

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 242
April 10, 2018 7:00 pm**

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

Director: Andy Willemsen

Deb McCrevan, Colin Vandenburg, Jonnie Lyn Evans

Foundation Member-

Call to Order: 7:03

Public Comment: none

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

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

Motion by John Siegfried, 2nd Pamela Brockmeier Armstrong. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

Mass Charter Public School Association Advocacy Presentation with Lori Fresina

Lori introduced herself as a representative from a national consulting firm working with non profits ie. charter schools. The focus of the firm is working on parent and community engagement, in addition to advocacy, as they relate to public charter schools.

Lori discussed relationships with elected officials and gave an overview of Massachusetts politicians' stances on public charter schools.

Introduction to the Celebration of Learning with Colin Vandenburg

Colin introduced new Changes with the Celebration of Learning presentations -

Previous - Students presented a Reflection of Learning (ROL) with panelists followed by the Celebration of Learning presentation to a larger group.

Overview-

- I. Story of Self and Expressions of gratitude - aha moments in life story
- II. Evidence of Learning - select 5 or more pieces of work that have significant meaning for them
- III. Panel Presentation- interactive presentation with panelists encouraged to participate

Andy Willemsen asked what an ideal participation of a Trustee would look like. Colin Vandenburg referred to the list of questions given to each panelist as a guideline. Colin stated that the goal is to push thinking but also make the student feel very successful.

Colin followed by saying the hope is to keep the COLs from being too formulaic. Colin mentioned that the Middle School faculty feel very excited about the change.

Mark Belanger reminded the members of the Board to sign up for COL panels.

Finance Committee Update-

Mason Mitchell Daniels reviewed the Credit Card Policy with the Board and introduced the two votes on policy and credit card holders.

Vote: Mason Mitchell Daniels called for a Motion “To Approve Revised Credit Card Policy as Part of the River Valley Fiscal Policies and Procedures as of April 10th, 2018.”

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

Vote: Mason Mitchell Daniels called for a Motion “To Approve the Issuing of Credit Cards for River Valley Charter School Purchasing Purposes to the Following Individuals: Andrew Willemsen, Jonnie Lynn Evans, and Debra McCrevan.”

Motion by Nina Keery, 2nd Pamela Brockmeier Armstrong. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

Mason also reviewed the updated cash balances, tuition balances and refinancing progress.

Accountability Committee Update-

Ben Scherz thanked Jonnie Lyn Evans for sending out the Parent Survey. Andy Willemsen will review the surveys and report back.

The Accountability Committee also reviewed Progress Reports & Terminology, the Survey of Alum Parents and discussed using PALs as aides for the Parent Survey in future.

Development Committee Update-

Jennifer McCormick reviewed the recent Thank you event, and mentioned three upcoming events: Grandparents Day, the Maritime Mixer and the Industrial Park Mixer with Metzys. Next meeting will be May 8.

Working Groups Update- Committee on Trustees-

John Siegfried handed out 5 resumes for 4 potential board members and 1 committee member. The Committee on Trustees’ recommendation is to review resumes and vote accordingly.

John Siegfried reviewed the candidates with the Board.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion “To Accept Todd Atanasoff, Karina Moltz, Susanne Cameron, Catherine M as new members of the Board

Motion by Ben Scherz 2nd Nat Coughlin Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous. Retreat date will be May 19 from 9-2.

John stated that the Committee on Trustees will follow up with by-laws discussion and recommendations at the May meeting. John also mentioned that Nina Keery and Colin Vandenburg talked about student liaisons at Board meetings and decided it is not for this year but will be revisited.

Director’s Report: Andy Willemsen

Private Foundation Support- Andy reported that RVCS has a three year commitment from an anonymous foundation. They will be donating \$100,000 to the RVCS Foundation annually for the next three years. These funds will support music, literacy, professional development, going outs, technology, Montessori materials and other needs that directly impact the RVCS educational program.

Update to the school calendar- 4/28/18 will be an Alternative Structured Learning Day Program-all students are encouraged to attend school on that Saturday from 8:30-12.

Board Meeting Dates-

Andy proposed two changes to Board meeting dates

- Move the May Board meeting from Tuesday, May 8th to Tuesday, May 15th. The reason for this is to allow the Business Office adequate time to prepare financial reports for the Finance Committee.
- Move the June meeting from Tuesday, June 19th to Wednesday, June 20th. The reason for this is to allow the E2 Moving Up Ceremony to take place on June 18th.

The Board agreed to the scheduling changes.

Power Purchase Agreement Update-

Denver AMS Presentation-

Andy Willemsen remarked on the presentation, entitled *A Fresh Look at Holistic Education*, stating that it was well received at the American Montessori Society National Conference in Denver. Ali Fields and I spoke to about 100 Montessori administrators & teachers, and received positive feedback from participants.

Salary line item vote-

Andy Willemsen reported that the total budget is up almost 10% and that RVCS is entering a 90% of district average for teacher salary.

Last year this number was 6%. Andy Willemsen is asking for a \$2,950,000 salary line item.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion "To Request Approval for the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year of a Salary Line Item of \$2,950,000."

Motion by Nat Coughlin, 2nd Amber Hewitt. 1 Abstain from Mark Belanger. Remaining Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion "To Adjourn"

Motion by Pamela Brockmeier Armstrong, 2nd Nat Coughlin. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

Adjourned:8:45