

Board of Trustees, Ridge and Valley Charter School
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Ridge and Valley Charter School was held on October 16, 2008 at 1234 State Route 94, Blirstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Andy Marancik, Facilitator. The Trustees operate on a consensus basis in all matters. We choose to dispense with Robert's Rules of Order and Conventional Parliamentary Procedure. Our intention is to affirm the mission of the school. Ridge and Valley Charter School offers an integrated, experiential course of study in the context of the universe and its interrelationships. Adequate notice of this meeting had been made in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975 in the New Jersey Herald, the County superintendent's office and with the County Administrator.

Roll Call	present	absent
Voting Members		
Kerry Barnett	X	
Donna Best	X	
Lisa Kelly	X	
Andy Marancik	X	
Dave McNulty	X	
Dave Paulson	X	
Evonn Reiersen	X	
Pati Uzar	X	
Non-voting members:		
Nanci Dvorsky, Administrative Coordinator	X	
Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator	X	
Lisa Masi, Integration Guide	X	
Rowena McNulty, Differentiated Learning Coord.	X	
Charles Knopf, School Business Admin.	X	

Facilitator: Andy Marancik Guardian: Pati Uzar Recorder: Nanci Dvorsky

Also in attendance: Ieva Alverson, Tom Kelleher, Sylvia Ramos, Barbara Cochrane, Melissa and Isabel Browns, Terri Trapp, Mark Trapp, Spenser Trapp, Chip Cannastraci, Jay Bacco, Robin Slaw, Duncan Morrisette, Kirin Uzar, Sarah Slaw Kiewe, David Paulson, and Cherie Hoops.

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:15pm

Notices: None

Public Participation: Sylvia Ramos stated that there will be a liason to the Trustee Meetings from the Parent Circle. Melissa Browns inquired into safety procedures at RVCS including field trip safety, visitors who come on campus, and parking lot and dismissal procedures. Chip Cannastraci expressed his concern regarding bread distribution by a community member. Barbara Cochrane expressed her dismay at parent complaints about the bread. Cherie Hoops requested that individual student school photos be offered at RVCS. Terri Trapp would like to develop a Business to Business directory that would be included in the volunteer handbook. She also mentioned that Brendan Trapp is still looking for a donation of a sign for his Eagle Scout project. Spencer Trapp submitted a draft proposal for his Eagle Scout project at RVCS which would focus on a labyrinth path outlined in stone with benches and insect habitat landscaping. Rowena McNulty and Brad White have already been working with Spencer on the project and Dave Paulson offered to be Trustee point person.

The students present from the Fluorite class proposed an art mural project for the outside walls of the Community Room. Parent Kris Kelleher has offered support along with Guide Brad and friends. Evonn Reiersen and Pati Uzar will work with the group to clarify the details of the project. Lisa Kelly responded to a parent question regarding student participation in Trustee meetings. She said the charter describes a student non-voting member but the meetings often run late and would be difficult for a student to participate in that role. Duncan Morrisette offered to be point person for students on the issue and Sylvia Ramos offered to help Duncan try to find a solution.

Committee Reports:

Communication Committee: Recently met with the Tech Committee to explore the possibility of putting the charter and policies on the website as well as an all school calendar.

Peace C.O.R.e Committee: The request to become a standing committee is approved. The meeting schedule is every Tuesday at 4pm.

Land Care Committee: Tree removal will be taking place along the Pippin Hill Road school property line based on consultation with Tamarack Tree Removal and Land Care Committee.

Library Committee: Donations are still being received. Sylvia Ramos expressed a concern for how the non-fiction portion of the library in the Community Room is being used. Meetup.com will be used to post meetings and the RVCS newsletter will be used to invite new library committee members.

Grant Committee: No report.

Hiring Committee: The interview process is continuing for the Administrative Support Guide position.

K-12 Committee: The committee has reviewed the possibility of expanding the existing charter rather than applying for a new charter. They would like to contact Alan Spector regarding an estimate for an expanded septic system and architectural site plan for adding a building to house the high school, they would like to contact the current guides regarding their interest in working with high school students at RVCS, and they asked for approval by the Trustee circle to begin fundraising. It was agreed that the Trustee Circle receive more details regarding the budget aspects of a high school prior to supporting the other aspects of expansion.

