with Certification by Secretary, board of Education in accordance with said Settlement Agreement. Member Wardzala seconded a motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE  
Member Mitchell – AYE

Member Proberts – AYE  
Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE

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Member Olsen made a motion to appoint Mrs. Sharon Ettner as Riley Community Consolidated School District 18 Treasurer and Treasurer’s Bond for fiscal year 2010. Member Behnke seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Proberts – AYE  
Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE

Member Wardzala – AYE  
Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE

Member Behnke made a motion authorizing Superintendent Trickett expenditure not to exceed \$6,000.00 for the purpose of a design engineering development engineering package to replace mobiles. Member Proberts seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Wardzala – AYE  
Member Mtichell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE

Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Trickett reported on the facility feasibility study. He will contact the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Northern Illinois University regarding demographics, a portion of the study which most architects would have to subcontract out. He informed the Board the Request for Proposal has not been released at this time.

Member Behnke made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM for Personnel, Litigation, and Security –Safety. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Behnke made a motion to return to Open Session including the stated reason for the closed session. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Member Wardzala made one motion passing resolution authorizing dismissal of extra support personnel, dismissal of probationary and part-time teachers, dismissal of tenured teacher from full time employment, due to declining enrollments and program changes and authorizing notice of awarding tenure. Member Behnke seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Schnable – AYE  
Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE

Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE

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Member Behnke made a motion for the salary increase of 2.75% for support staff and a 4% increase for Principal Conkling. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Member Mitchell – AYE  
Member Olsen – AYE  
Member Wardzala – AYE

Member Behnke – AYE  
Member Proberts – AYE  
Member Schnable – AYE

Member Behnke made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 PM. Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Rooney, Riley School Secretary

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Mr. Kurt Schnable – President

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Mrs. Anita Mitchell - Secretary