

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 240
February 13, 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, Peter Zetlan, Amber Hewitt, Jennifer McCormick

Director: Andy Willemsen
Deb McCrevan, Colin Vandenburg
Foundation Member- Chris Getz

Call to Order: 7:03

Montessori Minute with Diane Oberheim-

Diane introduced the Montessori math bead material used in Kinderhaus. Colored beads correspond with numbers and the goal is to identify colors with numbers with both visual and tactile experiences. Diane shared the “Golden Snake” exercise, in which students discover different ways to get to ten by counting golden bead bars of ten and connected them to create a golden snake.

Public Comment: none

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

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

Motion by Mason Mitchell-Daniels, 2nd Nat Coughlin. Board of Directors vote to accept was unanimous.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion “To Accept the Resignation of Kimberley Klibansky”

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

Statement of Intention For RVCS Annual Budget Process - Draft Motion for Consideration

Mark Belanger introduced the idea of using reserves and focusing spending on personnel. He shared the Statement of Intention handout (see Board Packet) with the Board. The handout outlined the Statement of Intention and presented three ways, 1. Bottom Up Approach, 2. Loan Requirement, 3. Months of Cashflow, in which the minimum reserve balance of \$900,000 is reached. Mark then opened up the floor to questions. Ben Scherz asked about the bottom up approach and how the numbers were reached. Mark Belanger then explained the process to the Board.

Nat Coughlin suggested that the draft might need an “expire date” as an initial step in case the Board and the Foundation could not reach an agreement. Nat Coughlin then asked if we were doing too much of a good thing by bringing the number down to \$900,000. The Board agreed to Nat Coughlin’s suggestion of an “expire date” and mark Belanger asked Chris Getz to speak on behalf of the Foundation. Chris Getz stated she did not know how much the school held in reserves and suggested it might be beneficial to hold a joint meeting with the Board and the Foundation. Chris also conveyed to the Board that it should not feel as though Foundation approval for spending is needed.

Nat Coughlin suggested overshooting the budget to 1.2 million with 100 days as opposed to \$900,000 and 90 days. John Siegfried stated that we are setting a trajectory because we are on a ten year plan that way we can plan for inflation and other unknowns. Andy Willemsen followed by saying that the auditors and the state like to see an intentional budget which gives evidence of planning ahead. Andy then stated that the goal for the money is recruitment and retention of faculty; the priority is compensation for staff. Nina Keery remarked on Andy's statement by saying it is meaningful to express these clear intentions of supporting the staff of RVCS.

Jennifer McCormick asked about staff compensation other than salary increase such as travel grants and conferences. Andy Willemsen replied by saying it is being looked into.

Vote: Mark Belanger called for a Motion to “Modify The Statement of Intention With An Expire Date of 6/30/18 and an Increase from \$900,000 to 1.2 million”

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

Finance Committee Update-

Mason Mitchell-Daniels reported that the Finance Committee reviewed mid-year statements and cash balances are up. There was an above budget increase in tuition rate from 3 of 4 sending districts. Our net position is up 1.8%. We are about 50% to budget with spending. Cash flows were reviewed as well as the loan refinance rates with Citizens bank.

Accountability Committee Update-

No meeting due to weather. Ben Scherz asked if the Parent Survey could be sent out earlier this year and the Board agreed to the request.

Development Committee Update-

Alumni event on 1/3/18 with older Alumni was a success with 50 attending.

9th and 10th grade alumni met with current 8th graders. Follow up questionnaires are being sent out.

Two community events are being planned for the spring as well as cocktail donor events.

The Parent's Alliance is ramping up efforts: teacher luncheons, snow tubing, parent socials, Grand Friends Day, filming of Generation Zapped, Maritime Mixer and Field Day.

Working Groups Update-

Committee on Trustees-

John Siegfried reported that the Committee reviewed the by laws and the Committee On Trustees will be essential in recruiting and vetting potential new Board members to present to the Board. The COT will announce any changes in regard to officers.

Four terms are expiring in June and if these four members choose not to return, the Board membership will be down to ten. The plan is to recruit five new members from the community.

Mason Mitchell-Daniels asked if we could put something about Board recruitment in Happenings.

The Board discussed the possibility of having student government guests/ members joining meetings. John Siegfried will touch base with Colin Vandenburg to follow up on the idea and how to present to students. A discussion began around having Board meetings posted on the RVCS website and Mark Belanger asked John Siegfried if The Committee on Trustees could review the idea.

Director's Report: Andy Willemsen

Lottery update- Andy reported that the new policy seems to be working well and that one third of the applicants are for Kinderhaus.

School Calendar- Board reviewed a calendar different from the one presented in the Board Packet. Andy Willemsen will review the calendar with faculty next. Andy Willemsen will send the updated version to the Board and vote will take place in March.

Power Purchase Agreement- Andy stated that the agreement is still viable if we can pull it together by the end of February, according to the bank representative.

Progress reports-

Parent focus groups gathered to share ideas. Andy is confident that they will find improvement.

By laws discussion-

Mark Belanger commented on how thoughtful the original governance is.

We have an opportunity to make changes but they must be approved by DESE. We could direct discussions to Committee so as not to take too much time with the whole group.

John Siegfried mentioned some of the items which the Committee On Trustees targeted.

Nat Coughlin asked if it might be helpful to funnel ideas through the Executive Committee before reviewing with the Board. We need 2/3 percent with vote. Decision was made to review with both the Executive Committee and the Committee On Trustees.

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

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

Adjourned:8:52

