

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 227
October 18, 2016 7:00 pm**

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

Call to Order: 7:03

Public Comment: None

Acceptance of Previous Minutes:

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Accept Minutes of September 13”

Motion by John Siegfried, 2nd Mason Mitchell-Daniels. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

Montessori Minute: Mary McCormack

Mary McCormack presented a “Getting to Know You and Love Your Brain” activity with the help of six volunteers from the Board. The volunteers and audience were given a series of fight/flight/fright scenarios and asked to give feedback and discussion.

Director’s Report/Goals: Andy Willemsen

Discussion of revised Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan (FAMPP) with Jonathan March and Kimberly Putney-

Andy Willemsen and Jonathan March stated that with the new FAMPP physicians must provide documentation regarding life threatening allergies. This documentation will improve communication and equal a better strategy for safety. Kimberly Putney followed by saying she would create a Health Policy Curriculum with the help of Laura Hunt and that kitchen protocol will include increased transparency moving forward.

Andy Willemsen stated there will be no change to policy with the Kinderhaus through third year classrooms, they will be “allergen free” to include all food, rather than just nut allergies. In years four through eight, students will be encouraged to participate in “allergy aware” classrooms. Andy Willemsen then gave the scenario of Ellen and the cashews in which Ellen brings cashews to school, they are discovered and she is asked to move away from other students. Ellen then must clean her area after eating and a note goes home to Ellen’s parents/guardians. Andy stated that the FAMPP policy is based on the Center for Disease Control guidelines and that we are raising the level of safety by eliminating the guarantee of “allergen free”. Therefore, there is an increased level of vigilance by acknowledging the risks.

Kimberly Putney stated that the policy mandates communication and the new curriculum will include age appropriate allergy and health management.

Jonathan March feels “allergy free” is an unreasonable statement. He feels that this FAMPP is the most robust and complete policy he has seen in the many schools he has consulted with and that this is an opportunity to educate.

Nat Coughlin expressed concern regarding the Ellen and cashew scenario.

Conall Ryan stated his opposition to the “allergy aware” vs “allergy free” and is concerned about inviting risk.

Andy Willemsen followed with “student safety is our goal” and Jonathan March stated “this is a community of caring”.

Nat Coughlin brought up the past concern of some parents with the lack of structure and discipline.

John Siegfried asked, in regard to the Ellen cashew scenario, “why wouldn’t the cashew leave the classroom?” Andy Willemsen and Kimberly Putney discussed reviewing lunch boxes; foods are coming in whether we like it or not. Consensus among parents seems to be more clarity is needed.

Kimberly Putney stated that food sharing among students is huge. We need to identify students who are aware versus students who are not.

Conall Ryan commented on his appreciation of the effort/intent given to the revised policy but that more could be done.

Andy Willemsen asked for additional feedback on the policy and would like to vote in November.

MCA's Review-

As reported by Andy Willemsen, scores have remained consistent for the past four years. Math scores are trending down. “We are in 82% with these results to put things in perspective.” Andy Willemsen compared scores of 4th graders with 5-8 graders. The 4th graders are transitioning from concrete work towards an introduction to abstract work. Science numbers have improved.

District Comparison - River Valley Charter School is one of three Level 1 schools CPI # is 76, you need a 75 to be a Level 1 school. There is a reasonable chance that River Valley Charter School may be a Level 2 school next year.

Andy Willemsen posed a question to the Board “How do we feel about a potential drop to Level 2? Do we make Level 1 a priority? Do we get proactive and prepare for testing?” Jane Noyes discussed how, as teachers, they are looking for trends in the classroom. The Board as a whole discussed and concluded that there are no major consequences for being a level 2 school.

Finance Committee Update:

Mark Belanger presented the progress of the audit report and Deb McCreavans work throughout the year. RVCS has had year after year of glowing reports from the auditors. RVCS and Foundation combined have six month run time with cash.

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Accept Audit Report”

Motion by Conall Ryan, 2nd Ben Scherz. Board vote to accept Audit Report was unanimous.

Development Committee Update:

Jennifer McCormick reported that \$11,600 has been collected towards the Annual Appeal Fund. This year there will be a push earlier in the year for leadership to give 100%.

The first Major Donor Event last week was a success with 25 families attending.

Nat Coughlin thanked Jennifer McCormick and Jonnie Lyn Evans for organizing the Major Donor Event.

Nat Coughlin also stated we will need to decide on the Parents Alliance and Board of Trustees position next month.

Nat Coughlin reminded the Board to send Michelle Soule bios and pictures for website.

Accountability Committee Update:

The committee stated they reviewed the MCAs scores and that historically, RVCS has not put much focus on the standardized tests. The committee stated that we are still a Level 1 school and asked “how important is it for us to remain a Level 1?”

Middle School Update

Vote: Nat Coughlin called for a Motion “To Accept the Contract with Architect, to Authorize Deficit Spending, to Extend the Authority to Andy Willemsen to raise the amount”

Motion by Jennifer McCormick, 2nd John Siegfried. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

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

Motion by John Siegfried , 2nd Katherine Brown. Board vote to accept was unanimous.

Adjourned 9:00