

RIVERSIDE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



Riverside High School  
December 18, 2025  
5:00 P.M. Special Meeting  
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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbTmn_sGBiEvF2c598hBCSg)

**1. Opening Items – 5:00 P.M. Special Meeting**

A. Call to Order at 5:02 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. Motion to approve the appointment of Dennis Keeney as Treasurer Pro Tempore.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Brewster

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Dennis Keeney	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Denise Brewster	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Belinda Grassi	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Lori Krenisky	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____

President declares the motion: carried 121825-1

C. Roll Call: Fishel, Keeney, Brewster, Krenisky, Grassi

D. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Executive Session**

A. The Riverside Local School District Board of Education (“Board”) hereby recesses into consecutive executive sessions for the purposes of (1) considering the appointment, employment, dismissal,

discipline, demotion, and compensation of a public employee/official; (2) considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, demotion, and compensation of a public employee/official; (3) considering the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee/official; (4) considering the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee/official; and (5) conferencing with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of imminent court action pursuant to R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) and (3). Upon conclusion of these executive sessions, the Board President shall gavel the Board back into open session at this location. All matters discussed in these executive sessions are designated to the public officials and employees as confidential pursuant to R.C. 102.03(B) because of the status of the proceedings and/or the circumstances under which the information will be received, and preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the proper conduct of government business.

Motion: Fishel

Second:

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Dennis Keeney	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Lori Krenisky	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 121825-2

B. Return to regular session at 7:08 p.m.

3. Motion to adjourn out of the special meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Keeney

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Dennis Keeney	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Lori Krenisky	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 121825-3

4. **Opening Items – 6:00 P.M. Business Meeting**

A. Call to Order at 7:09 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.

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

**5. Motion to Approve Minutes**

- A. Motion to approve minutes as attached.

File Attachments:

- November 18 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.docx (43 KB)
- November 20 2025 Board Minutes.docx (128 KB)
- November 24 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.docx (41 KB)
- November 26 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.docx (47 KB)
- December 4 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.docx (43 KB)

Motion: Fishel

Second: Keeney

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Dennis Keeney	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Denise Brewster	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay _____	Abstain _____
Belinda Grassi	Aye _____	Nay _____	Abstain <u>  X  </u>
Lori Krenisky	Aye _____	Nay _____	Abstain <u>  X  </u>

President declares the motion: carried 121825-4

**6. Special Reports – None**

**7. Old Business – None**

**8. New Business – None**

**9. Board of Education Committee and Liaison Reports**

- A. Scott Fishel – Buildings & Grounds/Operations Committee; Superintendent’s Business Advisory Liaison – Mr. Keeney gave the update for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee met and talked about the Wrestling Rumble and the National Honor Society Craft Show and Halls of Holly. The maintenance department worked hard to make sure everything was cleaned up and organized after those events. The filters are being changed in the air handlers. On December 29 and 30, EA Group will conduct a materials inspection. LaMuth received new tables and chairs in the cafeteria. The CTE and Riverview projects are wrapping up. No Business Advisory Council update.

- B. Denise Brewster – Curriculum and Programming Committee; Buckeye Elementary Ad Hoc Committee; Strategic Plan Liaison – No Curriculum and Programming Committee, Buckeye Elementary Ad Hoc Committee, or Strategic Plan updates.
- C. Lori Krenisky – Policy Committee; Alumni Association Liaison – The Policy Committee met and discussed the policies on the agenda for approval. No Alumni update.
- D. Belinda Grassi – Booster Organizations Liaison – No Booster Organization update.

**10. Treasurer’s Report and Committee Update**

- A. Dennis Keeney – Finance/Audit and Personnel Committee; Insurance Optimization Ad Hoc Committee; Legislative Liaison – The Finance/Audit and Personnel Committee met and talked about Personnel items and discussed a new fund to be set up for Health Insurance. No Insurance Optimization Committee or Legislative updates.
- B. Dr. Thompson said that he looked at the PI Fund. He and Mr. Patrizi pulled every PO that was reviewed in the Briscoe report and found that of the 252 transactions that Mr. Briscoe said were not permissible in the Pi Fund, 251 of them were permissible. They found one transaction for \$60,782.00 that was not permissible. Dr. Thompson recommends transferring that amount from the General Fund to the PI Fund to make it whole.

**11. Public Participation**

- A. Public Comment

At the chair’s discretion, speakers are limited to four.

