#### RIVERSIDE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



Riverside High School January 30, 2025 6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

#### **MINUTES**

A recording of this Board of Education meeting is available on the District's YouTube page here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbTmn\_sGBiEvF2c598hBCSg

#### 1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 0164B of the Riverside Local Board of Education which was adopted in accordance with Section 1.450 of the O.R.C. and the Ohio Administrative Procedures Act.

The Bylaws of the Board of Education can be found in BoardDocs.

- B. Roll Call: Fishel, Keeney, Brewster, Grassi, Krenisky
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Moment of Silence

Mr. Fishel asked for a moment of silence for Addie Munk, a seventh grade student who passed away earlier this week after a lengthy illness.

E. Welcome

On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome all students, staff, parents, and interested community members to tonight's Board of Education meeting. I would like to remind everyone that this is a meeting of the Board of Education held in public for the purpose of conducting the school district's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is time for public comment during the meeting in the Public Participation section on the agenda.

# 2. Motion to Approve Minutes

A. Motion to approve minutes as attached.

File Attachments:

December 19 2024 Board Minutes.pdf (226 KB)

January 8 2025 Tax Budget Hearing Minutes.pdf (126 KB)

January 8 2025 Organizational Meeting.pdf (175 KB)

January 8 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf (132 KB)

Motion: Fishel		Second: Keen	ey
Vote:			
Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain
Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain
Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain
Belinda Grassi	AyeX	Nay	Abstain
Lori Krenisky	AyeX	Nay	Abstain

President declares the motion: carried 013025-1

- 3. <u>Special Reports</u> Mr. St. Clair and Mrs. Weber gave an update on Parkside Elementary School. Dr. Rateno said that January is Board Appreciation Month. He thanked the board members for their service. Each member was presented with a bag that was created by Riverside's Business class along with a certificate and a tumbler as a token of appreciation for their hard work.
- **4.** Old Business Mrs. Krenisky brought up information included in the last board communication to the district that was not discussed at the board table. She feels that only topics discussed by the entire board should be included in the communication. Mrs. Grassi agreed, stating that if a community member asked her a question, she would not be able to answer them.
- 5. New Business Mrs. Grassi suggested having a conversation about advocacy that should be considered in light of the budget process at the state. Member districts are participating in advocacy about the Fair Schools Funding Plan. Some legislators do not want to implement the last two phases of the plan and we should do all we can to get our fair share of funding. Mr. Fishel created two new president's committees. The first is the Insurance Optimization Committee, which will consist of Mr. Keeney and Mr. Bill Robertson, a community member. The second is the Buckeye Elementary Committee, which will consist of Mrs. Brewster and Mrs. Smolen, Buckeye Elementary Principal. Mr. Fishel said that he reread the board policies after he was elected board president. He found policy 7100 Facilities Planning, which states that the board should prepare the capital improvement plan. Dr. Rateno was previously tasked with creating the plan. The board will correct this and will create a capital improvement plan. A work session to do that has been scheduled on February 19 at 6:00 p.m.

#### 6. Board of Education Committee and Liaison Reports

- A. Scott Fishel Buildings & Grounds/Operations Committee; Superintendent's Business Advisory Liaison No Business Advisory Council update. Mr. Keeney gave the Buildings & Grounds Committee update. He said there were no major problems during the cold spell. The snow removal contractor kept up well with snow removal. A proposal from the initial installer of the boiler at Parkside has been received to replace the heat exchanger on the unit.
- B. Denise Brewster Curriculum and Programming Committee; Strategic Plan Liaison The Curriculum and Programming Committee met on January 27. They talked about plans for the Professional Development day on February 10. Benchmark Advance has been chosen for the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading program. The district will be hosting more CCP classes at the high school. The business capstone project for seniors is proceeding with plans to offer electives down to 9<sup>th</sup>

- grade. Guidance will begin creating schedules for students over multiple years. Kindergarten Camp is being further explored.
- C. Lori Krenisky Policy Committee; Legislative Liaison No Policy Committee update. The Alumni Association is working on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on March 15.
- D. Belinda Grassi Booster Organizations Liaison Mrs. Grassi attended the RPTA. They are talking to administration to see if they can post more PTA activities to the district calendar. She listed the upcoming activities for the various PTA groups.
- 7. Superintendent's Report Dr. Rateno reviewed the board policies addressing facilities usage, volunteers, and name and likeness. All volunteers working with students must have a background check. Only board recognized organizations can use the district name, logo, insignia or emblems in any activity or communication. He congratulated the Spelling Bee winners. The welding class was asked by the Cavaliers to build a Price is Right style prize wheel for their use. Preschool registration opens online on February 10 at 9:00 a.m. He talked about upcoming events throughout the district. He wished Deputy Joe Basco well in his new job with the courts. Deputy Basco's last day in the district is January 31. Deputy Luke Grgic will start on February 3 and will be training with Deputy Fitzgerald.

