APPROVED

River Valley Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday May 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Location
Zoom

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.

This meeting will be on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82215031126?pwd=aYvzhMaoPCyIgaeDGXXGoIuqIXy5AF.1

Trustees Present

A. Godino (remote), A. Ting (remote), B. MacQuade (remote), C. Getz (remote), D. Herrera (remote), D. Mitchell (remote), E. Bradley (remote), E. Rankin (remote), G. LeFave (remote), J. Nickerson (remote), M. Connerton (remote), T. Murdy (remote)

Trustees Absent
None

Ex Officio Members Present
K. Kuse (remote)

Non Voting Members Present
K. Kuse (remote)

Guests Present
M. Terry (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

T. Murdy called a meeting of the board of trustees of River Valley Charter School to order on Wednesday May 20, 2026 at 7:36 PM.
Zoom link originally posted only had 100 person capacity. We had to change to add more capacity. Stayed in original zoom meeting to tell participants and added to the chat. Agenda was updated with new zoom link. An email was sent out to RVCS community with the updated link.

C. Review Trustee Code of Conduct

Board chair reviewed Trustee code of conduct

D. Public Comment

Speakers:

- Kristen Hunter (E2 parent)
- Carly Hamilton (staff; LIT special / theater & language specialist)
- Robin Demand (parent)
- Megan (parent/community member; last name not captured in transcript excerpt)
- Lauren Hajar (parent; with spouse Rick)
- Shelby Lee (parent)

- Martha Burke (parent)
- David Javier (parent)
- Tricia O’Leary (RVCS Staff)

Summary:

- **Leadership and Governance Clarity** – Speakers raised questions or concerns regarding leadership structure, decision-making clarity, and board oversight.
- **Communication and Transparency** – Comments reflected a desire for clearer, more consistent communication from the board and school leadership.
- **Staffing and Organizational Changes** – Concerns and/or feedback were shared related to current or proposed staffing roles, hiring decisions, or organizational shifts.
- **School Culture and Student Experience** – Input focused on maintaining a positive, stable environment aligned with the school’s values and mission.
- **Community Trust and Engagement** – Speakers emphasized the importance of rebuilding or maintaining trust and ensuring ongoing community involvement.
- Comments represented a range of perspectives from the community
- No board deliberation occurred during public comment

II. Approve Previous Board Minutes

A. Discussion

- Approval of the April 29 meeting minutes was **deferred**
- Board identified that **public comment was not fully captured** in the minutes
- Board discussion indicated that **public attendees should be documented directly in the minutes**, consistent with prior practice

Required Updates Before Approval

- Incorporate **public comment section directly into the minutes**
- Add **list of public attendees within the minutes**

III. Consent Agenda

A. Accountability Committee

E. Rankin made a motion to approve the minutes from RVCS April Accountability Committee Meeting on 04-27-26.
A. Ting seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Mitchell	Aye
B. MacQuade	Aye

Roll Call

D. Herrera	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
E. Rankin	Aye
A. Godino	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
A. Ting	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye

B. Development Committee

E. Rankin made a motion to approve the minutes from Development Committee Meeting on 05-05-26.
D. Mitchell seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Rankin	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
A. Ting	Aye
A. Godino	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
D. Mitchell	Aye
B. MacQuade	Aye

C. Executive Committee

D. Committee on Trustees

C. Getz made a motion to approve the minutes from Committee on Trustees Meeting on 05-12-26.
D. Herrera seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Getz	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye

Roll Call

D. Mitchell	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
A. Ting	Aye
A. Godino	Aye
B. MacQuade	Aye
E. Rankin	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye

D. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes from Committee on Trustees Meeting on 05-06-26.
C. Getz seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Ting	Aye
D. Mitchell	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
B. MacQuade	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
E. Rankin	Aye
A. Godino	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye

E. Finance Committee

D. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 04-16-26.
E. Rankin seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Mitchell	Aye
B. MacQuade	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
E. Rankin	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
A. Ting	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye
A. Godino	Aye

IV. Board Business

A. Montessori Moment

Beth led a Montessori moment focused on recentering the board and broader community on students as the school's primary priority. She emphasized that "grace and courtesy" are foundational Montessori principles and should guide all interactions among board members, staff, and families, noting that recent tensions and communication dynamics are impacting students' sense of safety and stability. Beth highlighted that adult behavior—particularly tone, communication, and conflict—directly models behavior for students and influences the overall school culture, and she called for stronger listening, empathy, and understanding across the community. She encouraged reflection and a renewed commitment to modeling respectful, collaborative behavior to ensure a safe and supportive environment in which students can thrive. Multiple members of the board echoed these themes and contributed additional reflections, reinforcing the importance of compassion, self-awareness, and maintaining a student-centered focus in both governance and community interactions.

B. Discussion request by Meg Connerton

Meg led a discussion to raise general questions regarding situations that occurred during the prior week, seeking clarity on both what transpired and how those situations were handled. Her questions focused primarily on understanding the appropriate role of the board versus management, particularly in relation to involvement in staff-related matters, and highlighted concern around consistency in process and access to information. Meg noted the tension between limited visibility for the full board and instances where individual board members were involved, and emphasized the need for clearer, more consistent governance practices going forward. The discussion prompted broader board reflection on governance versus management boundaries, transparency, and the importance of ensuring that decision-making processes are well-defined and consistently applied. Additional comments from board members expanded on these themes, including considerations related to timing, communication, and the impact of these situations on students and the broader school community.

