



Rochester Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday December 15, 2017 at 5:30 PM

Location

Latta Rd.

Trustees Present

J. Santos, K. Crawford, M. Gedemenli, M. Guler, W. Middleton, Y. Bilgic

Trustees Absent

D. Calder

Guests Present

Cheryl Sampson, D. Ozcan, J. Doyle, M. Demirtas, Z. Ercan

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Gedemenli called a meeting of the board of trustees of Rochester Academy Charter School to order on Friday Dec 15, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

K. Crawford made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 11-17-17 Board Meeting on 11-17-17.

M. Guler seconded the motion.

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

II. Community Outreach/Development

A. PR report

Haircut event for students took place before Thanksgiving.
Students and admin visited State representatives Funke and Robach.
Mayor Warren visited RACS Middle School.
Channel 8 visit with students.
NHS donated for Thanksgiving.
Mothers' and fathers' brunches- board members attended.
Greece police officer presented on distracted driving.
Pancake breakfast made \$500.
National honor society induction with Starfish award to Mr. Robbins.
A college trip to Buffalo.
Mr. Robbins got the Golden Apple award.

III. Academic Excellence

A. Director's Report

Enrollment is down by 1 to 419.
Revision of the attendance contract.
Salary structure recommended to increase teacher salary with the regular \$1000 raise plus \$65 per year. The purpose is to retain teachers over time. The money for this comes out of the bonus allocation.
W. Middleton made a motion to approve the new attendance policy.
M. Guler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Academic Excellence Committee Report

Admin teams are working toward building level goals that were set for the year.
The notes from the meeting was shared in the Board meeting packet.
The board decided to visit building level goals during the strategic plan process.

IV. Finance, Facilities & Audit

A. Financials

Summary of financials was presented.

B. Elementary School Building

Negotiated with St. Charles to lease the elementary building. The cost will be \$8 per square foot including utilities. We will use alternative space from the gym for PE. No plan to renovate the building.

The finance committee will bring the lease to the board for the next meeting.

C. Financing Options for New School Building and Gym

Finance Committee presented options for future building. Projected price for building a new building is \$7.15M with fees and contractors- total projection is \$8,067,600.

This estimate was prepared by an underwriter based on their experience with the contractors.

This option that was presented was a direct bond option- we directly contract with companies and pay bondholders what we would otherwise spend on rent.

Developers are the second option- they would own the building and the land, and own the new building that they build. This is an option that many charter schools have used for renting.

A final option is a direct bank loan which requires 20% down payment of the needed loan amount.

This is a preliminary discussion, more research will be completed.

V. Governance

A. Strategic Planning

We have contracted with Causewave for Strategic Planning. Mehmet is managing communication and facilitation.

The goal is to finalize the plan in May.

B. Administrative assistant to work exclusively with board

J. Santos, and K. Crawford will review the applicants for this position.

C. RACS sexual harassment policy and procedures

Review and revise the sexual harassment policy in light of recent events.

Recommendation to adopt a progressive policy. Admin team will review and update this policy for a vote in a coming meeting.

Add an annual refresher to the sexual harassment policy. Add a sexual harassment training for students.

D.

Recommendation to the Board

E. RACS cyber security systems

Recommend an audit of assets and security by the IT department. Review the policies around devices that connect to our internet service. Review the policy in the future. Prepare a report to the board.

F. Recommendation to the Board

G. RACS FOIL policy

Subject to a foil request for the recent unfair news coverage.
A response is forthcoming.

Recommend to establish an official foil policy. Board will review examples and prepare a recommendation for a foil policy for January board meeting.

H. Conference options

Board members should let Jen or Mehmet know if they want to attend either ASCD Conference in Boston or the National Charter Schools Conference in TX in June, RSVP by 12/22.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

K. Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

J. Santos 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 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Crawford