

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 267
June 2, 2020 7:00 pm**

In accordance with the Executive Order applying to MA Open Meeting Law, this meeting will be held virtually on Zoom ID: 83356972033 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04

In attendance:

Pam Armstrong
Mark Belanger
Mark Bishop
Nancy Durkee
Ali Fields
Amber Hewett
Nina Keery
Alfred Link
Catherine Martin
Jennifer McCormack
Karina Moltz
Erin Seaton

Jonnie Lyn Evans

Members of the public: Albert Ting, Anna Wetmore, Jenn Tramonta, Alexandra McLachlan, Sara Treem, Dan Bouchard, Debra McCrevan, Deirdre Casey

RVCS Revelation: none

Public Comment: none

Vote: motion to approve May minutes

Motion: Mark Belanger
2nd: Alfred Link

Vote

Yes: all in attendance other than Nancy Durkee

No:

Abstain: Technical difficulties kept Nancy from voting on minutes

Director's Report (see report) highlights:

At this time of the year, some students start to say that they're not coming back to RVCS. Nothing unexpected, but some students have said that they are leaving. Work is ongoing on Celebrations of Learning and end of year celebrations. Foundation will support installation of motion activated faucets and grant will cover lights. Insurance company continues to want RVCS to install security cameras outside, and process is ongoing in terms of making sure that tech coordinates with systems already in place.

Discussion of reentry plan: Jonnie Lyn presented the most recent CDC guidelines and discussed possible RVCS responses. This includes a plan to move the nurse's room so that there is a room that can be used for isolation. Also includes the need to close shared facilities (like art room). Specialists may visit classrooms rather than students traveling to specials rooms. Cohort groupings will also be considered. School is considering several different options, including plans in case school cannot resume in person in the fall. Strain on teachers has been intense and teachers are working extremely hard to sustain level of engagement and teaching. Hope is to get students back into the building full time. A discussion was had about what will happen if there is a spike in cases once school has resumed. Rolling closures are possible if students start to get sick. Reentry team will need to decide what the threshold is for shutting down classes or the school for periods of time based on students or staff who are sick. Vulnerable students or staff may need to stay home. If the school is open, students need to come in (unless they are vulnerable and documented by a doctor's note). BOT members are asked to think about how to share information with greater RVCS community.

Discussion of finance and funding: Budget questions are still unknown. Revenues are down in the state. School's revenue comes largely from tuition – chapter 70, or “foundation funding”, and the other amount is called the “above foundation” funding. RVCS doesn't yet know where either rate will be. From best guesses, foundation funding will be down about 3%, and above foundation funding will be down around 10%. Brings revenue down about 4-4.5 % next year. Another part of revenue is per-pupil funding. Entitlement grant funding is another part of funding picture.

Letters of agreement/intent will go out to employees, without specifics. Lead teachers will be given lead teacher letters, and other teachers may be reassigned. Salary line item is slightly higher than last year – increase of \$38,000 – but doesn't provide teachers with as much as we would want. Includes a part time nurse, a remote learning teacher, possible a learning specialist, and increasing hours for school psychologist. For the past years, staff has been given support to offset deductibles for health insurance, and Debbie and Jonnie Lyn are looking at those policies to see if any change can be made. Drastic cuts were made in other areas, like professional development, field trips, classroom supplies, to get money to support the salary line item. The goal is to keep everyone on staff, but if the school had to go 100% online, a closer look would need to be taken at staffing to see if the level of current staffing is needed. Question was raised about outside learning opportunities. Teachers will be encouraged to use outdoor spaces. There was some thought about “farm school” or something similar if students were partially back and partially not, but school has pulled back from that approach now.

Finance Committee: Mark Bishop described timeline for budget approval (end of June is goal). Unprecedented situation with state and local budgets. Expected deficit due to decreased tax

revenue, and potential exists that state would only pass 1/12 (monthly) budgets. Top priorities for school are safety of students and teachers and staff. Potentially include staffing changes described by Jonnie Lyn, as well as a “day porter” position to keep surfaces clean. Discussion with Foundation has begun about moving Foundation support to covid-related expenses. Key budget points – slight increase in salary line item, and depreciation deficit (actual cash would not be running at a deficit).

Next meeting: June 16th

Vote: To approve 2020/2021 fiscal year salary line item of \$3,074,000

Made by: Mark Belanger

2nd: Alfred Link

Vote

Yes: all in attendance (Erin Seaton left early)

No

Abstain

Accountability Committee

No report from Accountability Committee

Development Committee:

No report from Development Committee

Committee on Trustees

Discussion of potential new BOT members (documents in board packet)

Vote: to approve Greg Noyes’s, Erin Bradley’s, and Rebecca Schwer’s appointments to the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees.

Motion: Amber Hewett

2nd: Ali Fields

Vote:

Yes: all in attendance

No:

Abstain:

Vote: Motion to adjourn

Made by: Alfred Link

2nd: Ali Fields

Vote:

Yes: all in attendance

No:

Abstain:

8:27 pm Board adjourns