## 8. Treasurer's Report and Committee Update

- A. Dennis Keeney Finance/Audit and Personnel Committee; Legislative Liaison The Finance/Audit and Personnel Committee met on January 23. Personnel turnover and postings were reviewed. Human Resources will be streamlining all documents into a digital format. They reviewed agenda items and the credit card report and rebate. Additional legal counsel has been hired for special education needs. Mr. Keeney read the donations made in January. The staff will attend Al training at a cost of \$60,000.00 which will be fully reimbursed by the state. Health insurance is expected to increase by 22%. State budget cuts to school funding are to be expected. Mrs. Grassi mentioned that the format of the Personnel section of the agenda will change in March.
- B. Mr. Platko reviewed the December financial report. He talked about the state budget and where Riverside stands in Lake County for expenditures and state revenue per pupil. He reviewed the current tax levies. He mentioned the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform report and discussed some of their recommendations.
- C. Cash Balance Reserve Policy 6234 Action
  In accordance with board policy 6234 Cash Balance Reserve and based on the November 2024 Five
  Year Forecast, the Treasurer/CFO, Superintendent, and Board of Education will discuss options to
  return the General Fund cash reserve balance to the required level (reserve balance of 90 days true
  cash). These options may include, but are not limited to, pursuing tax levies or other sources of
  increased revenue; management of school district finances; implementation of reductions in force;
  and implementation of cost savings measures. The Board shall take appropriate action(s) at least
  two fiscal years prior to the fiscal year in which the general fund cash balance true days cash target
  may not be met.

Mr. Platko talked about various action steps that the district could take. There was some discussion about how money is spent now and how to pay for or finance the additions at Riverview and Buckeye. Mr. Platko talked about options for operating, permanent improvement, and income tax levies.

#### 9. Public Participation

A. Public Comment

A district resident and employee who is a parent of two district alumni spoke about the district's facilities plan and the closing of Hadden. A plan was presented to the community and the community decided to move forward with Phase I of the plan which included building two new elementary schools and decommissioning four schools. Mr. Fishel keeps talking about working as a team. She finds it upsetting that there was a plan in place that was voted on by the board. As a team, they decided to move forward with Phase II of the plan. Based on what was said tonight, he should have been a part of that team so that the district could follow through on the plan that was in place. She feels that the board did what was asked of them and to say they did something wrong is unfair. She said if he wants to work as a team, he needs to lead by example. She asks that he give courtesy to the people sitting at the board table and the administrators who have experience and expertise and can give valuable input into situations and to listen to them as well.

### 10. Consent Agenda: Finance/Audit

A. Resolution to approve the monthly financial reports and check payment register report for December 2024.

File Attachment:

Monthly Board Reports – December 2024.pdf (653 KB)

B. Resolution to approve a revision to the permanent appropriations for fiscal year 2025.

File Attachment:

Permanent Appropriations – FY2025 – 01-30-2025.pdf (22 KB)

C. Resolution to approve the 2024 annual credit card reward report as attached.

File Attachment:

Credit Card Annual Reward Report – 2024.pdf (102 KB)

- D. Resolution to approve a proposal from the Law Offices of John Podgurski, LLC for legal counsel services for various matters on an as needed basis.
- E. Resolution to approve a purchase order to Al for All LLC in the amount of \$60,000.00 for two artificial intelligence trainings for District staff. Once completed the District will be reimbursed the full amount of the training through the Ohio TechCred program.
- F. Resolution to approve Then and Now Certificates over \$3,000 per ORC section 5705.41:
  - 1. To Effective Leadership Academy in the amount of \$6,055.00 for the Pathways of Success program at LaMuth.
  - 2. To 4-H Camp Whitewood in the amount of \$6,032.50 for the final 2024 6<sup>th</sup> grade camp payment.
- G. Resolution to accept the following donations:
  - 1. \$400.00 from the Mentor Rotary Club to Riverside Drama.
  - 2. \$3,272.16 from the Riverside Campus PTA to the Riverside Campus PTA Close-Out Activity Fund.
  - 3. \$1,000.00 from SSC Controls Company to the RAVE Program.
  - 4. Nine Chromebooks from Jeremy Simco and National Enterprise Systems to Melridge Elementary School.
- H. Motion to approve the items listed on the Finance/Audit Consent Agenda as recommended by the Treasurer.

