

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 228
November 15, 2016 7:00 pm**

In Attendance: Officers: Chair: Nat Coughlin, Vice Chair: John Siegfried, Treasurer: Mark Belanger, Secretary: Katherine Brown **Trustees:** Jennifer McCormick, Conall Ryan, Peter Zetlan, Joshua Porter, Ben Scherz, Mason Mitchell Daniels, Jane Noyes, Jonnie Lyn Evans.
Director: Andy Willemsen **School Nurse:** Kimberly Putney
Deb McCrevan

Call to Order: 7:04

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Accept Minutes of September 13”
Motion by John Siegfried, 2nd Ben Scherz. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

Montessori Minute: Paddy Cummings & Alison Nye

The annual tradition of the Classroom Mission Statement was presented. The exercise involves the students selecting relevant words of importance and then creating sentences for these words. There is much conversation between students as the sentences evolve and take shape. The Mission Statement and Coat of Arms of the classroom are then displayed and revisited as needed throughout the school year.

Public Comment:

The following were present and spoke during Public Comment:

Paddy Cummings, Alison Nye, Laura Hunt, Alan Cathcart, Lucinda Cathcart, Conall Ryan, Andy Willemsen, Mason Mitchell Daniels, Jane Noyes

Paddy Cummings spoke of her son’s allergies “it has become his responsibility as he grew older” “we can’t expect others to keep us safe”

Allison Nye spoke of her adult sudden allergy onset and her daughter’s similar allergies. “we need to advocate for ourselves” “Montessori is all about building independence”

Laura Hunt stated “This is an opportunity for kids to feel empowered and not have a false sense of security. Helping and supporting peers are life skills”.

Alan and Lucinda Cathcart stated “We need to teach these kids how to protect themselves. We don’t want people to feel as though the need to provide our son’s safety”.

Conall Ryan asked why parents and guardians who are opposed to the Allergy Policy were not invited to speak.

Andy Willemsen responded by saying he thought it would be more productive to hear from parents of children with severe allergies who are in support of the policy.

Mason Mitchell Daniels asked how would we keep vigilant about all allergies.

Jane Noyes spoke to the experience of the teacher in the classroom.

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

Nat Coughlin asked Conall Ryan if he knew of any parents who were opposed to the Allergy Policy. Conall replied that he did not know of any. Nat Coughlin asked Conall Ryan about his thoughts regarding the policy. Conall stated he thought it was a careful, thoughtful and important document. He also expressed his concern that the policy placed a huge burden on Kim Putnam, the RVCS Nurse. Conall Ryan also expressed concern about the school kitchen not being allergen free. Andy Willemsen replied that it would be impractical given that the staff use the kitchen and there is a protocol in place. Andy also stated "shared food events are very important to the curriculum".

Nat Coughlin suggested asking parents about their knowledge of the Allergy Policy in the Parent Questionnaire. Andy Willemsen agreed that there needs to be a campaign around educating parents with the new policy.

Kimberly Putney spoke to closing the gaps with health Questionnaire details and improving communications between parents and School Nurse.

Nat Coughlin suggested that the Allergy Policy is a living document which we will continue to review. We will vote on the current policy. Andy Willemsen then proposed an amendment to the policy which would consider all allergies. Ben Scherz suggested re working at a later time but that all else works.

The Board expects RVCS to propose amended language to allow flexibility with Kinderhaus and E1 related to airborne allergens for a future revision.

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion "To Accept the revised FAMPP" Motion by Ben Scherz, 2nd Katherine Brown. Board vote to accept was unanimous with 1 abstain from Conall Ryan.

Finance Committee Update:

Mark Belanger reported the committee met and reviewed the three major statements and the quarterly analysis. Mark stated the committee reviewed financial projections and RVCS is in great shape.

Development Committee Update:

Jennifer McCormick reported that \$13,000 has been raised to date and the Annual Appeal letter will be going out next week. The committee is researching automated payment plans and planning an Alumni Event and a Major Donor Event for January/February.

Accountability Committee Update:

Conall Ryan reported the committee reviewed the Master Policy List to prioritize as well as review outdated policies. The committee will note any financial effects of policy changes. No meeting in January.

Director's Report/Goals: Andy Willemsen

Ballot Question #2- Andy Willemsen spoke with Mark Kernan he is concerned about potential threats to funding going forward. Andy Willemsen may be calling on the Board and school community to step up and be vocal regarding the importance of funding.

Andy Willemsen discussed the Dissemination Fair and Charter Meeting.

Ben Scherz would like to see a list of legislators who are opposed to the funding and suggested building relations with local superintendents who will in turn speak with Legislators.

Middle School Update

Nat Coughlin told the Board that the architect would like one more week to show sketches and that they would be shared with the Board soon. Parents Alliance Update

Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Adjourn the Meeting”

Motion by John Siegfried, 2nd Joshua Porter. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

Adjourned 8:46