Emergency Preparedness Committee: Lisa Kelly reported that a new ad hoc committee is being formed to continue work on the Safety and Security Plan for RVCS. She recently attended a North Warren Cluster meeting where the speaker described the current process for Warren County in response to emergency situations.

Technology Committee: Working towards acquisition of new computers using REAP grant money.

Finance Committee: Kerry Barnett reported the closing occurred on the refinancing and purchase of the modular buildings. Charlie Knopf is working on the bid process for replacement of the HVAC units. The committee is looking into the feasibility of adding another modular unit and developing an estimate of the cost and financing available.

Ridge and Valley Learning Circles Report: Lisa Kelly described the non-profit as having a mission of promoting education of sustainability. A post office box has been set up for communication and there is also a website with a click and pledge function. rvlearningcircles.org The organization is working on solving the school issue of paid events/workshops at RVCS. Charlie Knopf said that the RVCS insurance will cover any RVLC events. A community yard sale fundraiser is scheduled for October 18th. The Annual Appeal is in draft stage with a goal of sending it out November 15th.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of September 18, 2008 minutes.

Correspondence: None

Business Administrator's Report: Charlie Knopf presented the report as follows: **Resolution 10.16.08.e** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers Reports for September 2008 and certifications. Approved unanimously. Charlie reported that the 2007-2008 audit has been completed.

Administrative Coordinator's Report: Resolution 09.18.08.a To approve payment of bills in the amount of \$88,921.39 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 9.16.08.b** To approve the Finance and Site Committee moving forward towards the possible acquisition of another modular classroom building for the 09-10 school year and possible expenditures of up to \$10,000 for professional costs. Approved unanimously. Nanci Dvorsky gave an enrollment update.

Shared Leadership Team Reports:

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported that she has been working on the Math Professional Development with the Guides and the organization of Parent Math Night which will be held in two weeks.

Integration Guide Report: Lisa Masi reported that time has been put in her schedule to collaborate with each classroom Guide and it has been very productive. Lisa posted an email to the Guide Circle regarding bear safety protocol and an article was placed in the newsletter for the school community.

Differentiated Coordinator Report: Rowena McNulty reported that "Peace Week" is scheduled to comply with the state requirement of Anti-Violence and Bullying Awareness Week. She also reported that there are 5 volunteer coordinators and the process for volunteer requests for help is in place and working well. Rowena also mentioned that the staff is very thankful for the additional support provided by the recent expansion of support guide time.

Other Business: Nanci Dvorsky asked for approval to investigate the possibility of RVCS class groups going to the Common Ground Fair in Unity Maine in September of 2009. The Trustees approved the request. Kerry Barnett described the progress that has been made by Kim Yousey regarding the wetlands project and her work to identify potential grants and funding to compliment the WHIP grant we currently have. Kerry also mentioned that the Trustee Application Committee is taking feedback on the process and it can be directed to her.

Regarding the parent request for purchase of a basketball hoop to replace one that was removed from RVCS the Trustees agree they will not buy a replacement hoop based on the Guides input that they do not feel the need to have basketball as part of the curriculum and also on the fact that Extracurricular Clubs have not been receiving funding to date from the school.

The Sunshine Law as it relates to Trustee development was discussed and it was pointed out that professional consultants have given contradictory opinions. That said it was agreed that the scheduled development nights which include the Guides will be attended by less than a quorum of Trustees, currently four, and will not be public sessions. Other Trustee development opportunities will be open to the public as observers.

The Whole School Assembly is described in the charter as a working community assembly which is viewed differently by some parents in regards to the Assembly meetings in the past. Sylvia Ramos would like to see the Assembly take place in a revised form and Dave McNulty suggested that the Parent Circle organize this. The focus of the Winter Solstice Celebration December 23rd is the unfolding story of the universe.

Executive Session 10:15pm to discuss personnel matters.

Return to Public Session at 10:25pm

Resolution 10.16.08c To approve hiring Michele Szoka, Walter Kruegel, Laurie Terranova, Lindsey Pfeiffer, and Megan Bubalis as substitute guides for the 2008-2009 school year at the per diem rate of \$75.00. Approved Unanimously. **Resolution 10.16.08.d** To approve hiring Megan Bubalis as a part time aide for the 2008-2009 school year at the per diem rate of \$100. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 10:10pm

Nanci Dvorsky, Board Secretary