

**Board of Directors Retreat Minutes
Riverview Charter School
February 26, 2022 8:30am, Riverview**

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:

Jonathan Sullivan, Trey Rivers, MJ Simmons, Carol Smalls-Jenkins, Reece Bertholf, Lamarr Cooler, Kimberly Dudas, Vincent Brennan, Leigh Copeland

Leadership Team Present: Rob Bechtold, Liz O'Brien, Jenna Gow, Karen Miller, Erica Freeman, AK Harper

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:03a

Approval of the agenda. Leigh Copeland moves to approve the agenda. Carol Smalls-Jenkins seconds the motion. Unanimous approval of the agenda.

Public Comment: None

Public Session

We are in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Staff, parents, RCS community at large, BCSD, and news outlets notified of the meeting via email on February 24, 2022. Notice posted to school on February 24, 2022.

Erica Freeman kicked off the retreat going over the foundation of RCS.

Donna Harem-Deines then began with an explanation and modeling of the Morning Meeting, a unique feature of RCS. Leadership members and board members each had a turn sharing their background and discussing their connections to Riverview.

Leadership then led a presentation covering

- Who are we
- What do we believe
- What do we practice
- What do we aim to be
- What is a charter school

Rob continued the presentation leading the board through a "Charter School 101" discussion including:

- Board Make Up
 - Elections and appointments
 - Board Structure
 - Officers
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- Committees

- Director assessment process
 - metrics and goals in addition to 360 degree evaluation
- FOIA
- Subcommittees
- Policy Structure and Creation
- School structure and organization chart current and future

Financial Report: Lamarr Cooler, Treasurer

December, January and February Financial statements read. Financial overview and YTD numbers were presented.

Attached financial reports.

Dramatic improvement in the balance sheet over recent years due to special COVID funding. Potential to end the year with a significant surplus.

Discussion over RCS \$2 million account held at Truist and its future use and investment. Lamarr and Vince will research some other options and present to the board in the next few months.

Director's Report:

Grounds and facility tour; discussed future plans for athletic fields, concession stand, playground equipment, RCS garden, and more.

Farm to table proposal for board review. Will discuss further at our March meeting.

Discussion regarding strategic planning and long-term goal setting. He encouraged multiple perspectives and Socratic participation.

The discussion began with a current situation scan.

Lamarr: Financially sound but should not lose focus on continuing to grow revenues and create more opportunities.

Leigh: More research needed regarding financial investment and creation of an endowment and/or a separate foundation. Opportunity to improve relationships with the school district.

Kimberly: This was the number one choice for her grandchildren. Appreciated the faculty's flexibility as it allows them to better meet the needs of students. Great reputation which spurred her family's interest.

Carol: Stated the RCS has made great strides in re-establishing its reputation and rebounded. She sees it as the "school of choice" for faculty and students.

Reece: COVID spurred the changes but didn't necessarily create the changes.

Rob: Reconfirming commitment to staff and faculty. Mid-year turnover has brought in new energy. Lots of interest in teacher vacancies.

Discussion moved to what we are trying to accomplish in the short term and long term.

Reece: Fundamental benchmarks. Know the regulations and reporting requirements. Diversity lives in the pool of applicants.

Jonathan: Connect to tech and opportunities to be the “cyber security” feeder school.

Next Board Meeting

March 17, 2022 6:00p

Adjourn

Lamaar Cooler makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trey Rivers seconds the motion with unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 5:02p.