V. Committee on Trustees

A. Bylaws

E. Bradley made a motion to Pass the updated version 7.0 bylaws with suggested updates.
A. Ting seconded the motion.
The board considered proposed revisions to the bylaws; however, the motion did not pass as it failed to reach the required two-thirds majority for approval. During discussion, several board members expressed a desire to incorporate broader community input before finalizing changes, particularly in light of recent feedback and ongoing concerns

regarding governance, transparency, and board structure. While many members acknowledged the significant work completed to date and generally supported the direction of the revisions, there was agreement that additional review and engagement with the community would strengthen confidence in the final document. As a result, the bylaws will be revised as needed, informed by feedback gathered during the upcoming community listening session and any additional board input, and will be brought back for further discussion and a subsequent vote at a future meeting.

The motion did not carry.

Roll Call

E. Rankin	Aye
D. Herrera	No
J. Nickerson	Aye
M. Connerton	No
C. Getz	Aye
B. MacQuade	No
G. LeFave	No
D. Mitchell	No
A. Godino	No
E. Bradley	Abstain
A. Ting	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye

B. Board Candidates

C. Getz made a motion to Nominate seven board candidates as presented.
A. Godino seconded the motion.
The board reviewed and discussed the proposed slate of board candidate nominees, which had been identified through a structured evaluation process based on criteria including expertise, governance experience, and alignment with current board needs. Board members noted the strength and depth of the candidate pool and expressed appreciation for the level of community interest and engagement in board service. While some members acknowledged concerns related to recent events and overall board credibility, there was general agreement that the selection process followed a thoughtful and methodical approach and resulted in a well-balanced slate aligned to identified skill gaps. Additional discussion emphasized the importance of onboarding, committee participation, and ongoing engagement of candidates not selected, including opportunities to serve on committees or in future board roles.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Rankin	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
E. Bradley	Aye
A. Godino	Aye

Roll Call

B. MacQuade	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
D. Herrera	Aye
A. Ting	Aye
D. Mitchell	Aye

C. Board Exec Committee Nominations

VI. Executive Committee

A. Update

Interim Executive Solutions - The Executive Committee provided an update on interim executive leadership planning, noting that efforts are underway to identify and evaluate potential interim solutions to support the school during the current transition period. The committee outlined the general approach to assessing candidates and emphasized the importance of ensuring continuity of leadership, stability for staff and students, and alignment with the school's operational and governance needs. Discussion highlighted the intent to move thoughtfully through the process while maintaining flexibility and responsiveness to evolving circumstances.

COL Sign-Up - The Executive Committee provided an update regarding COL (Celebration of Learning) sign-up and participation, encouraging continued board engagement in this core Montessori practice. Members emphasized the importance of board presence at COLs as an opportunity to connect directly with students, observe learning in practice, and reinforce the school's mission and values. The discussion underscored the value of participation in supporting students, building community, and maintaining alignment with the Montessori framework.

VII. Finance Committee

A. Update

A brief update was provided noting that the finance committee has not yet met to approve recent minutes, and that review and approval will occur at an upcoming meeting.

VIII. Accountability Committee

A. Update

No meeting since last board meeting

IX. Development Committee

A. Update

An update was provided on a proposed survey intended to capture in-kind donations and parent contributions at the classroom level. The survey is designed to improve visibility into the full scope of resources supporting the school, including volunteer time, materials, and other contributions that are not formally tracked through financial systems. The committee noted that this information will help better understand overall community support, inform future planning and fundraising efforts, and ensure a more complete picture of contributions across the school.

X. Director's Update

A. Director's Report

2025–26 Annual IDEA LEA Determinations- An update was provided on the school's 2025–26 Annual IDEA LEA Determinations, reflecting the state's review of the school's performance in supporting students with disabilities under federal IDEA requirements. The determination serves as an important indicator of compliance, program effectiveness, and overall support for special education services, and leadership noted its importance in guiding continued improvement efforts.

ELE Review - An update was shared regarding the English Learner Education (ELE) review process, including ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with state requirements and strengthen support for English learners. The review process is intended to assess program effectiveness, instructional practices, and alignment with regulatory expectations, with a focus on continuous improvement.
Maritime Mixer - The Director highlighted the recent Maritime Mixer as a successful community event, noting strong participation and engagement across families and staff. The event was described as an important opportunity to build community connections and reinforce the school's culture.

Literacy Night - An update was provided on Literacy Night, which was well attended and supported student learning and family engagement. The event focused on promoting literacy development and provided families with opportunities to engage in their children's academic experience in a meaningful way.

Staff Updates - The Director provided general staff updates, including ongoing transitions and changes across roles. Emphasis was placed on maintaining continuity and supporting staff during a period of change, while continuing to prioritize student needs and classroom stability.
Facilities / Handyperson Hire - The school has hired a handyperson to support ongoing facilities maintenance and operational needs. This addition is intended to improve

responsiveness to maintenance issues and support the overall upkeep of the school environment.

Technology / Network Infrastructure - The Director shared that the school is currently interviewing external technology providers to potentially outsource network infrastructure and security. This effort is aimed at strengthening system reliability, improving cybersecurity posture, and ensuring more consistent technical support.

Easement - An update was provided regarding an easement matter, with leadership continuing to assess requirements and next steps. The item remains under review as part of broader facilities and property considerations.

Pet & Absentee Policy - The Director provided an update on proposed revisions to the pet and absentee policies. Discussion focused on ensuring clarity, consistency, and alignment with student health, safety, and attendance expectations. The policies will continue to be refined prior to final consideration.

XI. Closing Items

A. Board Meeting Survey

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
T. Murdy

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.