

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Riverview Charter School

December 30, 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, Julia Wittchen-Price, Reece Bertholf

**Leadership Team Present:** Sarah Cox, AK Harper, Liz O'Brien

## **Public Present:**

82 participants via Zoom.

## **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:18pm.

## **Public Session**

(I) Agenda approved unanimously by board motion.

(II) We are in compliance with Freedom of Information Act. Staff, parents, RCS community at large, BCSD, and news outlets notified of meeting via email at 12:30pm on December 29, 2020. Notice posted to school building by 5:00pm.

(III) Public Comments to the Board: Stephanie Luzny, Laraine Fess, Cathy Bridgers, Blakely Williams, Ashley Singleton, Lauren Carroway, Faith Polkey, Blythe Brown, Coach Hayes.

(IV) Permanent Director Search Committee Update

(i) Survey of Essential Qualities sent to staff, board, and community members. Will be compiled by consultant.

(ii) Job posted to BCSD and South Carolina charter organization.

(iii) The committee has been formed. Thanks to all who are willing to serve.

(iv) The school profile has been added to the website.

(v) Consultant is preparing a news release, to be reviewed by board soon.

(V) Director's Report

(i) Recommendation regarding revised hybrid models and implementation.

i. New model includes a AABB model for students choosing onsite, during a high incidence rate in Beaufort County, as reported by DHEC. This provides for greater distancing of students within a classrooms, as a maximum of half of students would be physically present at one time.

ii. Two students and one staff are currently in quarantine due to close contact.

iii. 4-day onsite hybrid model during a medium index.

iv. 5-day onsite option during a low index.

- v. All virtual only if there were a breakout of cases and/or quarantines within Riverview.
- vi. This revised plan recommendation was created by the Leadership Team, with help from the medical team.
- vii. All plans would include CDC mitigation protocols in place.

(VI) Board Discussion

- (i) We already have already chosen fully virtual January 4-8, and offering a full virtual option for the remainder of the school year.
- (ii) Executive Team met with Sarah to discuss and answer questions.
- (iii) Executive Team would like to make another recommendation, after much work. Return to 4 full-day with 1 virtual day for onsite kids, and a full virtual option. February 8 would begin a 5-day onsite option and a full virtual option for the remainder of the school year.
- (iv) South Carolina State Superintendent Molly Spearman said that each school's covid plan must include 4 things:
  - i. A virtual plan for all students.
  - ii. An in-person plan for all students. This plan can temporarily allow for less than 5 days/week in-person.
  - iii. A time-frame for implementing a full face-to-face instructional model be established.
  - iv. Establish how quality education will be provided, regardless of model. And meet all federal and state law requirements.
- (v) Riverview has successfully met #1 and #4. Interest in meeting requirements #2 and #3.
- (vi) During the 4-day hybrid with a full virtual option, Riverview met or exceeded all CDC covid mitigation protocols.
- (vii) No covid cases at Riverview suggest that the virus was caught at the school.
- (viii) Superintendent Spearman and the CDC both recommend using many reference points while choosing platforms to deliver education. Reference points to consider:
  - (i) Social and emotional well-being of students. Riverview's mission has always included "nurturing the whole child."
  - (ii) Offering consistency to students, who thrive with routine.
  - (iii) Parent/family choice.
- (ix) During the virtual weeks surrounding Christmas/New Year's holiday break, 4 student and 4 teacher positive covid cases were reported. Had the school had an onsite option during that time, these cases would likely have resulted in quarantine, had those individuals attended school. There was a two week spike after Thanksgiving. Could we extend virtual learning for another week, until January 15?
- (x) We will be one of the last schools in Beaufort to offer onsite instruction in 2021.
- (xi) Motion: Riverview return to 4-day onsite with 1-day onsite and a full virtual option starting January 11, with a change to 5-day onsite and a full virtual option starting February 8. Motion seconded. Discussion:
  - i. Recommend leadership team have a contingency plan in case of staffing shortages.
  - ii. Worry families are forced to make a choice between Riverview and some other option based solely on covid issues, rather than a complete Riverview education.

- iii. There will not be a good time to offer face to face between now and June.
- iv. Parents and community need to be patient with quarantine and isolation requirements.
- xii. Motion passes unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting Date**

January 11, 6:00pm, Riverview/Zoom

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Both 11/30/2020 and 12/17/2020 Minutes approved with edits.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.