

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Riverview Charter School  
February 18, 2021 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, Lamarr Cooler, Arthur O’Kelley, Mindy Farris, Julia Wittchen-Price, Trey Rivers, MJ Simmons, Carol Smalls-Jenkins, Lauren Kelly, Reece Bertholf  
Leadership Team Present: Sarah Cox, Liz O’Brien, AK Harper, Donna Haram-Deines

**Public Present:**

41 participants via Zoom.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:04

**Public Session:**

There is a motion to approve the meeting agenda by Arthur O’Kelley. Mary Jordan Lempesis seconds the motion. All approve.

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 12:00pm on February 17 , 2021. Notice posted to school 12:00pm February 17 , 2021.

**Public comment on non agenda items:**

None

**Financial Report:** Lamarr Cooler, Treasurer

As of January 31, 2021 the Cash Balance was \$2,049,452

Due from Government units total \$96,332. This represents funds due RCS from the USDA for the period September 2020 through January 2021. Riverview received payment on February 12, 2021 in the amount of \$64,129.14 for the September through December balances.

Current Liabilities total of \$285,603 includes accounts payable in the amount of \$33,188 and Retirement Liability for the SCRS in the amount of \$209,016

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year to Date Revenue is \$4,267,581 vs. Budget of \$4,746,895

Base Student Funding year to date is \$4,023,587 vs. Budget of \$4,004,387. BCSD revised the monthly allocation in January 2021 to \$663,992.60 per month based on the FY 45 Day ADM counts.

The year to date variance (negative) in Federal Funding of \$100,134 is due to the delay in the receipt of IDEA funds. The IDEA funds were received by RCS on February 9, 2021 in the amount of \$121,100 (budgeted amount was \$113,500).

Salaries and Benefits total \$3,294,477 vs. Budget of \$3,418,395 year to date.

Legal Fees (included in Contracted Services) year to date total \$39,617 vs. Budget of \$20,000.

As of January 31, 2021 Total Expenses exceeded Total Revenues by \$89,022.

**Directors Search:** Application deadline has passed with 21 applications. Applicant pool includes 8 woman and 13 men. The search committee would like to present the Board with 3-5 finalists by mid-March.

**Directors Report:**

#### COVID Update-

4 students out with positive COVID cases, 26 close contacts, 1 teacher.

5 students quarantined with non school related cases.

35 students out in January.

The school has switched updating methods and the entire school now gets COVID notifications- not just affected grade.

There were 81 days of teacher absences in January due to COVID contacts etc.

Virtual platform update for 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester (staring March 15<sup>th</sup>)

We currently have 138 virtual students

75 families responded to survey if they were returning to in person for 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester

45 staying virtual

30 coming back in person

Leaving 106 virtual students for the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester (60% remaining virtual learners)

Riverview has a school wide service project with HELP of Beaufort. Grade levels have been asked to bring specific items for donations. Our first service learning project since the pandemic started.

#### Enrollment update:

403 total new applications

Open enrollment: 145 kindergarten applications; 29 priority students.

623 re-enrollments

#### Testing:

MAP Testing April 20-23<sup>rd</sup>

We need virtual Friday's to test virtual learners.

In regards to testing, we are preparing to administer Spring MAP, SCReady for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> in ELA and Math, and PASS for Science 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The state allows us to tests in the last 30 days of school, so we can begin testing April 30<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>.

All state tests must be taken in person including our virtual learners; leadership is working diligently to develop a safe plan to bring virtual students on campus for testing.

#### Teacher Climate Review:

On a scale of 1-3, how would you rate the success of the current learning model of teaching you're in person and virtual students simultaneously (1 is not successful and 3 is successful)?

53.5% 2

25.6% 1

20.9% 3

This question was taken directly from our end of the year climate survey- My overall rating for the climate of Riverview so far this year would be:

Ratings included- Exemplary, Progressing Well, Needs Improvement, Beginning to Develop

69.8% Needs Improvement

20.9% Progressing Well

9.3% Beginning to Develop

The climate review survey of the staff indicates that we have some room to grow and need to continue to improve school environment. Myself and the leadership team are very aware of this information and are working together to take concrete actions that will further support teachers and rebuild the school environment.

