



River Valley Charter School

Minutes

Accountability Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Monday September 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Location

River Valley Charter School Middle School Great Room

River Valley Charter School welcomes your participation at Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Trustees ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of the organization in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our school and assists the Board in making the best decisions for our school. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, guidelines are provided at the bottom of this agenda. All materials for all board and committee meetings, are available on our Board on track public portal found at rivervalleycharter.org.

Committee Members Present

C. Irose, D. Herrera, E. Simone, J. Patterson, K. Kuse, M. Mitchell-Daniels, N. Durkee, P. Ganley, R. Waterson, T. Murdy

Committee Members Absent

A. Godino

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

E. Simone called a meeting of the Accountability Committee Committee of River Valley Charter School to order on Monday Sep 30, 2024 at 6:04 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

M. Mitchell-Daniels made a motion to approve the minutes from Accountability Committee Meeting on 09-09-24.

T. Murdy seconded the motion.

approved with comments/corrections below:

typo: screener dates, "Check", SAEBERS

spell out all acronym, e.g. n = sample size

AC, RnR, spell out E2, COL, GUI on DERS

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

II. Proposed agenda

A. Caregiver survey

Understanding of Performance Criteria (shared by Jane)

-discussion of above as pertains to where the caregiver survey belongs

-"how we get to be a charter school, requirements to maintain charter

-brief review of criteria, see attached

-->#7 school climate and family engagement (does not explicitly call out survey)

-->#9: governance, i.e. BoT

However under committee descriptions, what under this would entail/require a caregiver survey? Survey is called out as an example under BoT responsibilities, is this really AC?

If it doesn't sit with a committee, then how well will the survey be overseen?

Possibility of a separate survey, more for feedback to the BoT, less focused for the Director, from the caregivers.

Transfer of who's writing it (not so much AC, but rather management, i.e. Jane and Karen).

--what can we do to get feedback from the AC incorporated into the survey

--what can we (AC) do to help with the writing in a collaborative fashion?

----working group is a plausible solution

Suggestion from Mason - if not via AC, what is the role of the BoT in assessing general feel of the caregiver community? Could it be a shorter, e.g. 3-4 Q, culture survey?

(additional ex Q's in email from Mason)

-importance of separating governance from management, e.g. dictating questions to Karen and Jane to include in the survey

-importance of communication of survey results back to community - this is something that has been missing up till now.

- Q raised on to how trends observed were communicated to AC in years past? This was mostly verbal, but how we keep track of this in AC so we can trend this over years.
- something that should likely be pulled into the dashboard
- need to make sure we evolve our approach to match up with increasing data focus of DESE, in a sustainable manner
- Q of how to keep this well maintained over succession of new directors, etc. Can/should this be done via BoT/AC?
- again raised, communication back to caregivers of administration's analysis and action plan from the survey

Separate aside on Title I status per # of free lunch recipients now given new participation in program.

it was then clarified that it was seen on DESEs RVCS report card and Karen/Jane were going to look into.

B. remaining agenda items

Screenener data covered at prior AC mtg

MCAS still not shared, will be discussed at next AC mtg

Essential elements Montessori audit:

attached

opportunities - increase partnership/engagement with caregivers to increase e.g. absenteeism

--further pt on above, we're in line with sending NBPT district. Q raised on reliability of data reporting due to some taking time to extend vacations, but not necessarily reporting that, e.g. saying "they're sick" vs. "on vacation"

-Suggestion from Karen and Jane - the Audit might be more useful once per charter term, not every other year. Would be a cost savings. Timing - mid charter term. Agreement from AC on this approach. Internal audit every year except that external audit.

III. Other Business

A. AOB

Survey - timing: early next year, 1Q2025

-Jane to circulate to AC before next mtg

-preference for notification to AC team when documents are posted

-can we make a separate survey folder within AC

IV. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Herrera

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY The Board Chair reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.