

TRI-VALLEY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3

OFFICIAL MINUTES

January 18, 2023

I. ROLL CALL

The Tri-Valley Board of Education held a meeting in Downs, Illinois, on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Board President, Mr. Carl Neubauer, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Upon roll call, the following members answered present: J.B. Goff, Jessica Alt, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. Others Present: Mr. Ben Derges, Superintendent.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Jill Messamore to approve the Consent Agenda that included the following items:

- Board Meeting Minutes from December 2022;
- Board Bills from January 2023;
- Student Activity Accounts for December 2022;
- Treasurer's Reports for December 2022; and
- Destruction of Executive Session Tapes Dating Back Eighteen Months.

Seconded by Lori Stickling. The following members voted aye: J. B. Goff, Jessica Alt, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

III. VISITORS AND REPORTS

A. **Visitors:** Casey Misch

B. **Committee Reports:** None

C. **Administrator Reports:** *(reports attached)*

Elementary School: *(see page 4)* Mr. Swearingen reviewed his report, no questions.

Middle School: *(see page 5)* Mrs. Burnett reviewed her report, no questions.

High School: *(see pages 6-7)* Mrs. McCane reported on district special services, no questions.

Superintendent: *(see page 8)* Mr. Derges reported on general district updates. Mr. Myers asked a clarifying question about the potential solar project regarding working with the Village of Downs. Mr. Derges noted that this will be addressed in ProStar's proposal. Mr. Neubauer asked visitor, Casey Misch, if he'd like to make a public comment. He stated that he was trained by MREN regarding solar energy and noted that he has concerns about potential contract language that could prevent our agreement from being most beneficial to the district and suggested contacting them for review prior to signing an agreement.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve the Superintendent's Evaluation: *agreement to table this item until the next meeting.*

Motion by Jessica Alt that the Board approve the tabling of the Superintendent's Evaluation until next meeting. Seconded by Lori Stickling. The following members voted aye: J. B. Goff, Jessica Alt, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Jill Messamore, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

B. Approve the 1st Reading of Board Policy Manual Updates & Revisions

Motion by Jill Messamore that the Board approve the 1st reading of Board Policy Manual updates and revisions. Seconded by J.B. Goff. The following members voted aye: J.B. Goff, Jessica Alt, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. None

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Brian Myers to move to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, resignation, discipline, performance or dismissal of personnel, litigation or collective bargaining matters, and purchase of land proposal, pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act .

Seconded by Jill Messamore. Motion carried and all members voted aye. Executive session was entered at 6:37 p.m.

Motion by Lori Stickling to exit executive session. Seconded by Jill Messamore. All members voted aye.

Motion by Jill Messamore to approve the closed session minutes previously read in closed session just ended, and seconded by Brian Myers.

Executive session was exited at 7:44 p.m.

VII. PERSONNEL REPORT

Motion by Jill Messamore that the Board approves the Personnel Report as presented. Seconded by Brian Myers. The following members voted aye: J.B. Goff, Jessica Alt, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jill Messamore to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by J.B. Goff. The following members voted aye: J.B. Goff, Jessica Alt, Brian Myers, Carl Neubauer, Lori Stickling and Bobby Brown. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Approved

Board President

Board Secretary

Tri-Valley Board Reports

Administrator: Tyler Swearingen

Building: [Tri-Valley Elementary](#)

Board Meeting: January 18th

Enrollment:

Total Enrollment (as of 01/18/23): 422

Grade Levels: PK-3rd

Facilities & Finances:

- January 18th will be our fire safety walk through
- New classroom signs are up for all rooms
- Looking at raising prices for our Little Viking Program
 - Last rate change was 2018-2019 school year
 - Compared weekly full day rates to Little Jewels, Katie's Kids, Scribbles
 - Little Jewels-\$61/day, Katie's Kids- \$63/day, Scribbles- \$57/day
 - TV Little Vikings - \$47/day

Educational Opportunities:

- We are looking at ways to increase our STEM offerings through donations from NextEra Energy.
- We are researching programs to help provide consistency in information sharing and accuracy in assessing student levels in reading.
- The Ecology Action Center is visiting to present to the 3rd grade.
- Parent group is looking into re-starting a chess club at the elementary level and possibly middle school depending on interest.

