

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Riverview Charter School

October 29, 2020, 6:00pm, 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, Joey Grice

Leadership Team Present:

Public Present:

117 participants via Zoom.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:20pm.

Public Session

(I) Agenda approved.

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

Executive Session

(I) Personnel Discussion, Employment

(II) Exited at 7:41pm.

Public Session

(I) Statement regarding Director Alison Thomas:

On behalf of the board of directors and the Riverview Charter School community our sincerest thank you and deepest appreciation for 13 plus years of dedication to our school community goes out to Alison Thomas.

In Alison's tenure as a stakeholder of Riverview Charter School she has held many roles:

1. Parent to two RCS alumni. Her pride in which we presume pales in comparison to all else.
2. Founder of RCS as member of the charter committee, affectionately known in the halls of Riverview as a Charter Starter!
3. Board member/Board Chairwoman of the RCS Board of Directors
4. Director of Riverview Charter School for 10 years!
 - a. The list of roles the director assumes is immeasurable, but we will list a few:

- i. Friend
- ii. Coworker
- iii. Leader
- iv. Confidant
- v. Stalwart professional
- vi. Protector
- vii. Champion
- viii. Mentor

We have little doubt when Alison's interest in the concept of Riverview was piqued in 2007 during a focus group presentation by AnnMarie Bowden and Jody Hayward, that she had any idea to what heights they would climb in constructing what we all know today to be a premier charter school organization.

Alison has seen it all and risen above more adversity than most. Starting this school, protecting it, fighting for it, and making it all that it is has undoubtedly taken a personal toll on her that very few, if any, will ever truly understand. However, we recognize that and are now her champions as she transitions to another amazing chapter in her life.

Jeff, thank you.

Avery, thank you.

Alex, thank you.

Alison. You have shaped the lives of thousands of people. You have started something that will bear your resemblance in the minds of those people for the rest of their lives. People know what you have done here, and people will learn from you have done here long after this is in all our past.

You move on from us with our utmost respect, gratitude, admiration and trust.

We change one word in a quote of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, that word is community. "We are a community made strong by people like you."

Tonight Alison, the simplest words mean the most. Thank you.

To the children, staff, teachers and parents of the Riverview Community. We, as the board of directors, stand alongside you as we continue to thoughtfully, compassionately, and vigorously navigate uncharted waters.

We are thankful for each and every one of you. We are thankful for your input. We are thankful for your discourse, and we are thankful for everyone who works so hard to ensure every child that is educated by the Riverview community has an unprecedented start in life.

Tonight, we will name the interim director for our community and we ask that our community rally behind the interim director to see our children successful, even amongst these uncertain times.

We ask that you interact with the director in thoughtful ways and respect the path's forward that may be chosen, knowing that no path may be proven more correct than another but that all paths must lead forward.

In the near future, we will begin the search for a permanent director. This person will be tasked with guiding our community to new heights, with facing new unknown challenges, and with ensuring the success of our community's future. Our director will again be charged with the education, wellbeing, and forming of our most precious people, our children.

We look forward to working with our community to ensure all of this is brought to bear on the search for the next director of Riverview.

Thank you

- (II) Process the Board has taken since Alison Thomas' resignation on October 19.
 - (i) Chairperson Ms. Lempeis followed RCS's Succession Plan which called for the establishment of a Search Committee.
 - (ii) Search Committee reached out to several individuals and interviewed interested persons.
 - (iii) Sarah Cox is the search committee's recommendation for Interim Director. She is a current teacher at RCS with a master's degree in School Administration and a South Carolina certified principal.
- (III) Motion to accept recommendation and establish Sarah Cox as Interim Director. Motion seconded, and discussion ensued.
 - (i) Introduction by Sarah Cox.
 - (ii) Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.