

RIVERSIDE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



Riverside High School  
June 4, 2025  
7:30 A.M. Special 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**

- A. Call to Order at 7:30 a.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 - absent
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Treasurer Pro Tempore**

- A. Motion to approve the appointment of Belinda Grassi as Treasurer Pro Tempore.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Keeney

Vote:

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

President declares the motion: carried 060425-1

**3. Consent Agenda: Finance/Audit**

- A. Resolution to approve Then and Now Certificates over \$3,000 per ORC section 5705.41:
  - 1. To Cleveland Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$6,042.19 for a change order related to necessary pre-construction survey work for the Riverside Campus Improvement Project.

2. To Cleveland Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$12,945.25 for a change order related to necessary pre-construction survey work for the Riverview Elementary School Expansion and Improvement Project.
  3. To Diamond Door LLC in the amount of \$3,000.00 for additional masonry work needed during the T-Hall door replacement project at the Riverside Campus.
  4. To ABA Outreach Services in the amount of \$65,000.00 for behavioral needs and consulting.
  5. To NEOnet in the amount of \$46,580.00 for district-wide internet access.
- B. 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 <u>  X  </u>	Nay <u>      </u>	Abstain <u>      </u>
Dennis Keeney	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay <u>      </u>	Abstain <u>      </u>
Denise Brewster	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay <u>      </u>	Abstain <u>      </u>
Belinda Grassi	Aye <u>  X  </u>	Nay <u>      </u>	Abstain <u>      </u>

President declares the motion: carried 060425-2

#### 4. 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
	Kathryn	Flynt	Principal	LaMuth Middle School	\$108,000.00	NA	8/1/2025	2-Year
	Kathleen	Leinweber	Curriculum Supervisor	District-Wide	\$92,000.00	NA	8/4/2025	2-Year
Resignation	First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Effective Date	Notes		
	Monica	Vernon	Teacher	LaMuth Middle School	7/31/2025	Correction from Retirement to Resignation per STRS regulations.		
Transition Days	First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Location	Pay	Number of Days	Effective Date	
	Kathryn	Flynt	Principal	LaMuth Middle School	\$507.04 per day	10	to be worked between June 2-July 31 2025	
	Kathleen	Leinweber	Curriculum Supervisor	District-wide	\$453.20 per day	5	to be worked between June 4-August 1, 2025	

- B. Resolution to approve the following Summer Technology Worker:  
Aiden Kanaga effective June 4, 2025
- C. Motion to approve the items listed on the Personnel Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion: Keeney

Second: Brewster

Vote:

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

President declares the motion: carried 060425-3

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

- A. Resolution to approve the Riverside Boys' soccer camp. Camp is open to Riverside residents ages 7 to 13. It will be held June 17, 2025 at the Riverside High School Grass Soccer Field. There is no cost for registration. Instructors will include Riverside coaches. There will be no cost to the Board of Education.
- B. Motion to approve the items listed on the Curriculum & Programming Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent.

Motion: Brewster

Second: Fishel

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 _____

President declares the motion: carried 060425-4

**6. Board of Education Business**

- A. Resolution to approve a purchase order with Precision Environmental Co. for asbestos abatement related to the Riverside Campus Improvement Project at a total cost of \$32,505.00

Motion: Fishel

Second: Keeney

Discussion: Mrs. Grassi asked if this was included in the initial cost of the project. Dr. Rateno answered no, it was not.

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 _____

President declares the motion: carried 060425-5

- B. Discussion and selection of vendor to complete the demolition of two (2) modular units at Buckeye Elementary.

File Attachments:

Hach Excavating.pdf (2,405 KB)

Eagle Abatement.pdf (262 KB)

Mr. Fishel said the two older modular units, walkways and overhead roofs will be disposed of. The newer modular unit that was recently purchased will be sold. Mrs. Grassi asked why this is on the agenda now when it can wait until the end of the month when people can review the quotes and formulate questions and all board members are present. Mr. Arlesic secured the quote from Eagle

Abatement. He does not know where the other quote came from. Mr. Fishel said he got the quote from Hach Excavating. He said they are community members and can do the work as efficiently and effectively as possible. He said he is starting to develop a team of community members who can perform work for us and they will be more invested in the district. Mrs. Grassi asked Mr. Arlesic if there was an opportunity to compare and contrast the quotes in a discussion at a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Mr. Arlesic answered no. Mr. Fishel said Eagle Abatement would discard all three units and Hach would preserve one for sale. He wanted to clarify if it was our policy or law that says we have to auction off any property over \$10,000.

- C. Motion to select Hach Excavating as the company to be considered for hire.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Brewster

Discussion: Mrs. Grassi asked what the criteria was for selecting Hach Excavating. It was never discussed in the Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings. She asked what work was done to compare the two companies. Mr. Arlesic said he never had a conversation with Hach. Mr. Fishel said that he is a trusted member of the community and is worthy of recommendation.

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Keeney	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Denise Brewster	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Belinda Grassi	Aye <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>

President declares the motion: carried 060425-6

- D. Resolution to approve a purchase order with Hach Excavating for demolition of two modular trailers and overhead walkways at Buckeye Elementary School at a total cost of \$34,000.00.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Brewster

Vote:

Scott Fishel	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Keeney	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Denise Brewster	Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>
Belinda Grassi	Aye <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>

President declares the motion: carried 060425-7

- E. Discussion of engagement in a Proposal for Comprehensive Analysis of Operational Revenues and Financial Management Mechanisms with Briscoe Consulting Group.