Celebrating Students & Staff:

- Food service: Food service (Mrs. Givens and Julie Rogers) have been working short-handed for several weeks and have done a great job adjusting to still meet the students' needs during lunch time.
- Ms. Jenny Baker has been doing a terrific job and often takes more responsibility than is in her job description (monitoring the front door in the mornings, running the cafeteria)
- \$5,000 donation to the school for STEM/Technology or projects (also Nextera)
- Teacher led professional development will continue January 19th in the area of brain science and how to best meet the needs and connect with our students.

Tri-Valley Board Reports Template

Administrator: Sara Burnett
Building: MS
Board Meeting: January 2023

Enrollment:

Total Enrollment (as of December 2022): 463

Grade Levels:

4th: 80
5th: 95
6th: 95
7th: 102
8th: 91

Facilities & Finances:

- *In the fall, the middle school had our annual "unfundraiser" which raised \$13,500. This money has just been distributed to each classroom teacher. Everyone in the building received \$250 and the remaining money will stay within the MS office accounts. The remaining money is to purchase updated classroom novels and books to offer choices for literature circles.*

Educational Opportunities:

- *Our 7th and 8th-grade boys basketball team is currently in the SVC tournament. Both grades are doing a fantastic job and continue to represent TVMS with pride!*
- *Girls Volleyball has officially had their first matches of the season. The girls are ready to have another successful volleyball season. It's always exciting to see the girls be involved in activities they are passionate about!*
- *Girls and boys wrestling has also begun and has had tremendous success. Several of our athletes placed in the Olympia tournament and won 1st place at our first home meet of the season!*

Celebrating Students & Staff:

- *The December Vikings of Valor emphasized the importance of respect to themselves and others.*
 - *4th Grade: Wyatt Pilchard, Everett Corn, John Van Hoof, Jake Goering*
 - *5th Grade: Finnley Davenport, Vincent Valdes, Ember Bailey, Colten Shaffer*
 - *6th Grade: Marin Carmouche, Kennedy Mowbray, Hailey Todaro, Carson Cattaneo*
 - *7th Grade: Bella Medeiros, Cole Knittle, Ian Bane, Tim Lishka*
 - *8th Grade: Sam Tocco, Dalton Abrams, Gracie Bryan, Jake Myers*

Tri-Valley Board Reports

Administrator: Frank Arnolts
Building: Tri-Valley High School
Board Meeting: January 18, 2023

Enrollment: As of 1/10/23

Grade	Current	Nov 22	Sep 22
12 (2022)	80	80	81
11 (2023)	78	78	78
10 (2024)	70	71	71
9 (2025)	72	72	73
Total	300	301	303

Facilities & Finances:

- Baseball and Softball Scoreboards have been delivered and will be installed later this spring or early summer.
- Our building looks fantastic! A huge thank you to the maintenance staff, Joe, Laurie, Nick, and Keona who did a deep cleaning over the Christmas break
- RTU-4 still in work. We are holding \$60,000 until it is right.

Educational Opportunities:

- **Freshman Orientation** will be on Wednesday, January 25th, 5:30-7:30 PM. All incoming students and their parents will be invited to attend. Students and parents will meet teachers, tour the building and learn more about the course offerings and the many opportunities at TVHS.
- **The Innovation Project** presentations will take place on Wednesday. This is the final project for students (sophomores or juniors) who elect to sign up for this 9th hour program. The Innovation Project simply gives the students a basic format and a teacher advisor to help them complete a personal project in which they create something, learn something new, or do social good. Some students work in groups, others work individually. We have had a bunch of fantastic projects completed this year! The teachers who served as mentors this year were: **Kristin Myers, Jeff Benter, Sean Kennedy, Drew Schmidt and Becky Duncan.**
- **Emily Howse** has been going into classrooms to present the Tri-Valley course guide and course descriptions. During these meetings, she has also been assisting students in signing up for classes for the 23-24 school year. Once she has all the course requests she will begin creating the master schedule.
- **Jon Nelson** has started the Viking Leadership Academy that will meet during 9th hour. The program presents the opportunity for students to learn about leadership and help teach students effective leadership

skills they can apply in the school, their activities/organizations, in the community, and in future life endeavors. There are 20 students who were nominated by their teachers to participate in the program.

