

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 283
May 11, 2021 5:00 pm**

In accordance with the Executive Order applying to MA Open Meeting Law, this meeting will be held virtually on Zoom ID: 88074824313 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm

In attendance

Pam Armstrong
Mark Bishop
Nancy Durkee
Amber Hewett
Erin Bradley Irose
Alfred Link
Catherine Martin
Karina Moltz
Greg Noyes
Rebecca Schwer
Erin Seaton
Albert Ting
Anna Wetmore

Absent: Nina Keery

RVCS Revelation – Laura Hunt, Middle School teacher, presented project in which MS students participated, based on “Stamped” by Ibram Kendi and Jason Reynolds.

Colin Vandenburg described the Celebrations of Learning (COLs) and explained the role that Trustees will play in the COLs.

Public Comment:

Vote: to approve minutes from the April meeting

Note: edits from Pam

Motion: Mark Bishop
2nd: Anna Wetmore

Yes : Everyone in attendance other than Alfred

No

Abstain Alfred Link

Director's Report

Gardening special has begun, good feedback so far.

MCAS testing begins on May 12. Results will not be counted towards accountability goals.

James Kelcourse sent a letter recognizing the work of students at RVCS.

Looking toward next year and trying to figure out what outdoor education might look like, and what after-school might look like, etc. Might be a chance to rethink traditions.

The school is feeling some pressure to pull back Covid-related restrictions. RVCS wants to try to stay the course and keep everyone masked at all times.

A question was raised about the idea of a land acknowledgement. Does it work to acknowledge the occupation of land that was previously occupied, or does more of a statement need to be made about the history? The acknowledgment that the School is considering also acknowledges the painful history.

Accountability

Alfred described the parent survey structure and results. 80-90% positive responses across all measures. Value can be found in looking at open responses and the 10-20% of responses that were not positive. Director goes through open responses and pulls key insights. Discussion ensued about parental perception of some elements (like math instruction), that may require more parent education.

A motion was made to vote on the revised Enrollment Policy.

Vote: To approve the revised Enrollment Policy

Motion: Alfred Link

2nd: Erin Bradley Irose

Development Committee

No report from Development this month

Finance Committee

Mark Bishop described the recent Finance Committee meeting and expressed gratitude for the hard work of the school and administration.

Salary line item needs to be voted on in May so that Jonnie Lyn can engage in salary negotiations. Final budget will be presented around June 30th (required for DESE). Expectation of increased tuition rate for next year. Mark reviewed financial statements and balances. Mark explained value of grants for which the school applies, which can be helpful in offsetting changes to tuition rates, etc. Finance Committee discussed the salary line item, and gave a strong recom-

mendation on a 5% salary line increase. Last year there was no salary increase, given the need to spend conservatively in light of the pandemic.

Jonnie Lyn shared that there is a lot of discussion about retirement and switching careers in the field.

Deb McCrevan pointed out that the salary line item will almost certainly change, given the changes that can occur.

**Vote: to authorize \$3,311,625 for Salaries and Wages for the FY 2021-2022 Fiscal Year
Budget to enable issuing timely Employment Agreements**

Motion: Mark Bishop

2nd: Greg Noyes

Yes: all in attendance other than Link and Schwer

No:

Abstain: Alfred Link and Rebecca Schwer

Committee on Trustees

Saturday, June 5, Saturday, June 12 are both possible retreat days. Nina Keery has shared out an invitation to the community to learn more about the BOT and what they do.

COT wants to add a student representative to the Board of Trustees. Pam Armstrong explained that this would require a change in the bylaws, which have to be approved by the state.

Several community members have expressed interest in joining the board.

Pam Armstrong reminded everyone to attend IFT trainings when possible.

Public Comment

Vote: to enter executive session under the MA Open Meeting Law purpose for Executive Session #6: “to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.”

Made by: Pam Armsteong

2nd: Mark Bishop

Yes: all in attendance

No:

Abstain:

Board returns from Executive Session

Vote: to enter Executive Session again, for purpose #2

Motion: Pam Armstrong
2nd: Erin Bradley Irose

Board returns from Executive Session:

Vote: to approve a 5% increase in the Executive Director's 2019-2020 salary for the upcoming 2020-2021 year

Motion: Pam Armstrong
2nd: Erin Bradley Irose

Yes: all in attendance (Keery and Moltz now absent)

Vote: to adjourn

Made by: Pam Armstrong
2nd: Mark Bishop

Yes: all in attendance (Keery and Moltz absent)

No:

Abstain:

7:45 pm Board adjourns