

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Riverview Charter School

September 17, 2020, 5:30pm, Riverview/Zoom

Mission: *Riverview Charter School's mission is to create a small, diverse learning community that actively engages students in meaningful and innovative learning experiences. Emphasizing "learning by doing," family and community involvement, and engaged citizenship, Riverview is committed to nurturing the whole child and preparing each student for a global society.*

Members Present:

In-Person: Mary Jordan Lempeis, Katherine Ferguson, Nicole Johansen, Vincent Brennan, Lamarr Cooler, Reece Bertholf, Arthur O'Kelley, Mindy Farris, Scott Lee

On Zoom: Joey Grice, Julia Wittchen-Price

Leadership Team Present:

Alison Thomas, Liz O'Brien, AK Harper, Donna Haram, AnnMarie Bowden

Public Present:

100 participants via Zoom.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm.

Executive Session

Personnel Discussion & Legal Advice

Exited at 6:42pm.

Public Session

Meeting called to order at 6:48.

(I) Agenda approved.

(II) We are in compliance with Freedom of Information Act.

(III) Public Comments: Joseph Dunkle, David Musselmen, Brooke Berthelsen, Lisa VanHorn, Jeffrey Hughes, Lacey Wells, Kristen Thorpe, Amber Godowns, Virginia Henneberry, Krystina Lee, Philip Cosneau, Amanda Patel, Lindsay Burns, Nikita Caruso, Dr. Kimberly Martin

Director's Report:

(I) Report by Numbers

(i) 691 Meet-and-Greet appointments held.

(ii) 496 iPads deployed.

(iii) 44 hand-sanitizing stations installed.

(iv) 9 students withdrew since our last meeting.

(v) 2 cleaning staff test positive for Covid-19.

(vi) One national article published on Center for Responsive Schools about RCS.

(II) Employee and Family Handbooks

(i) Changes

- i. Language adjusting for Covid-19 (eg volunteers, student council, bus transportation, Tidewatch, athletics, dress code, classroom visitors, facilities use, health and wellness policies).
- ii. Charter renewal updates.
- iii. Proactive measures we take before disciplinary actions are taken in the Discipline Policy.

(III) Questions

- (i) How does the Families First Coronavirus Act apply to RCS? It is federal law, so we must comply. Could possibly have a financial impact.
- (ii) How can RCS students (children of faculty) be in the building during virtual learning? This is a requirement under The Families First Coronavirus Act. RCS received federal Payroll Protection Funds loan money, which has requirements for use. It is being used to pay for Tidewatch staff to supervise staff children while their parents teach their classes. This maintains employment for our Tidewatch staff, and fulfills the Families First Coronavirus Act requirement of allowing children to attend work with their parents.
 - (i) Discussion regarding transparency of this plan to parents.
- (iii) Is RCS building physically ready to open in a hybrid model? Will RCS have essential personnel? Yes, RCS is prepared to open the school on Sept 28 in a hybrid model. Cleaning contracts have been amended to increase cleaning during and after days. Hand-sanitizing stations outside every classroom. Staff is prepared to teach in a hybrid model on September 28, 2020.
- (iv) What can parents do to help school open up as soon as possible? Be kind to your child's teacher. Please keep your child home when they are not feeling well (even if not tested Covid positive). We may need substitutes/volunteers after we students on campus. Understanding and patience that we have never done this before. Please stay flexible and positive and patient.
- (v) Hybrid Model: concerns about practicability. Why this particular model? Why is it different than BCSD's model? 62% said they would choose on-site and 38% to stay virtual. (This was indicated in the registration on Snap-code, though it was a non-binding preference.) Used these numbers for planning purposes.
 - i. We considered assigning some teachers to full-virtual and some in-person, but it is very challenging to get the right class sizes in lower grades, and extremely challenging in the middle school where teachers are specialized to grade.
 - ii. AABB days means all-virtual kids only get 1 day/week.
 - iii. AABB also means that learners need to consume two days worth of content in one day. This is very challenging for students and not ideal for real learning.
 - iv. Morning/afternoon splits learning up over 4 days so they can receive their instruction in smaller parts. It also creates equal access for both on-site and virtual students. This also allows for extended access for students with IEPs.
 - v. No Tidewatch (morning or after school care) will be available during the Hybrid model, nor will there be bus transportation.
 - vi. Which students will qualify for extended access? Students with IEPs first, then other considerations will be taken into account (e.g. families with both a middle schooler and an elementary student).
 - vii. How many students can RCS support in the extended care? 80-100 K-5 students, and 50-80 middle school students.

- viii. What will students without IEPs be doing during the extended care portion of their day? They will be on their individual devices doing their virtual specials, recess and lunch.
- ix. What if 90% of students choose on-site during the hybrid model? Will RCS be prepared to support that? Yes, it will be tricky, but RCS can do it. Spacing in a few smaller classrooms would be the hardest part.
- x. Will Distance Learning continue to be an option for families indefinitely? No, Distance Learning will end entirely after Beaufort County has achieved a low index for several weeks in a row. The only exemption will be for students who qualify with their pediatrician.

Board Discussion on Resuming On-site Learning for the 2020-2021 School Year:

- (I) RCS was established as a charter brick and mortar school and as such has a responsibility to work towards returning to that format.
- (II) Board Members believe virtual learning is not ideal for RCS students.
- (III) Motion: RCS is to open on Hybrid Model on Monday, September 28. Board is to meet again on Thursday, October 1 to receive a report on the implementation and success/challenges of the Hybrid Model, as well as the number of students who elected to continue Full Virtual Learning, and to discuss next steps, depending on the covid situation, at that time. Motion passed unanimously.
- (IV) Leadership will invite parents to apply for one of three options during the Hybrid Model
 - (i) All Virtual
 - (ii) In-person
 - (iii) Extended day care (which includes In-person)
- (V) How can parents help during this new phase? Email Director Thomas at athomas@riverviewcharterschool.org if parents are willing to substitute and/or volunteer.
- (VI) Board appreciates RCS Teachers and Leadership for putting forth such a robust and sound virtual learning platform and experience.

Set Next Board Meeting Date:

Thursday, October 1, 5:30pm, Riverview and Zoom.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from 8/20/2020 Board Meeting presented. Approved unanimously.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.