

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Riverview Charter School

October 15, 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:**

Mary Jordan Lempesis, Katherine Ferguson, Nicole Johansen, Vincent Brennan, Lamarr Cooler, Arthur O'Kelley, Mindy Farris, Scott Lee, Julia Wittchen-Price

On Zoom: Joey Grice

## **Leadership Team Present:**

Alison Thomas, Liz O'Brien, AK Harper

## **Public Present:**

64 participants via Zoom.

## **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm.

## **Executive Session**

Personnel Discussion

Exited at 6:52.

## **Public Session**

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

(I) Agenda approved.

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

(III) Public Comments: Dr. Faith Polkey, Shannon Duffy, Philip Cosneau, Bethany Byrne, Kristen Ferguson, Elizabeth Hargrove.

(IV) People & Programs Committee: Nominations are being accepted for (5) Board Seats, term 2021-2023. Information and application are available on the RCS website, and are due November 9, 2020.

(V) Finance Committee

(I) RCS needs to account for all revenue and expenses.

(II) RCS Fiscal Year runs July through June.

(III) July thru September \$1.8 mil in Revenue vs \$1.9 mil in Budget. Net Income \$11,000 vs \$66,000 for a loss of \$54,000 in the first three months of the fiscal year. Cannot run tide watch or lunch program.

(IV) Balance Sheet is very strong.

(VI) Director's Report

(I) Summary of Surveys regarding October 1 Motion to move to 4-full days in-person and keeping virtual option.

(I) Parents of Virtual Learners

(I) 39% responded.

(II) 55% said they would return to onsite. 44% would choose virtual. (If this number is true for all Virtual Learners, then about 3-4 students per homeroom would continue to choose virtual with a full-day option.)

(III) For those who return, the reason for choosing hybrid was midday logistics.

(IV) 10 families identified students are high risk for covid. \_\_\_ said at-risk people at home.

(II) Parents of On-site Learners

(I) 65% participation.

(II) 92.5% would continue with onsite learning.

(III) Faculty & Staff Survey

(I) Maintaining Hybrid vs Moving to a High-Flex or Concurrent Model

(II) Teachers were given 30 hours to respond.

(III) 64/74 teaching staff responded

(I) Most feel that most students and staff are doing well at maintaining covid safety protocols, like wearing masks, social distancing and hand washing.

(II) 56% of responding teachers feel safe or somewhat safe teaching 4 full days in-person.

(III) 73% prefer to maintain current hybrid model to a hyflex or concurrent model.

(IV) 70% of teachers do *not* feel that deep-cleaning the school on Wednesday would make them feel safer.

(II) Hyflex or Concurrent Model

(I) High technology need.

(II) Not a lot of high quality professional training available, as it is a new model.

(III) What does Hyflex Model look like? Virtual learners are called in, in a platform like Zoom. Students may even be individually on an iPad, so their screen can be carried about the room to participate in small groups and interact.

(IV) This has been used in higher education for several years, but not much in K-12. RCS has no experience with this model.

(V) Could K-5 have 1 virtual teacher per grade level? This would require about 1/4 students change teachers. It would also create greater social distancing challenges with 21-22 students per room.

(VI) Can middle school and elementary school have different plans? Can grade-level teachers be given the responsibility (with the specific numbers of onsite vs virtual for their grade level), to choose how to teach virtual and on-site during the duration of the the choice period? Response: It may be hard to get a specific number, because families may not want to choose until the plan is laid out. And teachers may be not able to make a plan without specific numbers. Leadership can take proposals from grade levels regarding their specific needs. Would also love middle school proposals.

(VII) RCS can meet the board's motion on November 9. LT asks from 2 additional weeks.

(III) Questions for Director

(I) Are some families going to want a full-virtual option during a low-index?

There is appreciation that distance learning will sunset under a low-index.

(II) The trend in which we are could bring a LOW index soon. Is RCS ready? Yes, we will be.

(III) Social distance will be done as much as possible during a Low, but will not be done completely. Research done regarding plexiglass.

(IV) Has RCS received the same PPE that other district schools have received? Yes, but not using most of the plexiglass since RCS can currently social distance.

(V) Is the Hyflex/Concurrent Model the Leadership Team's recommendation to meet the board's motion? Yes for middle school, not sure for K-5.

(VI) Concern for the 55% of virtual learners who are home mostly because of logistics problems within the hybrid schedule. Taking more time extends their time that they are not receiving as much in-person instruction that they could have within their personal covid parameters.

(VII) Some teachers chose hybrid because they knew so little about a hyflex/concurrent model. LT tried to answer questions as quickly as possible.

(VIII) What has been done to make the October 26 transition from 4 half-days to 4-full days? Acquired PPE, made a Master Schedule, prepped a purchase order for technology equipment, and researched hyflex/concurrent models.

(IX) Are logistical issues to maintain safety protocols all absolved when the DHEC Incidence Rate is Low? Some are absolved, yes, but new arise, like lunch.

(X) Can there be individualized plans for each grade level? Yes, we can do that, but not by October 26.

(I) Would you consider bringing the K-5 back sooner than middle? Alison would still recommends giving the time.

(XI) What is LT's recommendation regarding a cleaning day? LT would recommend it to be Friday, in keeping with our half-day hybrid model.

(VII) Board Discussion regarding on-site learning for 2020-2021 school year.

(I) Reminder to attendees on Zoom, that messaging and notes on the screen are not in keeping with the protocols of the meeting format. Public comments need to be made at the beginning of the meeting.

(II) Explanation that discussion regarding RCS's wait list at previous meeting. The Board values all RCS families and staff, and are seeking to meet everyone's needs during this pandemic by offering both in-person and full-virtual options for education.

(III) Motion to amend Wednesday deep cleaning/all-virtual to Friday during any Hybrid Schedule, no matter that Hybrid model, for the duration of the Hybrid. Motion passes unanimously.

(IV) Motion to alter Oct 1 Motion to move transition date from October 26 to November 9. No second to motion. Motion fails.

(V) Reading of SCDE Memo September 16, 2020 by Molly Spearman, State Superintendent. This states that many students are suffering during virtual and desperately need to return face-to-face. It also says that the incident rate should not be used in a stand-alone document.

**Next Board Meeting Date:**

Thursday, November 19, 6:00pm, Riverview

**Review & Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of October 1, 2020 Meeting presented.  
Approved unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.