APPROVED

River Valley Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Executive Director Search

Date and Time
Thursday October 15, 2026 at 5:30 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.

ZOOM LINK

Trustees Present
A. Salerno (remote), B. Friedman (remote), C. Getz (remote), D. Candelario (remote), D. Mitchell (remote), F. Boghos (remote), G. LeFave (remote), J. Ellen (remote), J. Nickerson (remote), M. Connerton (remote), M. Makin (remote), T. Chaisson (remote), T. Murdy (remote)

Trustees Absent

A. Tsonas

Guests Present
K. Levine (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 Thursday Oct 15, 2026 at 5:32 PM.

C. Review Trustee Code of Conduct

II. Board Business

A. Finance Update

Gary provided an update on planned capital projects. The Foundation had previously allocated $100,000 for drainage and dredging work; however, the anticipated cost of that work is approximately $25,000. The school also received a $10,000 grant to support construction of an outdoor classroom/gazebo.

Joey has been working with the Foundation regarding the use of remaining funds to support additional capital improvements, including the gazebo and fencing in the middle school area. Up to $80,000 would be available for these projects, consisting of up to $70,000 in Foundation funding and the $10,000 grant.

The school is also working with members of the community to secure donated labor and materials to support the projects.

G. LeFave made a motion to approve use of up to $80k for capital projects including gazebo financed by the Foundation to capital budget.
D. Mitchell seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Connerton	Aye
A. Salerno	Aye
D. Candelario	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
J. Ellen	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye

Roll Call

D. Mitchell	Aye
A. Tsonas	Absent
C. Getz	Aye
T. Chaisson	Aye
F. Boghos	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
M. Makin	Aye
B. Friedman	Aye

B. Executive Search Firm Vote

T. Murdy made a motion to Engage Kristin Levine of vChief for Executive Director search following recommendation from prior board Sept 23, 2026 meeting.
D. Candelario seconded the motion.
The Board discussed the proposed search process before voting. Discussion included:

- Whether an external search firm is necessary versus conducting the search internally. The Board noted that these approaches had been considered during development of the recommended search process.
- Whether additional Montessori-focused search firms should be considered. The firms reviewed were selected based on relevant experience in education, charter schools, K–6 education, and/or Montessori environments.
- Whether the Board should solicit additional proposals before proceeding. The Board had previously reviewed proposals, information, and comparative data from the firms considered.
- The timing and need for a search given Joey's current service in the role and the extensive process previously undertaken to identify leadership.
- Joey expressed support for conducting a formal search process.
- The importance of Montessori experience as one of the competencies considered in defining the ideal candidate as well as the need for and interplay with strong management skills and need for other strong skill set well versed in managing public and charter schools our size to succeed. It was noted that the last ED was the most qualified Montessorian in the last 27 years.
- The school's evolving leadership structure, including the Head of Academics role and the distribution of Montessori-specific leadership responsibilities.
- The importance of identifying the competencies required of the next Executive Director, including organizational systems, structure, and management capabilities.

The Board noted that establishing an agreed-upon ideal candidate profile will be an important initial step in the search process.

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

Roll Call

M. Makin	Aye

Roll Call

D. Candelario	Aye
A. Tsonas	Absent
C. Getz	Aye
T. Chaisson	Aye
B. Friedman	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
J. Ellen	Abstain
D. Mitchell	Aye
A. Salerno	Aye
M. Connerton	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
F. Boghos	Aye

C. Kristin Levine-Search Presentation

Kristin Levine provided an overview of the proposed Executive Director search process. Additional details are contained in the presentation materials.

Discussion included:

- Explanation of rigorous, fair, and transparent hiring process to identify and select ED.
- The importance of establishing clear decision rights at the outset of the search process.
- A proposal to establish a smaller group or subcommittee to help manage the search process.
- Opportunities to gather input from stakeholder groups, including parents and teachers.
- The appropriate role of the current Executive Director in the process, recognizing both the value of that perspective and the potential for conflict.
- Joey has previously provided input regarding the Executive Director job description.
- The school's leadership structure includes a Head of Academics position and one vacant slot with Montessori expertise.
- The importance of identifying candidates with strong organizational systems, structure, and management competencies in addition to determining the appropriate level of Montessori experience.
- The need to establish an ideal candidate profile based on input from the Board and school community before advancing the search.

D. Executive Session

T. Murdy made a motion to Enter executive session under purpose 3.
G. LeFave seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Connerton	Aye
T. Murdy	Aye
A. Salerno	Aye
J. Ellen	Aye
T. Chaisson	Aye
C. Getz	Aye
D. Candelario	Aye
D. Mitchell	Aye
F. Boghos	Aye
G. LeFave	Aye
J. Nickerson	Aye
B. Friedman	Aye
A. Tsonas	Absent
M. Makin	Aye

III. 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 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Makin
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Makin

Documents used during the meeting

- RVCS_Board_of_Trustees_Norms_Alnoba FINAL.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.