An employee of the district and a spouse of a retired US Army officer with over 25 years of service and five combat tours said she has chosen to speak guided by the values she has lived as a military spouse. She said that a US Marine Corp veteran has been the subject of demeaning public statements on social media calling him a liar, a coward, gutless and unworthy of the title “Marine”. Attacks on a person’s military service are reprehensible and does not reflect the standards she believes Riverside strives to uphold. She believes Dr. Thompson has acted in a manner consistent with the main core values of honor, courage, and commitment. These qualities are expected in adults who serve and support our students and she finds these statements offensive. When personal attacks and false narratives enter the public discourse, they remove trust and negatively impact morale and professionalism. She is asking the board to be respectful and truthful and clearly communicate and refrain from personal attacks, particularly targeting military veterans and employees.

A teacher and coach at Riverside said that he cannot sit idly by and watch the board’s treatment of Dr. Rateno. He said November 4 was a day of joy for many knowing the end is near for the current iteration of the board. He said it has been hard to keep up with the changing building projects, and while the vision is admirable it comes with a cost to the taxpayers. The latest is the roofing contract that seems too good to be true and was presented with no communication. One reason for suspending the superintendent was lack of communication, and this majority now has the treasurer in their crosshairs since he doesn’t support the contract. The last few weeks have cast a negative light on the district and many find it sickening that good leaders are made to be a scapegoat because the public wants a different direction than the outgoing majority that “handles

disappointment like a toddler told he can't get a toy at the store". The board majority can't believe what everyone is saying is the right thing to do – reinstate Dr. Rateno.

A senior at Riverside said the first thing stated in the Ohio School Board Association Code of Ethics is to remember that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of all the students in public schools. She feels the recent actions of the board are not putting the best interest of the students first. Next in the Code of Ethics is to encourage ongoing communication between board members, students, staff and community. She said in the abundance of recent special meetings, the board has refused the public's opinion. The board has gone so far as to schedule meetings for times that are known that current board members cannot attend or at times when it is difficult for public members to attend. She referenced a Riverside policy which says that they should ensure that their actions or those of another on their behalf are not made with specific intent of advancing private economic interests. She brought up the roofing contract where in investor has not been named. She feels the public deserves to know who the investor is, if they are from the area and if they are in the best interest for our school.

A long-time community member said he has seen all kinds of boards over the years and how poorly run the board has been. He said we finally got a new board two years ago with Mr. Fishel, Mr. Keeney, and Ms. Brewster and things are finally getting done but no one sees it. He said trust has been lost because the board has been unworkable, and that is the reason several treasurers have left. He said it finally became workable with these three people and now we will be back to the old board and trying to get big schools with high taxes that older people cannot afford.

A teacher and RLEA president spoke on behalf of the union. He said the union represents the educators who show up every day for the students and families of the district. They value professionalism, collaboration and stable leadership. He is here tonight because those values are repeatedly being undermined. After careful discussion among the union members, the RLEA is announcing a vote of no confidence in Denise Brewster. This is not a decision that is taken lightly and they do not do it unless a leader has demonstrated a consistent pattern of actions that are harmful to the functioning for our schools and the well being of our district. She has repeatedly chosen to vote with the outgoing board members against the will of the voters, against the health and stability of our district, and against the best interests of our students, families, community and staff. These actions have caused real financial damage and they have eroded the trust that the RLEA must have in those charged with guiding our schools. RLEA no longer trusts and/or supports Ms. Brewster as a leader or decision maker. He said she can choose to act on behalf of the district or continue to act on behalf of Mr. Fishel and Mr. Keeney, two individuals who were voted out by the community. Their influence should not continue through her votes. The RLEA believes that the honorable direction following this vote is for Ms. Brewster to resign her position and allow the board to move forward with leadership that reflects the community's wishes and the needs of our students.

Two seniors at Riverside said they have been watching the board for a while and attend meetings when they can. They have advocated against many decisions made by the board and feel that the current school board does not act in the best interest of the students they serve and the community they represent. Many students are embarrassed by the current school board and how

they have acted. We are supposed to choose the people who represent us and will made decisions for our future. These are the people who will make decisions that will have a lasting impact on our school and can negatively affect the district for years. They are showing the students that they can make decisions against others. One of the people the board is going after now is one of the best educators and leaders.

A senior at Riverside said that she and other students are starting to form opinions and are getting ready to vote. The actions of this board are setting a terrible example of the power of our voices. Many students only have one more semester left and should be studying for mid-terms and worrying about college applications, but are instead here advocating for the students who will be affected by these decisions. The students should be able to trust the board to act in the best interest of them and the teachers and have seen the opposite. The roofing contract could take away the money needed to give them a good education and high school experience.

Mrs. Grassi said she is speaking as a member of the public. She is asking the public to have some decorum. The board is not there to discuss the roof contract, the superintendent or the treasurer and they would like to continue the meeting. Public comment is now over and she asked the public to respect that.