Motion: Keeney		Second: Brewster		
Vote:				
Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Belinda Grassi	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Lori Krenisky	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	

President declares the motion: carried 013025-2

# 11. Consent Agenda: Personnel

- A. Resolution to approve the following resignation(s):
  - 1. Lori Clark, Educational Assistant at Melridge Elementary, effective December 13, 2024.

- 2. Rebecca Knapp, Special Needs Assistant at Parkside Elementary, effective January 10, 2025.
- 3. Crystal Bailey, Special Needs Assistant at Riverview Elementary, effective January 17, 2025.
- 4. Jennifer Kilgore, 8th Grade Trip Chaperone, effective November 21, 2024.
- 5. Amber Harpster, Educational Assistant at Riverview Elementary, effective January 24, 2025.
- 6. Danielle Cawrse, Special Needs Assistant at Parkside Elementary, effective January 24, 2025.
- B. Resolution to approve the following retirement(s):
  - 1. Kim Walczak, Fourth Grade Teacher at Melridge Elementary, effective July 31, 2025.
  - 2. Jeffrey Cobb, Health/PE Teacher at Riverside Campus, effective July 31, 2025.
  - 3. Susan Erickson, Special Needs Assistant at LaMuth Middle School, effective July 31, 2025.
  - 4. Melinda Nicholson, Transportation Assistant, effective July 31, 2025.
  - 5. Sandra Kennedy, Vocational Job Coach, effective July 31, 2025.
- C. Resolution to approve the following:
  - 1. Alayna Solly, Transportation Assistant, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$16.59 Step-1, effective January 13, 2025.
  - 2. Morgan Fleischer, Special Needs Assistant at Parkside Elementary, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$16.26 Step-0, effective February 3, 2025.
  - 3. Delaney Leichtman, Special Needs Substitute, correction to hourly rate from \$15.00 per hour to \$16.26 per hour, effective January 9, 2025.
  - 4. Delaney Leichtman, Special Needs Assistant at Buckeye Elementary, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$17.05 Step-2, effective February 3, 2025.
  - 5. Ayreen Lugo, AM Latchkey Assistant at Riverview Elementary, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$15.50, effective February 3, 2025.
  - 6. Karen Bidlack, Educational Assistant at Riverview Elementary, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$15.00 Step-0, effective February 3, 2025.
  - 7. Bobby Johnson, PM Latchkey Coordinator at Parkside Elementary, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$18.00, effective February 3, 2025. Pending background check and Rapback enrollment.
  - 8. Melissa Simpson, Educational Assistant at Riverview Elementary, One-Year limited contract at the hourly rate of \$15.00 Step-0, effective February 3, 2025.

- D. Resolution to approve the following Transfer(s):
  - 1. Paige Burkhammer, from Educational Assistant at Riverview Elementary to Special Needs Assistant at Riverview Elementary at the hourly rate of \$16.26 Step-0, effective January 16, 2025.
  - 2. Tabitha Lette, from AM and PM Latchkey Coordinator at Parkside Elementary to Special Needs Assistant at Riverview Elementary, at the hourly rate of \$16.59 Step-1, effective February 3, 2025.
- E. Resolution to approve the following Classified Substitutes:

Harpster	Amber	<b>Educational Assistant</b>
Simpson	Melissa	Latchkey Assistant
Overall	Wesley	Latchkey Coordinator
Knapp	Rebecca	Special Needs Assistant
Rauch	Jessica	Special Needs Assistant
Sweda	Kerri	Special Needs Assistant

