

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 March 19, 2009 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Dave Paulson, 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	
Tom Kelleher	X	
Andy Marancik	X	
Dave McNulty	X	
Dave Paulson	X	
Pati Uzar	X	
Non-voting members:		
Nanci Dvorsky, Administrative Coordinator	X	
Lisa Masi, Integration Guide	X	
Rowena McNulty, Differentiated Learning Coord.	X	
Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator	X	
Charles Knopf, School Business Admin.	X	

Facilitator: Dave Paulson Guardian: Pati Uzar Recorder: Nanci Dvorsky

Also in attendance: Jay Bacco, Melissa Browns, Barbara Cochrane, Kristin Noel, Sylvia Ramos, Gina Barkovitch, Alexandra Barkovitch, Robin Slaw, Sarah Slaw, Marlena Slaw, Cheryl Paulson, Kath Cameron, Laurel Devine, Emily Devine, Scott Best, Zoey Best, Gina Donovan.

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:15

Notices: None

Public Participation: The Economics Group of the Eastern Spadefoot Toad class requested permission to sell sustainably produced items at RVCS. The Trustees requested that their proposal be developed with more details and resubmitted. Sarah Slaw Kiewe presented a selection of possible mural drawings for review. Cheryl Paulson brought up the issue of parking lot safety. Nanci Dvorsky will post an article in the Friday newsletter asking parents to be responsible for the safety of their children.

The idea of crosswalk lines from the Community Room to the center island in the parking lot was proposed. Melissa Browns proposed that the Girl Scouts be allowed to paint door murals. More details were requested such as choice of paints and ease of removal.

Correspondence: From Erik Saar; request to do fifteen hours of field research and services at RVCS for his Newton High School Biology One Honors project. Brad White has agreed to be the on site mentor and the Trustees agreed to the proposal with the requirement that any service work performed be within the property boundaries. A letter sent to the Trustees from Gina Donovan regarding her son Tyler was entered into the record along with a letter from Susie Wright regarding her daughter Tammy. Gina Barkovitch read a conciliatory statement.

Other Business: Alanna Slaw Kiewe's Theater Workshop proposal was discussed.

Resolution 3.19.09.j To approve the use of facility for a summer theater education program in alignment with the mission of RVCS pending schedule coordination with staff requests. Allowing this alumni use of facility for a theater program does not constitute a formal policy or procedure for future facility use. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 3.19.09.k To approve the Spring Dance on Saturday May 2, 2009 at the Blairstown Fire Hall as a Ridge and Valley Learning Circles function. Approved unanimously. This function will be covered under the RVCS NJSBA general liability insurance. The Whole School Assembly committee reported that the WSA will take place 3/30 at 6:15pm and the Whole School Assembly committee reported on possible amendments to the charter.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of February 19, 2009 minutes with changes.

Business Administrator: Charlie Knopf reported that the ACES contract has been signed allowing for a possible reduction in electric costs. **Resolution 3.19.09.e** The Board approves the transfer of \$66,222.42 from Fund 10 line 80 Purchase Land/Improvements to Fund 30 for the HVAC upgrade. The Board approves the appropriation of \$47.58 fund balance in Fund 30 for the HVAC upgrade. (Note: we will transfer the funds to cover permits from fund 10 to fund 30 when we learn their price.) The Board approves the Fund 10 transfer of \$500 from line 47 supplies to line 48 Textbooks. The board approves a budget increase of \$1,000 in Other Revenue line 23 for Leader to Leader funds from the NJCPSA already received and a corresponding increase for teachers' salaries (line 43). The board approves the Fund 10 transfer of \$2,250 from line 68 supplies to line 67 Child Study Team Neuro Psych Evals. **Resolution 3.19.09.h** To approve the Initial 09-10 Budget for submission to the State:
General Fund \$1,335,740 Special Revenue Fund \$17,736 Total Budget \$1,353,476. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 3.19.09.p** To approve exercising the solar panel purchase option on our contract with Sun Farm Network. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 3.19.09.b** To approve taking out a 10 year mortgage in the amount of \$72,800 as a secondary mortgage with Lakeland Bank to acquire the solar panels. Approved unanimously. Dave McNulty announced that Charlie has been chosen to receive the NJCPSA School Business Administrator award.