## **12. Consent Agenda: Finance/Audit**

- A. Resolution to approve the monthly financial reports and check payment register report for November 2025.  
File Attachment:  
Monthly Board Reports – Nov-2025.pdf (466 KB)
- B. Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor.  
File Attachment:  
Resolution Accepting Amounts & Rates – Riverside - 12-18-25.pdf (159 KB)
- C. Resolution to approve a revision to the permanent appropriations for fiscal year 2026.  
File Attachment:  
Permanent Appropriations – FY26 – 12-18-25.pdf (61 KB)
- D. Resolution to approve the creation of a new fund, Fund 024 – Employee Benefits Self-Insurance.  
**Purpose:** A fund provided to account for monies received from other funds as payment for providing medical, hospitalization, life, dental, vision, or other similar employee benefits. The Employee Benefits Self-Insurance Fund may make payments for services provided to employees, for reimbursements to employees who have paid providers, to third party administrators for claim payment or administration, for stop-loss coverage or for any other reinsurance or other similar purposes.
- E. Resolution to approve a purchase order to Dell Marketing, L.P. in the amount of \$45,747.57 for computer notebooks in Career Tech addition at Riverside.
- F. Resolution to approve a purchase order to the Samaritan Fund in the amount of \$85,000 for enrollment in their program on behalf of a District staff member.
- G. Resolution to approve a purchase order with Insight Public Sector, Inc. for classroom interactive displays and carts at the Riverside Campus and LaMuth Middle School for the amount of \$41,047.45.

- H. Resolution to approve a purchase order with Riddell All American Sports Corp. for the reconditioning of football uniforms and helmets for Riverside High School & LaMuth Middle School for the amount of \$16,018.
- I. Resolution to approve a purchase order to AI 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.
- J. Resolution to approve an agreement with Auburn Career Center for Middle School Electives Funding, which will provide the District approximately \$74,168 for the expansion of career tech electives for middle school students.
- K. Resolution to accept the following donations:
  1. \$8,000.00 from Robert and Ann Gaubatz to the Gaubatz Nursing Scholarship Fund.
  2. \$400.00 from Mentor Rotary Foundation to the Riverside Theatre Department.
  3. \$2,900.00 from an anonymous donor to the Alumni Hall of Fame kiosk.
  4. \$500.00 from Susan Bloss to the Henry F. LaMuth Scholarship Fund.
- L. Motion to approve the items listed on the Finance/Audit Consent Agenda as recommended by the Treasurer.

Motion: Keeney

Second: Fishel

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Dennis Keeney	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Belinda Grassi	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Lori Krenisky	Aye_____	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 121825-5

### 13. Consent Agenda: Personnel

- A. Resolution to approve the following Certified Personnel:

#### Employment

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Pay	Step	Effective Date	Contract Duration	Notes
Fredrica	Betts	Tutor	LaMuth Middle School	\$27.61 per hour	NA	1/5/2026	Limited, One-year	Second Semester Tutor due to licensure
Joseph	Kilbane	Long-Term ELA Teacher	LaMuth Middle School	\$51,547.00 Prorated	MA+30	1/5/2026	Limited, One-year	
Eunique	Little	Tutor	Buckeye Elementary	\$27.61 per hour	NA	1/5/2026	Limited, One-year	Second Semester Tutor due to licensure
Marcus	McCaleb	In School Suspension	Riverside Campus	\$27.61 per hour	NA	1/5/2026	Limited, One-year	Second Semester In-School Suspension due to licensure
Brock	Marut	Tutor	Riverview Elementary	\$27.61 per hour	NA	1/5/2026	Limited, One-year	Second Semester Tutor due to licensure

#### Resignation

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Effective Date
Robin	D'Abate	Long-Term Intervention Specialist	Parkside Elementary	12/31/2025

#### Retirement

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Effective Date
Michael	Dingman	Teacher	Riverside Campus	6/1/2026

#### Professional Development Days

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Pay	Number of Days	Effective Date	Notes
Jeffrey	Franz	Teacher	Riverside Campus	\$500.00	NA	12/1/2025	Payment for providing CMP training during the first semester of 25/26

**Pay Increase**

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Current Step	Current Salary	New Step	New Salary	Effective Date	Notes
Alexis	Balausky	Speech Language Pathologist	District-wide	MA Step-0	\$48,503.00	MA Step-3	\$55,913.00	8/18/2025	Awarding steps based per ORC section 3317.13(A)(1)(d)
Cody	Bizily	Math Teacher	LaMuth Middle School	BA Step-0	\$44,910.00	BA Step-5	\$53,892.00	8/18/2025	Awarding steps based per ORC section 3317.13(A)(1)(d)

