

APPROVED



# Rainier Valley Leadership Academy

## Minutes

### Board Retreat Meeting

March

---

#### **Date and Time**

Saturday March 29, 2025 at 9:00 AM

#### **Location**

In Person @  
6020 Rainier Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98118

---

#### **Directors Present**

E. Forde, M. Dyal (remote), R. Bembry, T. Marsh, V. Hsu

#### **Directors Absent**

*None*

#### **Guests Present**

A. Thomas, Angela Thomas, Baionne Coleman, Chastity Catchings, Danielle Mann, Janine Lewis, L. Reisberg, Leah Reisberg, Lenny Emperado

---

### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

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

T. Marsh called a meeting of the board of directors of Rainier Valley Leadership Academy to order on Saturday Mar 29, 2025 at 9:20 AM.

## II. Public Testimony

### A. As Needed

N/A

## III. Consent Agenda

### A. Resolution February 25th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

R. Bembry made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 02-25-25.

M. Dyal seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

M. Dyal Aye

V. Hsu Absent

R. Bembry Aye

E. Forde Absent

T. Marsh Aye

### B. Resolution February 2025 Payroll & Claim Vouchers

In the future invoices will be reviewed in the Board Finance Group with Mike Dyal moving forward as some of the check registers are vague.

Payments have been audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090. Those payments have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board.

As of March 29, 2025, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approves payments, totaling \$1,540.00, and/or voids (cancellations), totaling \$0.00. The payments and/or voids are further identified in this document.

Total by Payment Type: ACH/Warrants - Public

AP ACH Numbers 9000003246 through 9000003246, totaling \$1,540.00

Payments have been audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090. Those payments have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board.

As of March 29, 2025, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approves payments, totaling \$179,508.83, and/or voids (cancellations), totaling \$0.00. The payments and/or voids are further identified in this document.

Total by Payment Type: ACH/Warrants - Public

Warrant Numbers 102549 through 102563, totaling \$58,705.34

AP ACH Numbers 9000003247 through 9000003278, totaling \$120,803.49

Payments have been audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090. Those payments have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board.

As of March 29, 2025, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approves payments, totaling \$694.61, and/or voids (cancellations), totaling \$0.00. The payments and/or voids are further identified in this document.

Total by Payment Type: ACH/Warrants - Public

AP ACH Numbers 9000003312 through 9000003312, totaling \$694.61

Payments have been audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090. Those payments have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board.

As of March 29, 2025, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approves payments, totaling \$361.68, and/or voids (cancellations), totaling \$0.00. The payments and/or voids are further identified in this document.

Total by Payment Type: WIRE-PUBLIC

Wire Transfer Payments 201900215 through 201900215, totaling \$361.68

R. Bembry made a motion to Approve.

M. Dyal seconded the motion.

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

#### **Roll Call**

V. Hsu Abstain

R. Bembry Aye

M. Dyal Aye

E. Forde Abstain

T. Marsh Aye

### **C. RVLA Board Elections**

R. Bembry made a motion to Approve.

M. Dyal seconded the motion.

During the April Board Meeting it was decided to remove this resolution and move it to the May Consent Agenda.

The motion did not carry.

#### **Roll Call**

V. Hsu Absent

T. Marsh Aye

M. Dyal Aye

R. Bembry Aye

**Roll Call**

E. Forde Absent

**IV. Board Chair Updates & Review**

**A. Board Member Onboarding & Inclusion**

We need to outline a better way to onboard new Board Members. With more detailed systems.

Reco is talking with a few different people who he is hoping to get on the board.

Participatory Structure-Reco will send this out to everyone, so we can understand what he is looking for.

He would like a scholar, E. African leader, scholar family representative, and several expertise areas on the board.

Board Member referrals will go to HR first and the Chief of Staff.

**B. Board Leadership Roles & Planning**

Wants to streamline how information is given to the board. He wants to see this information regularly:

-Recruitment

-Retention

-Revenue

-Results

Would like to work more closely with the community. Prioritize what the community wants.

**V. Finance & Enrollment Update**

**A. Review of Current and Projected Financials**

Reviewing Finance Packet.

Current and projected enrollment.

Historical Enrollment, attrition, & retention trends over the last 5 years.

Heard thoughts from:

Music Teacher: Danielle Mann

Principal: Angela Thomas

Dean of Recruitment: Lenny Emperado

CFOO: Chastity Catchings

CEO: Baionne Coleman

Reco would like to have this conversation with community.

Would Board Members donate 1 or 2 hours of their time to help with on the ground recruitment or follow ups?

Confirmed Yes:

-Reco Bemby (just put it on Calendly)

Review Academic Briefing. NWEA MAP growth-scholars are growing.  
Many RVLA scholars come to RVLA to stabilize and then end up moving to private schools.

Rachel Barnett, accountant from ESD, joins to discuss RVLA financials.

