

**RIO COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
AREA-WIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, May 31, 2017 - 6:30 PM
Rio Middle/High School Commons**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Alice Marquardt, Rio Board of Education President. Alice Marquardt thanked everyone for accepting the invitation to continue exploring ideas on joining services for the betterment of each school district. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. This meeting was properly posted in the districts.

There were four districts represented, including the Fall River School District, the Cambria-Friesland School District, the Rio Community School District, and the Pardeeville School District. There were 18 people present (Board members, principals, superintendents, and other staff members and no visitors.)

Shared Programs 2017-2018. There was discussion regarding the opportunity for shared programs for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Tait shared that the principals had previously met and shared schedules, bells, and course books. They are still exploring how technology will play a role in the shared programs. Mr. McGuire shared that the Rio District has written a WTI grant to offset the costs associated with the technology that will be necessary for shared programs. Rio currently has six students interested in taking a class at one of the school districts listed above, and they are very excited to do so.

Curriculum Planning 2017-2018. The school districts have shared their curriculums, and are continuing to discuss the differences in the grading scales between the schools.

Shared Vendors. All the school districts agreed that it's beneficial to share vendors whenever possible for the highest cost savings. They also discussed sharing busses for field trips and sporting events and the possibility of sharing personnel.

Shared Speaker - Youth Frontier. Cambria-Friesland's superintendent, Tim Raymond, described a speaker they hosted at their school, called Youth Frontier. The Boards discussed possibly sharing this speaker between their schools in the future. They also talked about having a shared speaker at professional development for their staffs.

New Conference. During this time the group discussed the new, three-division conference format. They are encouraged with the progress being made, but are still considering other options. It was felt that a meeting with the WIAA would be beneficial and will be scheduled for a future date.

Working with Energy Efficiency Management Companies. There was a request from one of the other Boards that the Rio School District share their experience working with energy efficiency management companies. Rio Superintendent, Mark McGuire, discussed how his school utilized the Act 32 legislation to take advantage of energy savings, and the companies they worked with.

Recommendations to Proceed. All the Boards were in favor of continuing this collaborative effort.

Meeting Dates for 2017-2018. Future meeting dates will be set and shared at a later date.

Future Topics. There was a suggestion made that the departments could meet to share curriculum ideas and network between schools. Several schools talked about the research being done regarding grading scales and how the standards are changing at the high school and college level. They also discussed how this will affect their students. The Boards compared how each school uses computers within their schools and classrooms.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.