APPROVED

River Valley Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM

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.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8516508581?pwd=8roWrPp5aJXvEAFctC4bxo69QnaDfv.1

Trustees Present
A. Godino, A. Ting, B. MacQuade, C. Getz, C. Whitford, D. Herrera, D. Mitchell, E. Bradley, E. Rankin, G. LeFave, J. Nickerson, M. Connerton, P. Ganley, T. Murdy

Trustees Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
K. Kuse

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Herrera called a meeting of the board of trustees of River Valley Charter School to order on Wednesday Oct 22, 2025 at 7:01 PM.

C. Review Trustee Code of Conduct

Noted and discussed.

D. Public Comment

Kevin Moran

- Three kids at RVCS
- Concerns around electromagnetic exposure in the school and more broadly (WiFi, microwaves, phones, florescent lights, etc.)
- Convenience potentially at a cost - EMF tied to multiple medical risks
- Symptoms written off as other medical issues
- Potentially to economically reduce exposure

II. Approve Previous Board Minutes

A. Approve Minutes

C. Getz made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 09-24-25.
B. MacQuade seconded the motion.

- "Executive" in section 8 is spelled incorrectly
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The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Accountability Committee

- Section B - committee written twice
- Section D - end parentheses missing
- "Improvement performance" written error

B. Development Committee

C.

Executive Committee

D. Committee on Trustees

E. Finance Committee

F. Vote on Consent Agenda

C. Whitford made a motion to approve consent agenda.
P. Ganley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Finance Committee

A. Review and Approve Audited Financials

Daniel Dennis & Company

- Speakers - Colleen D'Alfonso, Valquiria Marcal
- Reviewed audited financials and determined that there were no areas in red and numbers aligned closely to those from FY24

B. September 2026 Financial Update

- Came in better than expected and shown in statement.

C. Whitford made a motion to Accept annual financials as shown.
E. Bradley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Director's Update

A. Director's Report

HR Update

- As of 10/14 BlueLion HR was retained to provide outsourced HR services to RVCS
- BlueLion stated that it does not report to the board or to the leadership but is a resource for the school
- Focus will be on full-service HR and to do a climate/culture survey
- @RVCS email address will be created for the company and RVCS will have single point person to reach out within BlueLion
- Reporting back:
    - They handle directly to extent possible
    - If related to Director, then Board is involved

- Working to complete intake and then to determine proper communications to the faculty ASAP

Grounds Redesign

- Additional cost to address water drainage of $9,830 which will be covered by the Foundation - aligns to the pond cleaning
- Tool to discussed at next Finance Committee to track costs and changes

Coffee with Karen was well attended

VI. Board Business

A. Potluck Planning

- Planning on hosting RVCS faculty holiday party at Newburyport Brewing again this year
- December 11 4-7pm (so staff can go straight from school)
- List will be sent soon to ensure that dishes are covered

VII. Accountability Committee

A. MCAS Results Review

- As Montessori school, not focus but do understand that it is a metric
- This year got to pre-pandemic scoring
- RVCS exceeded state levels all areas
- Decrease in chronic absenteeism from prior year (exceeded target)
- High growth in ELA and Math scores compared to other students in MA
- Outperformed the state in Science and Civics
- In the school's experience while scores are often lower in early years, they catch up in the end and aligns to the Montessori style of learning
- Need to increase caregiver education around MCAS and how it ties to Montessori

B. Essential Elements Review (Internal Audit)

- Internal audit completed for past year with plan to do external audit in this school year
- Suggestion to push increased spending by the classrooms to make greater use of allotted $2K per classroom - will help to drive towards more complete set of Montessori materials
- Presented to Accountability and now to Board, plan to next present to the faculty - date TBD

VIII. Committee on Trustees

A.

Update

- Next meeting plan to review the by-laws.

IX. Executive Committee

A. Update

- At board retreat, one of the goals was to determine a tool for the director evaluation - need to create a subcommittee for this
- Agree to have Karen develop goals for April - so need goals in place before then - most likely backing up process by at least a few months to provide time to evaluate, recommend to the board, and roll out

X. Grievance Committee

A. Grievance Committee Update

- Committee stands up as needed
- Recent actions has led to committee being stood up and addressed 3 issues; two were resolved and one that will be raised to the HR firm
- Staff handbook does not reference grievance committee but does talk about the process - updates to staff and parent handbook will most likely have to be updated through HR firm
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XI. Closing Items

A. Public Comments

No additional comments

B. Board Meeting Survey

Please fill it out

C. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Herrera

Documents used during the meeting

- 2025_10_14_rvcs_accountability_committee_meeting_minutes.pdf
- 2025_10_07_development_committee_meeting_minutes.pdf
- 2025_10_08_executive_committee_committee_meeting_minutes.pdf
- 2025_10_08_committee_on_trustees_meeting_minutes.pdf
- 2025_10_08_finance_committee_meeting_minutes.pdf
- Board Presentation.pdf
- Draft Audit Report - 10-17.pdf
- September_Financials.xlsx
- 10.22.2025 Director's Report.pdf
- MCAS BOT Report 2025 .pdf

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.