

**River Valley Charter School  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Meeting # 232  
April 13, 2017 7:00 pm**

**In Attendance:** **Officers:** Chair: Nat Coughlin, Vice Chair: John Siegfried, Treasurer: Mark Belanger, Secretary: Katherine Brown **Trustees:** Ellen Oliver, Peter Zetlan, Jennifer McCormack, Ben Scherz, Conall Ryan, Kimberley Kiblansky, Mason Mitchell-Daniels, Mark Gustafson, Josh

**Director:** Andy Willemsen  
Jonnie Lynn Evans, Jane Noyes

**Call to Order: 7:03**

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:**

**Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion "To Accept Previous Minutes"**

Motion by John Siegfried, 2nd Ben Scherz. Executive Committee vote to accept was unanimous.

**Public Comment:** Amber Hewitt, a RVCS alumnus interested in getting involved with the Board.

**Montessori Minute: with Jane Noyes**

Jane Noyes introduced a program "magnificent words" in which the students paint and use figurative language to describe the artwork. The workshop, in which literature is shared, has first, second and third year students working together as a class. The participants model and mentor for one another. The faculty were trained for this workshop during a Personal Development day. Jane Noyes thanked the Board for considering the need for Personal Development days at RVCS.

**Finance Committee Update-**

Mark Belanger reported that the Newburyport district has spent more money than other districts this year and this will have an effect on RVCS revenue. The administration will continue to keep a conservative model with budget projections.

Andy Willemsen stated that line items/preliminary budget will be presented for vote at the next Board meeting on May 11.

**Development Committee Update-**

Jennifer McCormack stated that Major Donor Event was a success. Two upcoming events are Grand friends Day on May 12 and the Maritime Mixer on May 18.

Fundraising goals are being reached with \$70,000 raised plus an additional \$40,000 pledged. Nat Coughlin congratulated Jennifer McCormack, Jonnie Lynn Evans and Andy Willemsen for all the hard work. Fundraising has been extremely successful this year.

**Accountability Committee Update-**

Conall Ryan stated that the Parent Survey is ready to go after several revisions. The link has been sent to Andy Willemsen for review.

Winter Assessment data review results were positive. The assessments require a lot of teacher preparation time. Conall Ryan asked “Is there a way for RVCS to yield more clarity for parents as well as less time for teachers?” Andy Willemsen is happy with the present format.

### **Discussion with Nat Coughlin**

Nat Coughlin reported that the Foundation reminded him of the fact that RVCS is five years into the loan and that RVCS should investigate options. This might include some Board involvement where some members get together with Andy Willemsen and assist with a plan for the next five years. The Foundation would like a clear idea of how their funds are being used and what the priorities are for the overall budget. Are there changes we may want to consider?

New membership for the Board-

Andy Willemsen met with Art Currier and he is interested in helping Charter schools and public schools work together. Art is one of the founders of Carrabassett Valley Academy and is not interested in being on the board but would be interested in consulting the Board.

Nat Coughlin told the Board that he is actively looking for new members and asked that members consider asking potential new members.

Nat Coughlin reported to the Board that Mark Belanger spoke to SEC re: conflict of interest (wife Amy applying for job at RVCS)

Mark Belanger will formally recuse himself from any discussion in regard to a review of Andy Willemsen or compensation in regard to Andy Willemsen.

### **Director’s Report: Andy Willemsen**

Andy Willemsen reported to the Board that the Parents Alliance closed the account on April, 12 2017.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - MCAs results have been compared to 2012 results through 2016. Looks like as of 2017, RVCS will be a Level 2 school like all of the other area schools.

Andy reminded the Board that RVCS set a fundraising bar for \$110,000. and as of today \$70,000. has been raised and an additional \$40,000. has been pledged.

Andy Willemsen suggested that the Foundation pay for the rapid flasher lights to be installed at the crosswalk on Low St.

Andy Willemsen introduced the Pioneer Lab Project and stated that there would be more details to come

### **Middle School Update-**

Nat Coughlin reviewed the contractor bids with the Board stating there was one very low bid and one within budget. Nat expects some back and forth in the next few days and that

something should happen by next week. Nat told the Board there were several bidders right within the budget, which is a good sign.

Nat Coughlin and Board thanked Jane Noyes for being the faculty representative on the Board and noted that this is her final meeting.

Nat Coughlin discussed the Board Life Cycle Stages and asked the Board for feedback. John Siegfried mentioned the Board Survey, which each member will be required to fill out at the end of the meeting.

John Siegfried discussed the history of Board Retreat and potential options for this year. The purpose of the retreat is to keep on the same positive track as well as to discuss our roles and culture as a Board.  
John Siegfried handed out Board Surveys.

**Adjourned- No official time. Board members departed individually as surveys were completed.**



