

**River Valley Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Meeting # 273  
October 29, 2020 5:00 pm**

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm

*In attendance*

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

*Absent:*

**Members of the public: 143 participants altogether**

**Director's Report**

Jonnie Lyn presented a slideshow (in board documents) of essential questions, factors to consider, and perspectives of constituents.

**Administrative:**

Pam asked how administrators are doing. Jonnie Lyn explained that admin team is working hard, and making sure that it's possible to have all hands on deck to support the teachers. Jonnie Lyn explains that there is a lot of delegating and right now she needs to be the hands-on director.

**Medical:**

Kimberly Putney spoke about collaboration with the medical community. Current evidence is that transmission is not happening in schools. Seems that risk of transmission is higher in sports, outside activities that are less regulated than school settings are. Kimberly worries that as the school conditions changes, and as students need to come in to the building the situation changes.

Erin Bradley Irose asked if Kimberly feels supported. Kimberly says she feels like this is intense, and some days are busier than others, and right now all is going well.

Kimberly shared that PCR testing is the gold standard for testing. When there's a confirmed positive covid case and the test was not run by PCR, the CDC recommends that the test is followed up by a PCR test. Not new information. DESE wasn't requiring that a PCR test be done, but we can require that families get a PCR test.

Kimberly is monitoring Mass dept of public health information and the metric system (color coded map of infection rates in all cities and towns in MA).

## **Dept of Ed**

### **Teachers**

Jonnie Lyn shared feedback from teachers. It is consistent and also varied. K-3 teachers feel like it's hard, but the teachers have gotten into a groove. Grades 4-6 are harder. If kids are going to be inside and take off masks to eat, it would be preferable for them to be 10 feet apart. Middle School is also feeling a lot of stress and pressure for what they're doing.

Nina: risk variance is important to consider – different people have different appetites and tolerances for risk, and different situations.

Kimberly: we all still need to live, and there are ways to make practices safer than others. We are all coming from different comfort levels of risk, and we need to make sure that the communities have respect for what the teachers are being asked to do every day.

Greg: what is DESE's understanding of the stress on teachers? Jonnie Lyn feels like the Commissioner is doing a good job of balancing a hard situation.

Nancy: there's a lot of discussion about data. Some data points that we say we have is not really available yet. We have no surveillance testing, so we don't know who has Covid. If there was an asymptomatic child who was attending the school who infected other students, we wouldn't know unless people got tested.

### **Parents:**

Jonnie Lyn presented information about parent's perspectives

### **Students**

More remote kids are seeing Katy Fields for counseling, feeling isolated.

**Next Steps:**

Consider different options – closing from November to January? Moving E2 to half day program? Try to keep Middle School program intact.

How do we decide

**Vote: Motion to adjourn**

Made by: Alfred

2nd: Greg

Yes: all in attendance

No:

Abstain:

**7:00 pm Board adjourns**