APPROVED

Research Triangle High School

Minutes

RTHS Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday January 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
Research Triangle High School
3106 East NC Highway 54
Durham, North Carolina 27709

or

https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/93566460638
Meeting ID: 935 6646 0638

Directors Present
A. Saviello (remote), A. Tobien (remote), C. Coia (remote), E. Cunningham (remote), J. Berla, J. Corn (remote), P. Thermitus (remote), S. Hunter (remote), S. Khaliq (remote), T. Shahi

Directors Absent
D. Requena, M. Dwomoh

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned
P. Thermitus

Guests Present
A. Drake (remote), A. Griffin (remote), A. Soulashinh, Kamal Saheta (remote), Santosh Kolenchery, Sarah, Sarah Dias, Syam Gadde

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Hunter called a meeting of the board of directors of Research Triangle High School to order on Wednesday Jan 21, 2026 at 5:34 PM.

II. Approve Board Meeting Minutes

A. Board Meeting Minutes

J. Berla made a motion to approve the minutes from RTHS Board of Directors Meeting on 11-19-25.
T. Shahi seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

P. Thermitus	Aye
T. Shahi	Aye
S. Khaliq	Aye
D. Requena	Absent
C. Coia	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent
E. Cunningham	Aye
S. Hunter	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
J. Berla	Aye
A. Saviello	Aye
A. Tobien	Aye

III. Public Comments

A. Open to all community members (students, family members, faculty and staff, community members, and others)

- Kamal Saheta, a parent, speaking on behalf of a group of parents from Robotics team, also present on the call was Santosh Kolenchery. Raised concerns about the close departure of 3 mentors, covered gender statistics and as a consequence the low morale of the club members. Requested explanation for the departure of the club mentors

IV. Chief School Officer Report

A. Executive Overview

A. Griffin provided a CSO update, details on the slides on the agenda:

- School activities in January
- College and career update for seniors and juniors

V. Finance Committee Report

A. RTHS Monthly Financials and Other Business

A. Drake and C. Coia provided an update on the finance committee:

- Budget surplus, above the requirement for DSCR and is now at 1.52
- ADM similar to previous year
- Budget updates
  - new item => staff appreciation
  - updates to other items, details on the slides attached to the agenda
- Proposals for surplus were presented

S. Hunter made a motion to approve the updated 2025-26 budget.
A. Tobien seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
C. Coia	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
S. Hunter	Aye
J. Berla	Aye
A. Tobien	Aye
S. Khaliq	Aye
D. Requena	Absent
P. Thermitus	Abstain
T. Shahi	Aye
E. Cunningham	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent
A. Saviello	Aye

B. Executive Session

C. Coia made a motion to go into executive session for personnel matters.
E. Cunningham seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
C. Coia made a motion to approve 2 contracts Neal Myers-Perry (Social Studies) and Ash Hopkins (Math).
S. Khaliq seconded the motion.

- Neal Myers-Perry - social studies teacher, contract amendment due to increased salary (completed his master's degree)

- Ash Hopkins - new mathematics teacher, replacing Alan Goldstein

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

Roll Call

A. Tobien	Aye
T. Shahi	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent
C. Coia	Aye
P. Thermitus	Aye
S. Khaliq	Aye
J. Berla	Aye
S. Hunter	Aye
E. Cunningham	Aye
D. Requena	Absent
J. Corn	Aye
A. Saviello	Aye

VI. Governance Committee Report

A. Governance Committee Business

E. Cunningham provided an update, details on the agenda slides:

- Cellular Phones and Wireless Communication Devices Policies, updated due to state law
  - Language from the attorney and/or state law mostly
- Articulation with Sterling Montessori
  - New articulation, already have 2 articulation agreements with Durham schools
    - small # of RTHS students coming from the 2 existing articulation schools (~10)
  - Preference in the lottery
  - Strong informal feeder to RTHS and the students do well at RTHS
  - looking to increase student population from Wake
- Recommendations for board members and leadership positions requested
  - Finance, Governance, Secretary are needed
  - Parent Board Members slots are currently full

T. Shahi made a motion to approve updated Cellular Phones and Wireless Communication Devices Policies.
S. Hunter seconded the motion.
with the spelling correction (w to t) on section 2
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

D. Requena	Absent

Roll Call

A. Saviello	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent
S. Hunter	Aye
S. Khaliq	Aye
C. Coia	Aye
A. Tobien	Aye
P. Thermitus	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
J. Berla	Aye
T. Shahi	Aye
E. Cunningham	Aye

S. Hunter made a motion to approve the articulation agreement between RTHS and Sterling Montessori Academy and Charter school.

A. Tobien seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Dwomoh	Absent
S. Hunter	Aye
T. Shahi	Aye
E. Cunningham	Aye
J. Berla	Aye
C. Coia	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
A. Saviello	Aye
A. Tobien	Aye
D. Requena	Absent
P. Thermitus	Aye
S. Khaliq	Aye

VII. Academic Excellence Committee Report

A. Academic Excellence Business

J. Corn and A. Griffin provided an update on academic excellence committee:

- 2026-27 School Academic Calendar
  - similar to current one
- SET Team update
  - SET team meeting took place yesterday
- Discipline data and analytis over the past few years at RTHS presented by A. Griffin and D. Thompson
  - Trending towards less events and lesser type of events

S. Khaliq made a motion to approve the presented 2026-27 Academic School Calendar.

J. Berla seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

J. Berla	Aye
J. Corn	Aye
A. Saviello	Aye
T. Shahi	Aye
D. Requena	Absent
A. Tobien	Aye
M. Dwomoh	Absent
S. Hunter	Aye
S. Khaliq	Aye
E. Cunningham	Aye
C. Coia	Aye
P. Thermitus	Aye

P. Thermitus left.

VIII. Development Committee Report

A. Development Committee Business

A. Griffin presented an update from the development committee, details on the agenda slides:

- Giving Tuesday
- Raptor Funds

IX. Other Business Matters

A. As needed

- Board Mini-retreat feedback:
  - ~2hrs via zoom on Friday
  - Focus on development
  - **Action S. Hunter:** send possible date for board members input

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Shahi made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
A. Tobien seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. Tobien