APPROVED

River Valley Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday May 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Location
River Valley Charter School, 2 Perry Way, Newburyport. Middle School Great Room

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the River Valley Charter School is to provide a rigorous academic program based on the Montessori philosophy and rooted in the history, culture and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley. Students will reach their full potential as scholars and become self-reliant, productive members of society. They will be adept at critical thinking and creative problem solving and will be fully prepared to succeed in future schools, careers and civic life.

Trustees Present
A. Fields, A. Ting, C. Getz, C. Martin (remote), C. Whitford (remote), D. Herrera, E. Bradley, E. Rankin, E. Simone, M. Connerton, N. Durkee, T. Murdy

Trustees Absent
None

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened
N. Durkee

I. Opening Items

A.

Call the Meeting to Order

D. Herrera called a meeting of the board of trustees of River Valley Charter School to order on Wednesday May 15, 2024 at 7:04 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Board Expectations

Laminated 12 expectations of BOT members-- passed out and available in front of all board members in person, available on board documents for our remote trustees.

Denise asked members to draw their attention to the tenant of being timely and prepared.

D. Public Comment

II. Montessori Minute

A. Montessori Minute

PODS!! Mixed aged group work. Each POD referred to as a family.
Driving force behind this idea--
Children who feel a sense of belonging excel both academically and socioemotionally.
Insert link to slide slow:
Example of activities-- "Family name" for each pod, created yoga pose unique to their family; Winter Solstice Celebration with wish slips-- burned in a fire or given away and a collective song
Community Service Activity-- created Easter Bags for those in need
A Read together
Spring Community Clean Up
N. Durkee arrived at 7:19 PM.

III. Review Previous Board Minutes

A. Approve Last Board Meeting Minutes

D. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 04-24-24.
M. Connerton seconded the motion.
Erin-- asked for correction about countries that were presented because she thought it was incorrect. Confirmed Vietnam.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Getz	Aye
C. Martin	Aye

Roll Call

E. Simone	Aye
N. Durkee	Absent
E. Rankin	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
A. Ting	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
C. Whitford	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye
A. Fields	Aye

IV. Director Update

A. Director's Report

No Director's Report Submitted this month.
Correction made to the number of student being retained "repeating current grade"
There will officially be two retained student-- both were parent
EB- Are we fully staffed?
JLE-- It is unclear as not all contracts have not gone out to staff but JLE anticipate they all will be soon, all completed just some still on her desk.
Known individuals/position with ind. not returning--
Psychologist- JLE has promising interview tomorrow w/ a candidate who may fill more than the part psychologist role
Director position- Filled

B. Grounds Project- Update

Insert JLE slide show---
Three proposals generated Monday by C and W, feedback given already back to C and W as the goal is to have a big reveal June 6th.
Discussion after slideshow--
ER-- is it feasible to move the entrance for traffic flow?
JLE-- We have a meeting with the city next week,
ND- Dedicated space for kinderhaus?
JLE- No but...
AF- I had similar feelings but I can share that the E2 and KH have overlapped this year

JLE-- Nature of the wetlands-- jurisdictional versus not jurisdictional. We have been told deficiently it is not in the past but now maybe but really all it changes is how far back the easements need to be.

JLE-- still exploring neighborhood parking options for staff but all current plans

Donations today-- $100,000 from a donor specific to the grounds project
BOT members are expected to attend the Reveal event on June 6th

V. Board Business

A. Board Business Topics

B. New Trustee Vote

4 Prospective Trustees voting on tonight-
Derek Mitchell
Achala Mathew Godino
Patti Ganley
Jonathan Nickerson
A. Ting made a motion to Derek Mitchell.
A. Fields seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
A. Ting made a motion to Achala Mathew Godino.
A. Fields seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
A. Ting made a motion to Jonathan Nickerson.
A. Fields seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
A. Ting made a motion to Patti Ganley.
A. Fields seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. COL Sign Ups

Reviewed in person any hole and adjustment needed.

D. Leadership Transition

E. Search Committee Update

Pivoting to Director Search now that the interim director search has been completed.
Calendar set up for started date: 5/15 - director picked by 12/20 ish ideally

VI. Committee on Trustees

A. Approve Minutes

D. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes from Committee on Trustees Meeting on 05-08-24.
E. Bradley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. CoT Update

VII. EC Committee Business

A. Approve EC Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from Executive Committee meeting on 05-08-24.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Accountability Committee

A. Approve Accountability Meeting Minutes

E. Simone made a motion to approve the minutes from Accountability Committee Meeting on 05-06-24.
N. Durkee seconded the motion.
Winter Assessment reviewed ?
Edits need to be made as certain agenda items that were not discussed

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
A. Ting	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
A. Fields	Aye
E. Bradley	Abstain
E. Rankin	Aye
N. Durkee	Aye
E. Simone	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye
C. Martin	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
C. Whitford	Aye

B. Accountability Update

"DESE will be in touch to review better practices regarding governance review of disaggregated data" was noted on our charter renewal but was a quiet almost footnote

Patrick_____ has reached to schedule meeting with Denise, Albert and Eric to discuss our practice as it related to governance review of disaggregated data

90 ish participants completed caregiver/parent survey completed. (In the past 130 ish--overall consistent with past views with most concern being centered around E2 math

IX. Development Committee

A. Approve Development minutes

D. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes from Development Committee Meeting on 04-29-24.
E. Bradley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Development Update

X. Finance Committee

A. Approve Minutes

D. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 05-08-24.
T. Murdy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Finance Update

Budget/surplus has been tracking as anticipated and reported in past meetings
3 HVAC units will be replaced
Finalized on health insurance for staff

XI. Closing Items

A. Public Comment

B. Board Survey

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Herrera