File Attachment:

Proposal Comprehensive Analysis of Operational Revenues and Financial Management Mechanisms Riverside.pdf (1,524 KB)

Mr. Fishel said that since our treasurer is leaving to go to another district and we will be hiring a new treasurer, it is good polity to be sure the new treasurer is starting with clean books. This group

will go over the books from the last six years. Mrs. Grassi asked Mr. Keeney if this had ever been discussed at a Finance Committee meeting or if he had seen the contract before this weekend. Mr. Keeney replied no. Mrs. Grassi questioned what qualifications and knowledge of Ohio school finance that a firm from Texas would have. She said Mr. Fishel wanted to support and hire local companies but now he is proposing hiring a company in Texas for this work. Mr. Fishel replied that for hands on work, it is better to have local companies that can respond to issues. This company will be doing work online so it does not matter where they are located. Mrs. Grassi questioned their professional references and credentials as she could not find anything associated with this firm. She said operational revenue are funds 006 (Food Service) and 020 (Latchkey). Mr. Fishel said they will start there then look at all the financial activity. Mrs. Grassi asked that since we have gotten a clean audit from the state for the last ten years, why are we paying for duplicate work? The state will do a performance audit for free upon request. Mr. Keeney replied that this is like insurance with a new treasurer coming in so that he or she is assured that everything is in order to move forward. This will go deeper than the state audit would go. Mrs. Grassi said we could hire someone from Ohio or get the information from our own staff. Mr. Keeney and Mr. Fishel both stressed that they want an outside firm to look at the books to get a clean slate for the new treasurer. Dr. Rateno read the following statement from Mrs. Krenisky:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend today's special Board of Education meeting, due to prior professional commitments.

I want to express my concern regarding today's Special Board Meeting and the process surrounding a newly added agenda item involving a financial services contract.

The amended agenda for this special meeting includes a proposal titled: "Comprehensive Analysis of Operational Revenues and Financial Management Mechanisms," prepared by an out-of-state consultant.

This proposal includes a base cost of \$9,500, broken down as follows:  
\$1,200 upfront resource/report fee (due immediately upon acceptance)  
\$8,300 base fee, split into:  
30% (\$2,490) due at project start  
70% (\$5,810) due at completion

Additionally, the proposal includes open-ended costs, such as:

Travel expenses: If in-person work is required, the district must cover airfare, hotel, transportation, and other travel-related costs, plus a \$120 per diem for meals and incidentals

Additional billable hours: If work exceeds the estimated 60 hours, each additional hour is billed at \$150/hour.

Future investigative costs: If the consultant finds financial anomalies, a separate proposal (with new cost estimates) will be submitted for approval

This proposal:

- Was not requested or reviewed by the Superintendent or Treasurer
- Was not discussed during any prior public meeting
- Was added late, after the original agenda was posted, requiring an amendment

- Will be voted on while the Treasurer is unavailable and a board member is out of state.

Approving a financial engagement of this size and scope without administrative input or financial oversight, and in the absence of the Treasurer, does not reflect sound financial governance.

Why It Raises Red Flags -

- The consultant is not located in Ohio
- The proposal bypasses standard district procedures, including competitive bidding & administrative vetting
- The board is being asked to authorize a significant, potentially expanding financial commitment without a clear justification, timing rationale, or professional endorsement

These issues are especially concerning given that the district is already facing operational deficits and has been relying on internal fund transfers to finance projects that are elective board decisions, not necessary projects.

Also, it is increasingly concerning that the board continues to disregard the professional guidance of our Treasurer and financial advisors when that guidance does not align with predetermined board actions.

Given the absence of key decision-makers and unanswered questions about this proposal, I respectfully request that the board postpone any action on this item until the full board and administrative leadership can participate in a well-informed discussion.

Mrs. Grassi added that in their desire to look for inefficiencies, they are approving a per diem rate of \$120.00 when Ohio's maximum rate is \$80.00.

- F. Resolution to approve a purchase order with Briscoe Consulting Group for a comprehensive analysis of operational revenues and financial management mechanisms at a total cost of \$9,500.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Keeney

Vote:

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

President declares the motion: carried 060425-8

**7. Next Meeting Announcement**

- A. Next meeting announcement
 

Curriculum and Programming Committee	June 10, 2025	7:30 a.m.
Finance and Personnel Committee	June 18, 2025	8:00 a.m.
Buildings and Grounds Committee	June 24, 2025	7:30 a.m.
Board of Education Meeting	June 26, 2025	6:00 p.m.

8. Closing Items

A. Motion to adjourn at 8:08 a.m.

Motion: Fishel

Second: Brewster

Vote:

Scott Fishel      Aye X      Nay \_\_\_\_\_      Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

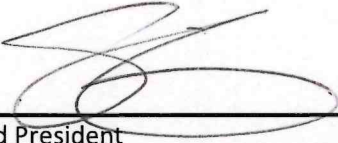
Dennis Keeney      Aye X      Nay \_\_\_\_\_      Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Denise Brewster      Aye X      Nay \_\_\_\_\_      Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Belinda Grassi      Aye X      Nay \_\_\_\_\_      Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

President declares the motion: carried 060425-9

Attest:



Board President

6/26/25

Date



Treasurer

6/26/25

Date