

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 237
October 18, 2017 7:00 pm**

In Attendance: Officers: Chair: Mark Belanger, Vice Chair: John Siegfried, Treasurer: Mason Mitchell- Daniels, Secretary: Katherine Brown **Trustees:** Jennifer McCormack, Ben Scherz, Josh Porter, Amber Hewitt, Alfred Link, Nina Keery, Colin Vandenberg, Nat Coughlin, Jennifer McCormick, Pamela Brockmeier Armstrong

Director: Andy Willemsen

Jonnie Lynn Evans, Deb McCraven, Colin Vandenberg

Foundation Member- Scott McDonald

Call to Order: 7:04

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

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

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

Public Comment: none

Montessori Minute: with Peter McClure

Peter introduced a math concept unit with color beads. This concept helps the student move from quantity to abstraction of knowledge. Students are exposed to multiples in a simple, visual way by breaking chains down in to individual beads or creating cubes with the longer chains of beads. Peter introduced the decinomial chart, the bead cabinet and the tower of jewels to the Board. Board members asked questions about presenting this material to parents. Peter responded by saying that the students present the concepts.

Working Groups Update-

Human Resources- Nat Coughlin remarked that the group is well poised to give a nice presentation of findings at the next meeting and Andy will follow with some guidance and judgement.

Trustee Group- John Siegfried reported that this group is moving towards being the Committee on Trustees. As a group they have re-organized the list from the retreat in order to focus on the following categories: Academic growth, Community, Human Resources, Committee on Trustees and Miscellaneous goals.

Accountability Committee Update-

Ben Scherz reported that the Accountability Committee reviewed goals and purpose as it relates to "facilitating and advocating" how the school's accountability data is "captured, reviewed and managed". Ben Scherz stated that RVCS is being given a Mass Charter grant as a Demonstration School and Andy Willemsen told the Board that Jonnie Lyn Evans was responsible for applying for and receiving the grant. The next Accountability meeting will be November 8th and the agenda will include reviewing the MCAs results.

Development Committee Update-

Jennifer McCormick discussed the Development Committee's plan to thank donors with a "Year of Gratitude". Events will include Cocktails for a Cause and an alumni event at the Newburyport Brewery. Jennifer reported that the current fundraising balance is \$49,000 up \$22,000 from this time last year. Andy thanked Jennifer for her efforts and stated that \$25,000 in unrestricted funds was donated by a RVCS family.

Jennifer reminded the Board of the Annual Appeal in November and asked for 100% Board participation. Upcoming events are the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on 11/17/17 and the Alumni Event on 1/3/18

Finance Committee Update-

Mason Mitchell-Daniels provided a summary of the Audit Report from Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co., P.C. and reviewed the two recommendations.

1. RVCS should establish a policy for recording an allowance for potentially uncollectible pledges to ensure that pledges are receivable and fairly stated.
2. In 2019, there will be a new standard for accounting leases. RVCS should summarize the current lease agreement and consider the impact of the new lease accounting standard should the school decide to refinance in the future.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion "To Accept Audited Financial Report for Year ending June 30, 2017"

We, the Board of Trustees of River Valley Charter School vote to accept the representations of management and the expression of the opinions by Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co., P.C. as embodied in the combined general purpose financial statements, supplementary schedules, and independent auditor's reports for the year ended June 30, 2017. We also certify that the representations made by management and the disclosures in the combined general purpose financial statements are accurate and have been correctly and completely disclosed as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Charter School Audit Guide for the year ended June 30, 2017.

Motion by Katherine Brown, 2nd Nat Coughlin. Executive Committee vote to accept was unanimous.

Director's Report: Andy Willemsen

MCA's-

Andy discussed the new version of the MCAs test and stated that the tests would be more difficult next year and therefore the scores will be lower. All MCAs testing will be conducted online next year, which will present logistical challenges of testing 200 students and extending the RVCS testing period. Ben Scherz and Nina Keery shared their experiences with the new test both stating that it pushes the students to support/explain answers. Jonnie Lyn Evans stated that student essays from MCAs will be sent back to RVCS for review.

Andy Willemsen will provide a MCAs breakdown of RVCS student performance at next month's Board meeting.

FAMPP Amendment Vote-

Andy reviewed the revision to the Food Allergy Management and Protection Plan

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion “To Accept the Revised Food Allergy Management and Protection Plan (FAMPP)”

Changes will read “No RVCS student with a life-threatening food allergy will be permitted to attend out-of-school field trips without a school-approved EHCP on file with the RVCS Health office.

Motion by Nat Coughlin, 2nd Mason Mitchell-Daniels. Executive Committee vote to accept was unanimous.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion “To Enter Executive Session”

Motion by Nat Coughlin, 2nd Katherine Brown. Executive Committee vote to accept was unanimous.

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

Motion by Nat Coughlin, 2nd Josh Porter. Executive Committee vote to accept was unanimous.

Adjourned: 8:29