



Rochester Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday October 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Location

[Zoom](#)

Trustees Present

C. Sampson (remote), D. Calder (remote), J. Santos (remote), K. Crawford (remote), M. Guler (remote), W. Middleton (remote), Y. Bilgic (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

D. Wilkinson (remote), J. Doyle (remote), Jennifer Jovcevski (remote), M. Demirtas (remote), M. Stevens (remote), Melinda Perez (remote), T. Manchester (remote), Z. Ercan (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

W. Middleton called a meeting of the board of trustees of Rochester Academy Charter School to order on Friday Oct 16, 2020 at 5:34 PM.

School Attorney Jennifer Jovcevski shared updates with us on the status of the purchase of the St. Helen building.

C. Approve Minutes

K. Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 09-18-20.

D. Calder seconded the motion.

A correction to a misspelled word is made.

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

D. Financial Audit Report Presentation

Melinda Perez reported on the results of our recent audit. Her audit opinion is “clean”, which confirms that she believes they are fairly stated, in all material respects. She did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

Dr. Middleton signed off on it to accept it and show that the board has seen it. A vote is not required. It is an external review.

II. Academic Excellence and Equity

A. Updates re: Reopening Schools

B. Committee Meeting Minutes

C. Student Performance Reports

Ms. Wilkinson shared how the elementary building collected data from last year and the beginning of this year to set building goals. Goals are revisited weekly. There are short-term goals and grade-level goals. They are still working on getting every child assessed.

Mr. Manchester presented information on attendance. Schoology is used to see if students are logged in and engaged.

III. Community Outreach & Development

A. Committee Meeting Minutes

B. Report

Ms. Zehra presented a slide show of what has been going on at RACS. She shared that we launched our GoFund Me campaign. So far it has reached \$3500.

IV. Finance, Facilities & Audit

A. Enrollment

Enrollment is at 720 students.

B. Financials

Demir presented the Financial summary, Ballance Sheet/Cash Flow, Expense Report, and Budget vs. Actual

C. Insurance Reviews

The board was informed that teachers are exempt from short-term disability insurance. They became exempt when teachers were exempt from the paid family leave act in NY State. RACS would like to plan on providing them with private short term disability insurance. It would pay 60% of their salary for up to 12 weeks.

Basic life insurance was recommended to provide for a better staff benefits program. Teachers and principals are already enrolled in a NY state Teachers plan. The basic life insurance policy would be for all non-teaching staff. It would be a 25K policy. Staff members could pay into it if they wanted additional coverage.

The finance committee recommended that the board approve the short-term disability coverage. It also recommended a Life Insurance plan be approved to make for a better staff benefits program. Board members wanted to receive more information so they could review it before the next board meeting and be prepared to vote at the November board meeting.

D. ES Updated Lease

M. Guler made a motion to accept the monthly increase in our rent for the Bishop Kearney Elementary school.

C. Sampson seconded the motion.

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

E. ES Inspection Report and Cost Analysis

The St.Helen building's major project repairs and replacement estimate is \$194,500. We negotiated with the seller. They agreed to drop the original price of \$1,037,500 down to \$1,000,000. but we would have to close by Nov. 1. Our attorney suggested we negotiate to lower the price to \$25,000 and see if they will extend the closing date. We are still awaiting approval from the state. The board agreed that we should ask for the \$25,000 credit but we cannot close by Nov.1 without state approval. Once we get approval we will close as soon as possible.

F. 2021 Health Insurance Renewal

M. Guler made a motion to approve the renewal of the same health plan that we had last year to maintain our benefits program.

C. Sampson seconded the motion.

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

G. Meeting Minutes

V. Governance

A.

Committee Meeting Minutes

B. CEO Evaluation

VI. Other Business

A. Employee Contract Decisions

J. Santos made a motion to approve the hire of 3 new staff members.

M. Guler seconded the motion.

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

VII. Closing Items

A. Board Meeting Evaluation

Plus

- the audit report

Delta

- Time -running over

B. Adjourn Meeting

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,
M. Stevens