



## Red River Charter Academy

### Minutes

#### Regular Board Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Thursday October 26, 2023 at 5:30 PM

##### **Location**

RRCA Cafeteria

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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at a public meeting of Red River Charter Academy, please contact Charles Jones at (318) 409-4015 or by email at [cjones@redrivercharter.org](mailto:cjones@redrivercharter.org) describing the assistance that is necessary.

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##### **Directors Present**

B. Jackson, B. Ours, D. Blanchard, G. Ford, J. Stassi, K. Pickett, S. Celestine

##### **Directors Absent**

*None*

##### **Guests Present**

C. Jones, G. Sonnier

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#### **I. Opening Items**

##### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

S. Celestine called a meeting of the board of directors of Red River Charter Academy to order on Thursday Oct 26, 2023 at 5:34 PM.

##### **B.**

## **Prayer**

Prayer was led by Mayor Kenneth Pickett.

## **C. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge was led by Danielle Blanchard.

## **D. Record Attendance**

An executive session item was requested to be added to the agenda prior to the election of officers to discuss resignation of DeEtte Loyd and the direction that RRCA needs to move towards in their search for a new principal. Motion was made by Mayor Pickett and 2nd by Danielle Blanchard to go into executive session. Motion passed. Executive session began at 5:36p. Rev. Gary Ford arrived for executive session at 5:37p.

Discussion ensued. Executive session ended at 6:38p. Motion made by Rev. Gary Ford and 2nd by John Stassi to end executive session and open the meeting to the public.

Motion passed. Opening items continued.

## **E. Board Officer Elections**

1. Mr. John Stassi was nominated for board chair by Stanley Augustine. John Stassi was elected by unanimous vote. Mr. Celestine relinquished his board chair position and Mr. John Stassi assumed the position of chair.
2. Danielle Blanchard was nominated for vice chair by Stanley Celestine. No other person was nominated. Danielle Blanchard was elected unanimous vote. Danielle Blanchard assumed the position of vice chair.
3. Stanley Celestine was nominated for board secretary by John Stassi. No other person was nominated. Stanley Celestine was elected by unanimous vote. Stanley Celestine assumed the position of board secretary.
4. Mayor Kenneth Pickett was nominated by Rev. Gary Ford for board treasurer. No other person was nominated. Mayor Pickett was elected by unanimous vote. Mayor Kenneth Pickett assumed the position of board secretary.

## **F. Approve Minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 9/28/23**

K. Pickett made a motion to approve the minutes Regular Board Meeting on 09-28-23.

S. Celestine seconded the motion.

Motion was made and 2nd to approve the minutes for the regular board meeting on 9/28/23. Motion passed.

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

## **II. Executive Director's Report**

### **A. Staffing Update**

C. Jones led discussion on the advertisements out for open positions at RRCA. Discussion of principal and co-executive director model which could address lines of authority that may exist between administrators in the future. Discussion of qualifications for school principal/co-executive director. Emphasis of board on potential need for salary increases for these position introduced by Stanley Celestine to attract experienced charter school administrators.

**B. LDOE Site Visit Summary**

C. Jones shared site visit summary provided by Tammy Morgan. Contingency plan for naming an interim principal was shared with the board. Contingency is to name Joseph Sonnier as interim principal for an indefinite length of time so that RRCA can choose the right principal.

**C. 2023 School Pulse Survey Participation**

C. Jones led a discussion on the Department of Commerce survey completed on behalf of RRCA. A \$200 gift card was issued for completing the survey. The new card will be used by the new principal to engage students on one-on-one discussions over lunch. No objections made on the request to use the card.

**D. CLTCC Open House and FAFSA Completion Day**

CLTCC has invited RRCA to its campus on 11/14/23 as part of an open house tour and a FAFSA completion activity sponsored by the Ward H. Nash Cottonport campus. C. Jones will be visiting to see what opportunities the campus can offer RRCA students in the future in JumpStart 2.0 pathways for dual enrollment.

**E. Application to Employ Minors**

C. Jones led a discussion on how RRCA will work with the APSB to ensure students have the proper employment credentials. RRCA to have 2 staff members trained to be able to issue employment certifications as a location in the future.

**F. Update on a Counterfeit Check/Stop Payment Order**

Discussion led by C. Jones into bank reconciliations in September and October 2023 that yielded unknown debits. These were cleared at the bank. Simmesport State Bank presented C. Jones with the cashier's check for validation which turned out to be fraudulent. The matters have been cleared and all funds have been returned to RRCA's general fund account.

**III. New Business**

**A. Recommendation to Accept a Proposal from TASC as COBRA Plan Administrator**

Recommendation by Brown & Brown(RRCA's insurance agency) to use TASC as RRCA's new Cobra insurance administrator due to a gap in coverage that recently

occurred. Board members dutifully recorded that they have very little knowledge of Cobra administration. C. Jones to get Cobra explanation from Brown & Brown to board members prior to next board meeting on 11/16/23.

S. Celestine made a motion to Accept Cobra recommendation by Brown & Brown.

K. Pickett seconded the motion.

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

#### **B. Recommendation to Apply for a Line of Credit at Simmesport State Bank**

G. Ford made a motion to Open a \$250,000 line of credit with Simmesport State Bank.

D. Blanchard seconded the motion.

Discussion to open a \$250,000 line of credit at Simmesport State Bank at 1.5% interest with C. Jones or John Stassi being the individuals who can sign for the line of credit.

Motion passed.

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

#### **C. Stanley Celestine, Jr.'s Board Service/Term**

Stanley Celestine read his letter of resignation. Resignation will be effective December 31, 2023.

### **IV. Executive Session**

#### **A. Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter**

An executive session item was requested to be added to the agenda prior to the election of officers to discuss resignation of DeEtte Loyd and the direction that RRCA needs to move towards in their search for a new principal. Motion was made by Mayor Pickett and 2nd by Danielle Blanchard to go into executive session. Motion passed. Executive session began at 5:36p. Rev. Gary Ford arrived for executive session at 5:37p.

Discussion ensued. Executive session ended at 6:38p. Motion made by Rev. Gary Ford and 2nd by John Stassi to end executive session and open the meeting to the public.

Motion passed. Opening items continued.

### **V. Closing Items**

#### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

K. Pickett made a motion to adjourn meeting on 10/26/23.

D. Blanchard seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** 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 7:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Stassi

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Committee meetings: To be announced

Board meetings: 4th Thursday of the month, beginning promptly at 5:30 PM in the RRCA Cafeteria