Administrative Coordinator: Nanci Dvorsky held a lottery drawing for February student applications. Nanci asked for approval to reimburse attendance at the NJCPSA conference **Resolution 3.19.09.o** To approve reimbursement of \$100 to Trustee Kerry Barnett, \$100 to Integration Guide Lisa Masi, and \$100 to Administrative Coordinator Nanci Dvorsky for New Jersey Charter Public Schools Conference fees March 31-April 1, 2009 in Trenton New Jersey. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 03.19.09.a** To approve payment of bills in the amount of \$123,021.95 which includes payroll. Unanimously approved. **Resolution 03.19.09.f** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers Reports for February 2009 and to certify that no major account or fund has been over expended and to confirm that sufficient funds are available to meet the schools financial obligations for the remainder of the year. Unanimously approved. **Resolution 03.19.09.g** To approve application to the NJSBA Insurance Group 2009 Safety Grant Program for an amount up to \$2,000 to improve safety at RVCS.. Approved unanimously. Nanci reported that the Open House took place on March 18th.

Shared Leadership Team Update:

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported that the Professional Development Plan was resubmitted to the County Office of the DOE with a few minor changes for approval. Traci reported that the Unity & RVCS grant work was progressing towards culminating projects. Friday April 3rd the K-3 students will be going to Unity Charter School, the 6-8 Unity students will be coming to RVCS and the 3-5 students will be attending GreenFest in Somerset County along with the corresponding Unity students.

Integration Guide Report: Lisa Masi reported her collaboration with Guides continues involving parent meetings, resources, field trips, and lesson plans. Celebration of Learning, May 27-29, plans have begun. Lisa has been working on the assembly schedule and has been meeting with the elder students regarding their assembly concerns.

Differentiated Coordinator Report: Rowena McNulty reported that the GRADE and GMADE assessments have been completed and the data is being compiled. She attended the NJASK mandatory training and testing will run April 27th through May 21st including make up tests. A special education report and student discipline report was given and Rowena said she has been working with the class groups on the Behavior Rubric revisions and reports it has been going well. The revised rubric developed by the Peace Core is a reflection of the current rubric minus the accountability forms and a few structural changes and is meant to be a living document subject to change as the need arises. Rowena also reported that volunteers have been working on Wednesdays which has been very helpful.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: The committee reports that the request for funding for the Princeton Blainstown overnight and extended day can be approved based on funds set aside for field trips in the budget.

Library Committee: Sylvia Ramos and Melissa Browns reported that they are planning the Read a Thon fundraising project for the 09-10 school year.

K-12 Committee: The committee reports they have been focusing on facility acquisition.

Peace Core Committee: Dave McNulty has been working on the revised survey with the committee which will be shared with the Trustees as soon as it is available.

Communication Committee: Donna Best reported that new pr cards and bookmarks have been ordered and Dave McNulty reported that the updated website is almost complete.

Executive Session: 10:20pm regarding personnel.

Return to public session 11:25pm

Resolution 3.19.09.m To approve a change to the 2008-2009 calendar as follows due to an additional unplanned for snow day: June 11,2009 as last day of school, hours of 9am-1pm. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 3.19.09.i** To approve hiring Lisa Ferrante as a substitute nurse at a per diem rate of \$100. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 3.19.09.n** To approve offering the part time special education teacher position to Erica Iuvone at a per diem rate of \$120 per day. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 3.19.09.l** To approve hiring Saja Dingler as a full time special education in class instructional aide at a per diem rate of \$100 with a pro rated aide in lieu of benefits payment for the remaining 12 weeks of school. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 3.19.09.q** To accept Kristin Noel's resignation as of June 30, 2009. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 3.19.09.c To approve offering contracts for the 2009-2010 school year to the following Guides:

Ieva Alverson	\$51,500.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,545.00
Cathy Conner	\$44,065.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,322.00
Nanci Dvorsky	\$55,022.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,651.00
Katharine Errico	\$36,159.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,085.00
Dena Pheonix	\$44,681.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,340.00
Michael Florio	\$38,452.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,154.00
Sundae Greame	\$37,244.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,117.00
Lisa Masi	\$43,784.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,314.00
Rowena McNulty	\$69,595.00 plus a signing bonus of \$2,088.00
Betty Saar	\$35,278.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,058.00
Donna Usinowicz	\$37,662.00 plus a signing bonus of \$1,130.00

Approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 11:45pm

Nanci Dvorsky, Board Secretary