-Reviews the financial disadvantages specific to public charter schools.

-Special Education numbers require additional staffing that the state does not fund.

-Facilities lease - regular public schools do not have to pay for facilities.

-It is critical that we fundraiser to fill the gap.

-RVLA's financial situation is not due to mismanagement-it is due to the charter system's gap in funding and the need to staff for current enrollment and not projected enrollment.

In light of this - how do plan for the future?

-staffing model

Reco & Tyson requested that they will work together with Lenny to organize a town hall meeting with E Somali community to answer any questions and enroll any families are wanting to enroll.

## **B. 5 Minute Bathroom Break**

## **VI. CEO Report Out**

### **A. Updates**

Development Review: fundraising and grant update.

Possibility of re-locating or co-locating-what does that look like?

### **B. Discussion-Future Planning**

Issues with equal funding at the least or equitable ideally for charter schools.

What is being done about this now?

What is WA Charter Association or the WA Charter Commission doing about this?

Can we partner with a organization with mission alignment?

## VII. Lunch & Learn

### A. Charter Sector Policy Updates

Barbara Gilchrest from WA Charter Association provides a legislative update for upcoming Bills that will affect public charter schools.

#### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Current large budget deficit-\$17 billion short for the next 4 yrs.

Reasons:

- COVID \$'s are ending
- Revenue is down-partly b/c Bezos moved to Arizona

Enrichment funding-many charter schools will not get this.

We were not in the Senate budget.

Special Education increase ~\$150 extra per scholar.

We will know more by April 27th unless they go into Special Session.

#### **BILL UPDATE**

Alive Bills

5418-If passed Charters would be able to apply for waivers. All other schools can use these except for Charters.

Rep Santos does not want this to pass. She argues we can define these in our charter contracts.

They are trying to work with her to explain why these waivers are so important for public charters.

Dead Bills:

-1746-Still will pursue in future years when there isn't such a huge deficit. Local effort assistance program. If levies cant be passed this would help fill the gap. If passed it would be similar to how Tribal Compact Schools get funding. Could be resurrected, but unclear at this point.

-1676-Dormant charters would be allowed for those contracts to be reauthorized to new folks. It would be a totally new contract. This did get a hearing-first time in two years. They will continue to work on it.

-Bills regarding Transition to Kindergarten.

Bill1450 Only allowed to open in childcare desert. Just because there are childcare options doesn't mean they are affordable or accessible to everyone.

Bill 2012 Hearing on Monday. Limits TTK for next year to enrollment to schools who have already been authorized to do TTK-no charters would be included.

Bill 5769 Similar to the above bill except it caps funding allocated last year, but does not tie it to specific schools. Slots not being used at one school could transfer to charters. Not likely districts wont offer or offer fewer seats. There are usually wait lists.

Bill directed to OSPI to phase TTK back in and account for charters. They did not pause the program statutorily must pass another bill allowing for growth. Instead slots are directly tied to budget.

Commission on African American affairs-work group looking at what Black students actually need and how to meet those needs. Barbara and Board Co-Chair Tyson Marsh are both on the committee. Folks are weary to include Charter Public Schools-only because of a misunderstanding about whether or not they are public schools. Charters serve 5 x's higher Black & African Americans, so it doesn't make a lot of sense.

Tyson Marsh RVLA Board Co-Chair let us know they did choose not to include charters b/c they felt it was too political. Once again, Charter schools Black and African American scholars are discounted.

Dual Credit classes

K-12 system and college system would work more closely.

College credits would be on their HS transcripts.

Post secondary support - pilot program would have staff at local ESD who would work specifically for this work.

## **VIII. Audit Final Review**

### **A. Report Out**

Two Audits:

1. Clifton, Larson, Allen independent audit-no findings.
2. State audit-had first meeting. They have Reco and Mike's info for interviews. Final report will be done by April.

## **IX. Closing Items**

### **A. Announcements**

### **B. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. Reisberg

---

### **Documents used during the meeting**

- March Resolution-February 2025 Minutes.docx.pdf
  - Payroll Check Summary with Board Certification 2.28.pdf
  - AP Check Summary Report with Board Certification 2.28 CenturyLink.pdf
  - AP Check Summary Report with Board Certification 2.28 Bamboo.pdf
  - AP Check Summary Report with Board Certification 2.27 BMO.pdf
  - AP Check Summary Report with Board Certification 2.19.pdf
  - AP Check Summary Report with Board Certification 2.17 Thomas.pdf
  - Resolution March 29 2025 for Feb 2025 Vouchers & Payments.pdf
  - Youth Liaison-Vivian Hsu Resolution Template.docx.pdf
  - RVLA - Board Resolution Board Elections docx.docx.pdf
- 

Rainier Valley Leadership Academy Board of Directors Meeting/Retreat Agenda 3/29/25