Celebrating Students & Staff:

- As the district returned from Christmas break, all three buildings competed against one another bringing items for a food drive. Also, built into our school improvement day, was a service opportunity in which teachers packed and prepared bags of food for the Downs Food Pantry.

- On January 24th, Tri-Valley will host LeRoy in a JV and Varsity Basketball game. During the evening we have many things planned to benefit **Cole Martin** and his family. There will be a silent auction, gift basket raffle, 50/50 raffle, and half court shots for prizes. Sports boosters will also be donating a portion of the concessions sales to the benefit. All the proceeds from the event will go to the Martin family. The two communities have really come together to support Cole and his family and we are looking forward to an incredible evening.

- **Jeff Benter** has spent the last week conducting research and presenting at the NASA/IPAC conference in Seattle, Washington. Mr. Benter was a member of a team that looked for infrared excess around M-class stars, the most common type of star in our galaxy, in the Spitzer Enhanced Imaging Products catalog, which contains 42 million sources imaged by the Spitzer Space Telescope at five infrared wavelengths during its first 5.5 years of operation. Dust created from asteroid collisions and disintegrating comets are the remnants of planetary formation that will create infrared light in excess of that emitted from the M-class star alone. Looking for this proxy of planet formation is much easier to detect than individual planets, and the results provide a sample of sources for follow-up for potential Solar Systems like ours.

- **Co-Curricular Update:**
 - **Scholastic Bowl** season has started and our first matches are this week. Their first home match is Thursday, January 19th.
 - **Boys and Girls basketball** teams are currently participating in the McLean County Tournament. The varsity boys currently have a record of 8-10 (3-3 in the HOIC) and are the 8th seed in the tournament. The varsity girls are currently 10-6 (4-4 in the HOIC) and are the 7th seed.
 - The **LeRoy/Tri-Valley wrestling** coop is in the middle of their season as well. The season has been filled with success, including winning the Metamora Invitational and the 2 day Danville tournament. The big home meet, the Bowman Invitational, will be on Saturday, January 21nd. The HOIC Wrestling Duals will be on January 28th.

Tri-Valley Board Report

Administrator: Ben Derges

Level: [District](#)

Board Meeting: January 2023

Finances:

- With the retirement of Kathy Hammer on January 3rd, Karen Ijams has moved into the full role as district Bookkeeper and Treasurer.
- Replacement White Bus (14 passenger) is finally on site and in use.
- Purchase of HS Chromebooks, approved by the BOE at December meeting, has been put on hold until later in this spring or summer.
- Initial work has begun on an adjusted budget for FY23.
- Request to begin initial planning of the 2023-2024 budget and approval to allow for payment of July/August bills prior to BOE approval of the budget.

Facilities:

- MS Gym HVAC work (John's Sales & Service) estimated to start in June 2023.
- High school RTU-4 issues remain, final payment is still being withheld until resolution has been reached.
- Upcoming annual School Safety Review with local police, fire, and EMT departments.
- "Gold" certification on buildings and custodial staff through SIPC Assessment. Mr. Hasselbring is scheduled to present his annual update at the February meeting.

Educational Opportunities:

- Implementation of district grading initiatives anticipated for 2023-2024.
- Applied to participate in the Competency-Based Education Pilot 2.0 along with ROE #17, as well as Olympia and LeRoy school districts.

Community Relations:

- 5Essentials surveys will be completed online by teachers and students. Parents will have the opportunity to submit responses as well.