November results:

50 responses

68% 2

20% 1

12% 3

#### Board Questions:

What is being done for morale? Can we see virtual students test scores vs in person learners?

How does the teacher climate review compare with previous years?

## Chairman's report:

Chairman Reece Bertholf reports the Board Retreat is March 21<sup>st</sup> from 12-5  
We will give information to the public for participation.

4 vs. 5 school day discussion. Should we remain in a 4 day hybrid model with virtual learning for all students on Friday or go to a traditional 5 full day model starting the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>?

Interim Director Sarah Cox recommends staying in a hybrid model and states, "In the best interest of the school, we believe maintaining the full virtual Fridays for the remainder of the school year would benefit teachers, students, and the overall quality of instruction for all stakeholders. The optimal approach would be to maintain the current hybrid model we are using now until the end of the year. There are 2 Fridays in March, 4 Fridays in April, April 2<sup>nd</sup> there is no school for the school district, 4 Fridays in May, and 2 Fridays in June, June 11<sup>th</sup> is a half day and the last day of school. This discussion is over 12 school days in total. Because we have maintained the current hybrid model all of second trimester, the school has started to find a smooth rhythm and some normalcy during a very unprecedented time.

For the past several meetings you have heard several reasons why we should maintain the virtual Fridays: these Fridays give the teachers the time and support needed to teach simultaneously in two platforms. It provides equity amongst all of our students especially for our virtual learners. It allows for opportunities of re-teaching, small group work, and one on one accommodations for our students; teachers utilize the time to continue to create quality lessons, units, and asynchronous material, as well as provide valuable feedback on assignments and maintain relationships with students and families by giving them time to meet on Zoom. We also have several employees that our 4 day employees including a specials teacher, and returning back to 5 days a week impacts the current cohort model that we have safely implemented to mitigate exposure.

Virtual Fridays will allow the school to safely bring virtual learners on site to take state wide assessments.

It is my recommendation as the interim director that we maintain the consistency that we have preserved throughout the school year, and in total in the best interests of the students we serve, that we continue to keep Fridays as a virtual school day for all students through the remainder of the school year. I will support the board's position and appreciate the opportunity that I have been afforded to help lead the school during these previous months. It has been my honor to serve this school and the professionals that represent it, and together we can continue to advance our mission of nurturing and educating the whole child.

## Board discussion:

Specials teachers are on a 4 day contract (board asks for clarification)

Mental health benefits with 4 days for teachers and students.

5 day pros:

The district provides 5 days.

Sets up school for the next year.

Arthur O'Kelley makes a motion:

"I move Riverview Charter School return to in person face to face school for 5 full days, Monday-Friday beginning March 15<sup>th</sup> at the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester. This would be 5 full days of instruction. This motion includes continuing the virtual option for those families that chose that platform for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year."

Mary Jordan Lempesis seconds the motion.

## Public Comment:

Mr. Pollard

Kristen Ferguson

Patrick Kelly

Jenna Gow

Dawn Harris

Bethany Byrne

Eliza O'Connell

Susan Brown

John Valovic

Lisa Maher

Liz O'Brian

Kristen Arnold (Alex Arnold)

## Board Deliberates-

Board has received comments for both. Public comment supports 4 days but many also support 5 full days.

With teacher surveys want to set teachers up for success.

Virtual families urged to come back if they feel comfortable.

5 days reinstate full school culture moving forward.

Motion is re-read.

Motion passes 8 to 3.

**Minutes from the 1/28/2021 board meeting are reviewed.**

Mary Jordan Lempesis approves minutes. Carol Smalls-Jenkins seconds.

**Next Board Meeting**

March 18th, 2021 6:00pm

**Executive Session**

Personnel Discussion

Adjourn 8:34