



# News Release

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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## **Riverview Charter Board of Directors to interview finalists to lead school**

Three finalists for director at Riverview Charter School will be interviewed by the school's Board of Directors this week after a two-month search that netted candidates from across the country and overseas.

"Our entire board is excited at the opportunity to sit down, face to face in a socially-distanced room, with each candidate to get to know them beyond a Zoom conversation," said Reece Bertholf, chair of the Riverview Charter School board.

"Each candidate we are meeting brings great skill and experience in a variety of venues," he said. "Our job is to find who will be the best fit to lead Riverview to the next chapter of success."

The K-8 school, located in Port Royal, serves more than 700 students from across Beaufort County. The charter school has its own governing board and operates in partnership with the Beaufort County School District, its authorizing agency.

Riverview Charter School regularly earns among the highest ratings in Beaufort County on the annual State Report Cards, reflecting high academic achievement. The school also prides itself on connecting with the community and having students learn by doing.

Finalists for the main leadership position include, alphabetically:

**Joseph Almeida** is working as lower school principal at Calvary Day School in Savannah where he leads 400 students and 42 staff. He has teaching experience, was an assistant principal at Hilton Head Island Middle School for two years and taught in South American schools for nine years. His academic career is in K-8 education.

He earned his Master's degree in educational leadership from State University of New York at Buffalo State and his Bachelor's degree in childhood development and learning at Maryville College in Tennessee.

**Annette Medlin** brings decades of experience working with non-profit boards, expanding internal and external relationships, and building teams. She has done this through leading several chambers of

commerce and consulting across the United States and overseas. As a non-traditional director, she understands the priority of having a strong leadership team immersed in the K-8 academic world.

She earned her Bachelor's degree in music education from Arkansas State University and studied opera as a graduate assistant at the University of Memphis. As a nonprofit management professional, Medlin is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management and has been a faculty member for the Institute for many years.

**Karen Miller** has been teaching at Riverview since it opened. She has taught across multiple grade levels. Outside of Riverview, Karen is the founder of the Sea Island Presbyterian Day School and has managed its operations for 21 years. She also taught at Lady's Island Middle School and led the Adopt-A-School program at St. Helena Elementary from 1996-2001.

Karen earned her Master's degree in education literacy from Clemson and her Bachelor's degree in both education and theater at Presbyterian College. She is a National Board-certified teacher.

The director's position came open when the previous director resigned mid-year.

Initial interviews by board members will be held in an executive session meeting of the board and a public community Zoom meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 29, to meet the candidates.

"As a board and a school, we wanted to find a way to introduce the candidates we are most seriously considering, but it had to be in a way that would work with COVID and keeping our school clean and safe," said Katherine Ferguson, vice-chair of the board and a member of the Search Committee. "Our solution is an open community Zoom."

The Zoom link and information will be published by Friday on the school website, [www.riverviewcharterschool.org](http://www.riverviewcharterschool.org).

John Williams of Williams Group PR in Beaufort led the search, which included advertising online with Education Week and the SC Public Charter School Alliance and active recruiting of candidates. While most applicants came from the Southeast, they ranged as far as New England and Saudi Arabia.

A recruitment committee of school staff, parents and local business leaders helped Williams screen candidates through their different perspectives.

"The recruitment team put in a tremendous amount of work to help us get to this point, and our board is thrilled at their dedication and commitment, and with the candidates they presented to the board," Bertholf said.

Through innovative instruction, Riverview seeks to connect experiential education with the art of teaching to create learning opportunities that nurture the whole child and prepare each student for a global society.

It is Riverview's mission 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.

The school's primary fundraiser, the Beaufort Twilight Run, typically draws hundreds of runners and thousands of guests from across the Southeast to race through the Habersham community near the Broad River.

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