

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 229
December 13, 2016 7:00 pm**

In Attendance: **Officers:** Chair: Nat Coughlin, Vice Chair: John Siegfried, Treasurer: Mark Belanger, Secretary: Katherine Brown **Trustees:** Jennifer McCormick, Kimberly Kiblansky, Mark Gustavson, Conall Ryan, Joshua Porter, Ben Scherz, Mason Mitchell Daniels, Jonnie Lyn Evans. **Director:** Andy Willemsen

Call to Order: 7:05

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Accept Minutes of November 15”
Motion by Ben Scherz, 2nd John Siegfried. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

Montessori Minute: None

Presentation of Revised FAMPP and Parent /Guardian Summary of FAMPP-

Andy Willemsen discussed minor revisions to the FAMPP reminding the Board of Mason’s concerns raised in the previous meeting. Kimberly Putney has made appointments to meet with all classrooms re: FAMPP before winter break. Parent guidelines will be found in “Happenings” coming out tomorrow.

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Accept the December 2016 revised FAMPP”
Motion by Katherine Brown, 2nd Joshua Porter. Board vote to accept was unanimous with 1 abstain from Conall Ryan.

Finance Committee Update:

No report. Finance Committee did not meet this month.

Development Committee Update:

Jennifer McCormick reported that \$25,000.00 has been raised from the Annual Appeal. There is a fundraiser on January 4, 2017 at the NBPT Brewery and a Major Donor Event on March 31.

Accountability Committee Update:

Laura Hunt joined the Accountability Committee meeting to review progress reports and did not see any major changes. The Accountability Committee will review additional reports at next meeting. Conall Ryan reported that parents have questions around quantitative vs qualitative results.

Director’s Report/Goals: Andy Willemsen

Andy Willemsen stated that he believes there will be some changes on the horizon in regard to the result of the ballot question #2. Surrounding towns are automatically in the RVCS lottery now. Andy Willemsen told the Board that met with Superintendent Viccaro and discussed bussing options and the plan for Newburyport High School to open later. Andy Willemsen told the Board he would like the RVCS schedule to remain the same. Jonnie Lyn

Evans then read the law which requires the Newburyport bus company to provide transportation to RVCS.

Andy Willemsen discussed the crosswalks and flashing lights surrounding RVCS. He stated that teachers have been coming in from crosswalk duties rattled. The Board discussed the need to improve safety in the crosswalks and on the sidewalks surrounding RVCS. Andy Willemsen will explore possibilities and would like to consider flashing lights similar to those at the Mersen plant on Merrimac Street. The Board discussed having increased signage on Perry Way. Mark Gustavson asked about the possibility of a police detail.

Middle School Update

Andy Willemsen presented the Architects plans for the Middle School project. Changes would include: building walls around lockers to decrease sound, having two entrances to the great room, improving sound barriers between the math rooms, adding a kitchen for Middle School students, adding a teacher's room, adding an office for Colin Vandenberg and creating a Makers Space next to the math rooms. In addition, the Great Room will have new flooring and lighting to give a more academic feel.

Andy Willemsen reported that the budget came in at a reasonable number. He is getting a pitch together for the Foundation with the help of Ellen Oliver in drafting and Joshua Porter with the graphics. John Siegfried asked if there were any naming sponsors. He followed by stating there could be potential for additional funding if we had naming sponsors in a "Wall of Gratitude". John Siegfried suggested having students name a room and then the sponsor could tag on to that.

Parents Alliance Update

Nat Coughlin discussed the concerns of the leaders of the Parents Alliance around their fiscal controls. The new message is the Parents Alliance does not want to be a separate entity any more. They would like to dissolve and join the Board in some capacity. Nat Coughlin asked the Board what their thoughts were on the matter. Jennifer McCormick spoke to the idea of the Parents Alliance working with/joining the Development Committee. Nat Coughlin asked the Board how they felt and would they be willing to absorb the Parents Alliance. The general consensus was to let the Parents Alliance dissolve first before making any decisions. Andy Willemsen mentioned that after a period of time the Parents Alliance would automatically dissolve without a renewal of the non profit status.

Nat Coughlin called for a Motion "To Adjourn the Meeting"

Motion by Conall Ryan, 2nd John Siegfried. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

Adjourned 8:21