Gustavus Charles Transportation Assistant, pending background check

F. Resolution to approve the following supplemental contracts:

First Name	Last Name	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Kristen	McDevitt	Outdoor Education Program Director	\$835.00	Split
Kelly	Puhalsky	Outdoor Education Program Director	\$835.00	Split
Kristen	McDevitt	Outdoor Education Program Assistant	\$625.00	Split
Kelly	Puhalsky	Outdoor Education Program Assistant	\$625.00	Split
Tom	Reilly	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Mark	Tinney	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Edward	Hoynes	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Gina	Cireddu	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Cathy	Valaitis	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Barb	Dostal	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Vanessa	Neilsen	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
Monica	Vernon	Outdoor Education Program	\$838.00	<b>Both Sessions</b>
David	Shook	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip Chaperone	\$628.00	
Daniel	Adair	Lacrosse-Boys Head Coach	\$6,689.00	
Michael	Swank	Lacrosse-Boys Varsity Assistant	\$4,177.00	
Kyle	Rebenock	Lacrosse-Boys Varsity Assistant	Volunteer	
Rachel	Victor	Lacrosse-Girls Head Coach	\$5,014.00	
Amanda	Tressler	Lacrosse-Girls Varsity Assistant	\$1,672.00	Split
Jaclyn	Napier	Lacrosse-Girls Varsity Assistant	\$1,672.00	Split
Rick	Warner	Lacrosse-Girls Varsity Assistant	Volunteer	
John	Wakim	Baseball-Head Coach	\$8,363.00	
Zachary	Hammonds	Baseball-Varsity Assistant	\$6,689.00	
John	Brown	Baseball-Varsity Assistant	\$6,689.00	
Bill	Ross	Softball-Head Coach	\$8,363.00	
Carrie	Erjavec	Softball-Varsity Assistant (JV)	\$6,689.00	
Scott	Binkiewicz	Softball-Varsity Assistant	\$6,689.00	
Allie	Binkiewicz	Softball-Varsity Assistant	Volunteer	
Kathy	Babcock	Track-Boys Head Coach	\$8,363.00	

Lisa	Wade	Track-Girls Head Coach	\$8,363.00
Jacob	McDonald	Track-Varsity Assistant	\$6,689.00
Alyssa	Keim	Track-Varsity Assistant	\$5,851.00
Jamel	White	Track-Varsity Assistant	\$6,689.00
Robyn	Selent	Track-Varsity Assistant	\$5,014.00
Richard	Marinelli	Track-Varsity Assistant	\$6,689.00
Marcus	McCaleb	Track-Varsity Assistant	Volunteer
Geoffrey	Noreika	Track-Seventh and Eighth Grade	\$2,926.00
Kevin	Weirich	Track-Seventh and Eighth Grade	\$2,926.00
Alex	Kyer	Track-Seventh and Eighth Grade	Volunteer
Christina	Smalley	Girls Flag Football	Volunteer
Nathaniel	Freeman	Cello-Spring Musical	\$350.00

- G. Resolution to approve the following Contract for the Second Semester of the 2024-2025 School Year:
  - Michelle Proud, Math & ELA Tutor, Title Fund at Melridge Elementary
- H. Resolution to approve Charles Schlick, Assistant Superintendent to be compensated for an additional fifteen (15) days of paid vacation leave in lieu of using such vacation leave at his per diem rate of pay effective only for the 2024-2025 contract year.
- Motion to approve the items listed on the Personnel Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion: Keeney		Second: Fishel		
Vote:				
Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Belinda Grassi	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Lori Krenisky	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	

President declares the motion: carried 013025-3

# 12. Consent Agenda: Curriculum & Programming

- A. Resolution to approve the Riverside High School Drama Club to attend the Ohio Educational Theatre Association: Ohio Chapter 2025 State Thespian Conference at Westerville Central High School in Westerville, Ohio. The event is scheduled for March 21 23, 2025. There will be no cost to the Board of Education.
- B. Resolution to approve the Riverside High School Band trip to Florida, March 19-25, 2026. The cost of the trip will be shared by band students and the Riverside Band Boosters. There will be no cost to the Riverside Local Board of Education.
- C. Resolution to approve Girls Flag Football as a club for the 2024-2025 school year.
- D. Resolution to approve the College Credit Plus Memorandum of Understanding with Kent State University for the 2025-2026 school year.