**B. Resolution to approve the following Classified/Exempt Personnel:**

**Employment**

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Pay	Step	Hours	Effective Date	Contract Duration	Contracted Days	Notes
Krista	Brown	10-Month Secretary	Parkside Elementary	\$20.66	0	8	TBD	Limited, One-year	211	
Simon	Brunstetter	AM Latchkey Assistant	Parkside Elementary	\$15.50	NA	Up to 2 hours per day	1/6/2026	Limited, One-year	183	
Robyn	Dickinson	Special Needs Assistant	Riverview Elementary	\$18.19	3	7	12/12/2025	Limited, One-year	183	
Lisa	Eslinger	Latchkey Assistant	Melridge Elementary	\$15.50	NA	Up to 2 hours per day	1/12/2026	Limited, One-year	183	
Brita	Palo	10-Month Secretary	Riverside Campus	\$20.66	0	8	1/5/2026	Limited, One-year	211	
Connor	Reeves	Special Needs Assistant	Melridge Elementary	\$16.75	0	7	12/15/2025	Limited, One-year	183	
Connor	Reeves	Special Needs Assistant	Melridge Elementary	\$16.75	0	NA	12/10/2026	NA	NA	CPI Training, paid by a timesheet, prior to official start date
Lisa	Spiker	Nutrition Services	Riverside Campus	\$19.25	2	3	1/6/2026	Limited, One-year	176	Pending Background check

**Retirement**

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Effective Date
Kelly	Brewster	Transportation Operator	Transportation	7/1/2026

**Change in Hours**

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Current Hours	New Hours	Effective Date	Notes
Donna	Ristau	Nutrition Services	Riverside Campus	3	6.75	12/8/2025	
Loreen	Wallis	Educational Assistant	Parkside Elementary	7	4	12/1/2025	Voluntary Reduction in Hours

**Unpaid Leave of Absence**

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Effective Date	Notes
Bryan	Goodrich	Skilled Crafts	Districtwide	12/19/2025	Unpaid LOA, pursuant to the OAPSE agreement, Article XI, Section J.
Shavira	Martie	Transportation Assistant	Transportation	2/26/2026	Extension of Unpaid LOA, pursuant to the OAPSE agreement, Article XI, Section J.

**C. Resolution to approve the following supplemental contracts:**

First Name	Last Name	Assignment	Salary	Step	Notes
Kevin	Weirich	Indoor Track – Assistant Coach	Volunteer	2	
Danny	Martich	Wrestling - Varsity Assistant	\$6,027.00	4	
Devon	McCune	Wrestling - Varsity Assistant	Volunteer	0	Pending PAP

**D. Resolution to approve the following Classified/Exempt Substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year:**

Position	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Custodial	Mackenzie	Griffiths	
Custodial	Broden	Lillis	
Educational Assistant	Cathy	Travis	Pending Aide Permit
Educational Assistant	Terri	Wagner	
Secretary	Nicole	Rainey	

**E. Resolution to approve the following after hour School Safety Officers for the 2025-2026 School Year:**

Part-Time School Safety Officers that work on an as needed basis for athletic events, board meeting security and other duties outside of the regular school work hours.

Steven Ross

**F. Resolution to approve the 25/26 School Year Academy Monitor:**

Staff to Monitor Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Academy at the hourly rate of \$27.17 per hour

Robin Selent

- G. Motion to approve the items listed on the Personnel Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion: Keeney

Second: Brewster

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Dennis Keeney	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Lori Krenisky	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 121825-6

**14. Consent Agenda: Curriculum & Programming**

- A. Resolution to approve the 2026 Sixth Grade Outdoor Education Program scheduled for May 19-22, 2026 at Camp Whitewood in Windsor, OH.
- B. Motion to approve the items listed on the Curriculum & Programming Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion: Brewster

Second: Keeney

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Dennis Keeney	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Denise Brewster	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Belinda Grassi	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____
Lori Krenisky	Aye__X__	Nay_____	Abstain_____

President declares the motion: carried 121825-7

**15. Policy Agenda**

**A. Adoption of New/Revised Board Policies and Bylaws**

Policy 4162 – Drug and Alcohol Testing of CDL License Holder Who Perform Safety-Sensitive Functions (Revised)

Policy 4162.01 – Drug and Alcohol Testing of Employees Without CDL Licensed Who Transport Students in Alternative Vehicles (Non-DOT Testing) (NEW)

Policy 8600 – Transportation (Revised)

Policy 8600.04 – Bus and Alternative Vehicle Driver Certification (Revised)

Policy 8640 – Transportation for Non-Routine Trips (Revised)

Policy 8650 – Transportation by Alternative Vehicles (Revised)

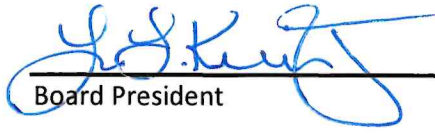
Motion: Krenisky

Second: Fishel

Vote:



Attest:

  
Board President

Date

Treasurer

 1-22-26  
Date

