

**RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Minutes**

**RFHS Auditorium in the Round, 3300 Indiana Street, Hobart, IN 46342**

**1.0 Call to Order - 7:16 p.m.**

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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:

Mr. Horka introduced Jory Mathews, MS Science Teacher, who applied for and received a grant which fully funded the startup costs of the Lego Robotics Team. Thomas Bare, Jose Bautista-Martinez, Jayden Davenport, Eathan Faust, Aiden Foster, Jessica Mullens, and Amber Thompson were the team members who were able to attend the meeting. Two other team members, Christian Duh and Owen Smith-Wehmeyer were unable to attend. The project team gave a presentation about the recycling project they initiated at the RF cafeteria and their hopes to expand the project. The Lego team told about building the robot and attachments and programming the robot to carry out their missions and return to base and gave a very entertaining demonstration of a few of the missions.

Dr. Disney introduced Molly and Miles Dunscombe and Dr. Mark Sperling from the Coats for Kids organization. They thanked River Forest for allowing the organization to use our facilities this year and presented the board and administration with a plaque. A lot of volunteer hours go into this each year, and 136 families were served at River Forest this fall. They hope to continue using the RF facilities in the future.

1.04 Consideration to approve Agenda for December 8, 2015 – Mr. Mefford proposed amending item 4.02 on the agenda to change the extension of the Assistant Superintendent’s contract to one additional year. Mr. Halcomb moved to approve the amendment and Mrs. Trezak seconded. The motion carried.

**2.0 Consent Agenda**

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2.01 Minutes – November 10, 2015

2.02 Financial Reports, Payroll Claims, Vendor Claims - \$1,196,860.61

2.03 Programs

2.04 Resignations/Non-Renewals/Retirement

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- 2.05 Employment and Transfers
  - 2.05.01 HS Head Varsity Boys Track Coach – Austen Robison
  - 2.05.02 HS Assistant Boys Track Coach – Whitney Stanfill
- 2.06 Leave Requests
  - 2.06.01 Austen Robison – Glazier Football Clinics – 2/5/16 & 2/6/16 – Oak Brook, IL
- 2.07 Use of Facilities
- 2.08 Donations
  - 2.08.01 Lisa Harshaw – Tuba – RFMS/HS Band Program valued at \$400
  - 2.08.02 Donors Choose – ten Kindles to Mr. Childs’ 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom at Evans valued at \$1,200

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

**3.0 Old Business - None**

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**4.0 New Business/Discussion/Action Items**

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- 4.01 Consideration to approve School Board Meeting dates through August 2016 – Dr. Disney asked the board to approve the board meeting dates through August as presented. Mrs. Martin moved to approve the proposed board meeting dates through August. Mrs. Trezak seconded and the motion carried. Dr. Disney said at the July board meeting we will ask the board to approve the budget calendar and the meeting dates for the rest of the calendar year. He also pointed out that the March meeting will be held on Monday due to a conflict.
- 4.02 Consideration to extend the Assistant Superintendent’s contract one additional year – Dr. Disney recommended the board approve a one year contract extension for Dr. Thorne. He said we are grateful to have Jim – he has us moving in the right direction and we want this to continue. Mr. Halcomb moved to approve the one year contract extension for Dr. Thorne and Mrs. Martin seconded. Mr. Gilliana asked if this would eliminate the unfunded severance liability and Dr. Disney said that would be dealt with next time. The motion carried.

**5.0 Other Business Items/Curriculum & Instruction**

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- 5.01 ISTEP accountability concerns and NW Indiana Superintendents’ joint letter – Dr. Disney said he hopes everyone has been following what has been happening in the state with ISTEP. This is a complete disaster. Today in the Times there was a copy of the letter written and signed by the twenty-five superintendents of the Northwest Indiana

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Public School Study Council and it will be posted on our website. He encouraged parents and staff to contact legislators about the concerns of the ISTEP test and Indiana's accountability system.

- 5.02 Instructional improvement report from Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Thorne reported on the many professional development activities that have taken place recently by our staff during our late start Wednesdays, before and after school, professional conferences, webinars and workshops, and our October 7<sup>th</sup> professional development day. He stated we now have WIFI not only at Meister, but also at Evans, and thanks to Michelle Worries we will have it at River Forest in January. Mr. Gilliana said we are seeing lots of positive things at River Forest and we have the administrators, teachers and all of our employees to thank for that.

**6.0 Informational Agenda Items**


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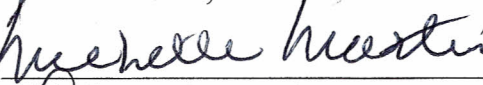
- 6.01 Board Communication - none

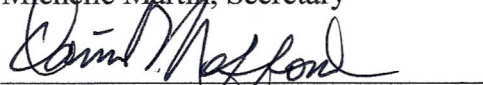
- 6.02 Superintendent/Building Reports – Dr. Disney he has been spending a lot of time visiting classrooms. Last week he visited three classrooms at Evans and today he visited Meister and the HS. He got to see something exciting that Hollye Blossom and Dawn Beach used in their classroom that they learned when they attended a teacher conference in Lowell. It reminded him of the coding the Robotics team is using but on a lower level. He reminded everyone of the Christmas programs and athletic events coming up and that next Thursday is the last student day of the semester.


- 6.03 Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the board Mr. Halcomb moved to adjourn and Mrs. Trezak seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

  
H. Marshall Gilliana II, President

  
James Halcomb, Vice President

  
Michelle Martin, Secretary

  
David Mefford, Member

  
Linda Trezak, Member