

RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Minutes

Meister Elementary School Gymnasium, 3300 Jay Street, Hobart, IN 46342

1.0 Call to Order – 7:02 p.m.

- 1.01 Roll Call – All board members were present along with Superintendent Steven Disney, Assistant Superintendent James Thorne, and School Board Attorney Dan Whitten.
- 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance – Marshall Gilliana
- 1.03 Requested Visitor Participation – Dr. Disney introduced Mr. Kevin Grace from Strack & Van Til to come up front. Mr. Grace presented checks totaling \$1,500 to go to the High School/Middle School, Meister Elementary, and Evans Elementary. Mr. Grace said that Strack & Van Til is glad to be involved in our local schools. He said they have been remodeling and are going to have their grand reopening on October 14th. He is hoping to get our drum corps and choir involved in the reopening. Dr. Disney thanked Mr. Grace said that Strack & Van Til has been a tremendous partner with our schools. They've always been supportive with generous donations.

2.0 Consent Agenda

- 2.01 Agenda – September 15, 2015
- 2.02 Minutes – August 25, 2015
- 2.03 Financial Reports, Payroll Claims, Vendor Claims - \$1,754,071.08
- 2.04 Programs
- 2.05 Resignations/Non-Renewals/Retirement
 - 2.05.01 HS Boys Assistant Track Coach – Milagro Gonzalez
 - 2.05.02 HS Cafeteria Worker – Soledad Alvarado
- 2.06 Employment and Transfers
- 2.07 Leave Requests
 - 2.07.01 Jim Weitzel & Mark Sopko – Indiana Academic Coaches Conference – Indianapolis – 9/29/15

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- 2.07.02 Angela Ayers – Assistant Principals Conference – Indianapolis – 11/19 & 11/20/15
 - 2.07.03 Michelle Worries & Robin Mores – Midwest Summit – Google for Education – 11/15 & 11/16/15 – Wisconsin Dells, WI
 - 2.07.04 Lynne Styx – Budget Oversight & Financial Reporting – 10/19/15 – Plainfield, IN
- 2.08 Use of Facilities
- 2.09 Donations
- 2.09.01 Strack & Van Til - \$500.00 to each: RFHS/MS, Meister Elementary, and Evans Elementary

Mrs. Martin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Halcomb seconded and the motion carried.

3.0 Old Business

- 3.01 Consideration to approve revised RF Athletic Handbook – Dr. Disney asked Mr. Horka to speak about this agenda item. Mr. Horka said that we formed a committee and held a meeting about revising the athletic handbook. He said we wanted to be more transparent in the revision and invited board member Michelle Martin, Mrs. Galligan, a parent, a middle school coach, a high school coach, the athletic director and the middle school assistant principal. The old handbook listed all the sports and the requirements in order to achieve a letter, and after each, stated “and at the coach’s discretion.” We wanted to give kids more letters and the benefit of the doubt. “Kids First” is our motto and our athletes will earn a letter if they do what is expected. Dr. Disney recommended the board approve the revised athletic handbook. Mrs. Trezak moved to approve the handbook, Mr. Mefford seconded, and the motion carried.

4.0 New Business/Discussion/Action Items - None

5.0 Other Business Items/Curriculum & Instruction

- 5.01 Consideration to approve overnight trip to Camp Tecumseh – October 1 & 2, 2015 – Dr. Disney said a lot of planning goes into this long-standing tradition and it’s a great opportunity for kids. Mr. Halcomb moved to approve the overnight trip to Camp Tecumseh and Mrs. Trezak seconded. Mr. Gilliana said that every year some comes to a board meeting and says to him please don’t take camp away from our kids. We’ve always promised to continue with this tradition. Mrs. Trezak said this is an environmental camp that teaches our kids a lot and it brings the students together from

the two elementary buildings to get to know each other. Dr. Disney extended an invitation to the board to travel down to the camp for a day or even for the night. The motion carried.

6.0 Informational Agenda Items

- 6.01 Board Communication – Dr. Disney said he had no communications for the board other than information received about the ISBA Superintendents/Board Fall Conference at the end of this month.
- 6.02 Superintendent/Building Reports – Dr. Disney thanked Kevin Trezak and his staff members for hosting the board meeting tonight. Mr. Trezak talked about all the planning that’s gone into this school year. We’ve faced yet another transition, but it was planned right this time. Meister has grown by approximately 120 students. Now Meister is the same size as Evans. At last count, Meister had 359 students and Evans had 358. We have new teachers, paraprofessionals, benchmark testing, and new technology. Three major things were done in planning this transition. In April there were meetings with parents and the community; students came over from Evans and were shown around the school; and there was an evening question and answer meeting. Clearly communication was a big part of the success of this transition. He said this was a challenge and was done in a way to take care of the needs of our children. Dr. Disney recalled last fall when Mr. Kissel and Ms. Whitt both told him they wanted to see some changes. This was a tremendous change. Everybody came on board to do what’s right for kids. Dr. Disney thanked the staff, teachers, principals and school board. He also announced that this is Homecoming Week at the high school and encouraged everyone to come out and support the Ingots.
- 6.03 Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the board, Mrs. Martin moved to adjourn and Mr. Halcomb seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

H. Marshall Gilliana, President

James Halcomb, Vice President

Michelle Martin, Secretary

David Mefford, Member

Linda Trezak, Member