

**River Valley Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Meeting # 241  
March 20, 2018 7:00 pm**

**In Attendance:** **Officers:** Chair: Mark Belanger, Vice Chair: John Siegfried, Secretary: Katherine Brown **Trustees:** Nina Keery, Nat Coughlin, Pamela Brockmeier Armstrong, Peter Zetlan, Amber Hewett, Alfred Link, Jennifer McCormick  
**Director:** Andy Willemsen

**Call to Order: 7:02**

**Public Comment:** none

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes:**

**Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion "To Accept Previous Minutes"**

Motion by Pete Zetlan, 2nd Nat Coughlin. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

**Finance Committee Update-**

Mark Belanger spoke for Mason Mitchell-Daniels and reported that the Finance Committee reviewed statements again and RVCS has some extra revenue above budget.

Update and questions on refinancing:

1. Can we bring some stability to the interest rate?
2. How do we move more funding over to the salary budget line item?
3. Foundation is open to the idea of changes. Can we place annual controls? a checklist?  
Andy asking for a recommendation from the FC. Andy Willemsen asked a consultant to present three different options for re-financing, they will be reviewed by the Finance Committee then brought to the Foundation and the Board. Andy Willemsen added that the Foundation is the holder of the loan.
4. Alfred Link asked to clarify the role of the Foundation and Board in regard to the refinancing.
5. Capital expenditure- projection of capital needs- \$40,000.00 is the amount the Finance Committee is recommending again this year and it will be part of the Annual Budget vote.

**Accountability Committee Update-**

No meeting

**Development Committee Update-**

No meeting for the month of March  
Two upcoming events on March 29 and April 12.  
Next meeting is Tuesday, April 3 at 6pm.

**Working Groups Update-**

**Committee on Trustees-**

John Siegfried asked the Board about May 19 or June 9 for the Board of Trustees retreat, which would take place from 9am-1pm.

John reported a robust response to Committee and Board recruitment. the Committee on Trustees will review and make recommendations at next Board meeting.

Nina Keery and Colin Vandenburg were able to discuss student involvement in Board of Trustees meetings and will present to the Board next month. The Committee on Trustees is beginning to review bylaws and will make recommendations at next Board meeting. John gave a reminder to sign up for Celebration of Learning presentations; the goal is to have a Board member at each one.

Retreat- John Siegfried contacted Julie Wilson to lead the retreat and Nat Coughlin has made some contacts as well. Decision will be made soon.

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

June Calendar & Spring Conference Dates -AW requested an April break - one time distance learning program/day or Saturday\* in order to finish the school year on Wednesday, June 20. Finishing with 3 1/2 days and faculty having a Personal Day on Friday, June 22. \* Saturday, April 28 is a targeted day.

**Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion "To Move to approve the implementation of one or both of the following options to address the excessive number of snow days during the 2017-2018 school year, pending approval from the OCSSR":**

1. One day of distance learning day during the April school break.
2. One Saturday 1/2 day of school, date to be determined.

Motion by Nat Coughlin, 2nd Nina Keery. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous. Pamela Brockmeier Armstrong suggested keeping in synch with other schools scheduling Saturdays.

Andy Willemsen reviewed the proposed 2018/2019 school calendar with the Board. Potential shared Personal Days with Newburyport and Amesbury schools on March, 15 2019.

**Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion "To Accept Proposed 2018/2019 School Calendar"**

Motion by Nat Coughlin, 2nd John Siegfried. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

Lottery- Andy Willemsen reported that RVCS had a total of 200 applicants for the February lottery. Kudos to Jonnie Lyn Evans and her team for the highly successful recruiting and advertising campaign that resulted in such strong interest. RVCS has extended offers to 32 Kinderhaus families in order to maintain our grade level structure.

Charter Renewal- We need a quorum for July Board meeting for Charter Renewal meeting.

Alumni Survey- We had a solid response from parents of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade graduates to our first-ever survey of RVCS student readiness for high school with 29 families responding.

Power Purchase Agreement- This is still in limbo -Citizen's Bank has approved the changes to the PPA with ReVision Energy and the revised contract is in the hands of the school's attorney

for review. Andy Willemssen reported he hoped to hear back from the attorney soon and will keep the Board updated.

Harvard Graduate School of Education Presentation- RVCS will present at the Social Emotional Learning Summer Institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in late June 2018.

**Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion “To Adjourn”**

Motion by John Siegfried, 2nd Nat Coughlin. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

**Adjourned:7:52**