	F.	Motion to approve the items listed on the Curriculum & Programming Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent.				
		Motion: Keeney		Second: Fishel		
		Vote:				
		Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Belinda Grassi	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Lori Krenisky	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		President declares th	e motion: carrie	d 013025-4		
13. <u>Cor</u>	nsen	t Agenda: Buildings &	Grounds/Oper	ations		
	A.	Resolution to approv	e a purchase ord	der with Gardine	r for a new heat exchanger on the boiler at	
		Parkside Elementary	School at a cost	of \$30,914.00.		
	B.	Motion to approve th	ne items listed or	n the Buildings &	Grounds/Operations Consent Agenda as	
		recommended by the	Superintenden	t.		
	Motion: Fishel Second: Keeney				ey .	
		Vote:				
		Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Belinda Grassi	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		Lori Krenisky	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
		President declares th	e motion: carrie	d 013025-5		
	C.	C. Resolution to approve an agreement from ThenDesign Architecture (TDA) for design services related to the Buckeye Elementary School Expansion and Improvement Project plus MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) improvements at Melridge Elementary School in the a of \$785,000.00.				
		Motion: Fishel		Second: Brewster		
		Vote: Scott Fishel Dennis Keeney Denise Brewster	AyeX AyeX AyeX	Nay Nay Nay	Abstain Abstain Abstain	

E. Resolution to approve a purchase order with Benchmark Education Company to purchase English Language Arts instructional programs and materials for grades 3 through 6 at a total cost of

\$230,793.32.

	Lori Krenisky	Aye Aye	Nayx_ NayX	Abstain
	President declares th	e motion: carrie	d 013025-6	
D.	between Cleveland C Cleveland Construction Elementary School Ex	construction, Incon, Incon, Inc. to serve on, Inc. to serve	. and the Riversi as the construct provement Proj	n hereby approves the attached Agreement de Local School District Board of Education for tion manager at risk for the Buckeye ect and hereby authorizes the Board President of the Board of Education.
	Motion: Fishel		Second: Keen	ey
Ε.	with RFC Contracting	e an amendmer , LLC for various	nt to a consultan projects to exte	Abstain Abstain Abstain Abstain Abstain  t agreement for owner representative service and the agreement through August 31, 2027 at 11, 2025 through August 31, 2027.
	Motion: Fishel		Second: Brew	ster
	Vote: Scott Fishel Dennis Keeney Denise Brewster Belinda Grassi Lori Krenisky President declares th	AyeX AyeX AyeX Aye AyeX e motion: carrie	Nay Nay NayX NayX	Abstain Abstain Abstain Abstain Abstain

# 14. Policy Agenda

A. First Reading of New/Revised Board Policies

Policy 5136 – Personal Communication Devices
Policy 5136.01 – Electronic Equipment
Policy 6460 – Vendor Relations

#### 15. Board of Education Business

A. Resolution authorizing the Treasurer/CFO to work with the district's bond counsel and municipal advisor to secure an underwriter and secure financing for the Buckeye Elementary Expansion Project and other improvements.

Motion: Fishel		Second: Brewster		
Vote:				
Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Belinda Grassi	Aye	NayX	Abstain	
Lori Krenisky	Aye	NayX	Abstain	

President declares the motion: carried 013025-9

### 16. Work Session

Work session regarding the proposed changes to the Riverside Local School District Board of Education Handbook.

Mr. Fishel said that Mrs. Grassi had a list of changes to the handbook to go through item by item. Mrs. Grassi stated that she did not want to go through them one by one and Mr. Fishel wanted this work session to do that. Mr. Fishel said the handbook changes will be on a future agenda to be voted on. Mr. Keeney and Mrs. Brewster said they would still like clarification on some items. Mrs. Grassi said the changes were sent out to the entire board a while ago and there was no feedback or questions at the time.

# 17. Board of Education Update - None

# 18. Next Meeting Announcement

A. Next Meeting Announcement February 3, 2025 8:00 a.m. **Buildings and Grounds Committee** 7:30 a.m. Curriculum and Programming Committee February 18, 2025 **Work Session** February 19, 2025 6:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel Committee February 20, 2025 8:00 a.m. February 27, 2025 6:00 p.m. **Board of Education Meeting** 

# 19. Closing Items

A. Motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Motion: Fishel		Second: Brewster		
Vote:				
Scott Fishel	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Dennis Keeney	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Denise Brewster	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Belinda Grassi	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	

Lori Kr	enisky	AyeX	Nay	Abstain	
Presid	ent declares the	motion: carried	013025-10		
Attest:					
		2.27-25		22	2/27/25
Board President		Date	Treasurer		Date