

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 September 17, 2009 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Donna Best, 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		
Jay Bacco	X	
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: Donna Best Guardian: Lisa Masi Recorder: Nanci Dvorsky
Also in attendance: Melissa Browns, Alanna Slaw Kiewe, Robin Slaw, Suzie Wright

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:15pm

Notices: None

Public Participation: Alanna Slaw Kiewe would like to submit a request for use of facility for her Theater Performance group. A formal proposal was requested.

Correspondence: Eileen Leadbeater submitted a letter stating that Blairstown Elementary Board of Ed is not willing to have RVCS students participate in their before and aftercare program. Balbi Enterprises, Inc would like to include RVCS as one of the schools benefiting from their “Help Your School...Turn Your Trash Into Cash” program. The Trustees unanimously approve the request.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the August 20, 2009 minutes.

Business Administrator: Nanci Dvorsky read Charlie Knopf's report as follows: Board Secretary Report and Treasurer's report are not in balance by \$10.55 and Charlie and the Treasurer of School Monies will resolve the difference and provide details at the next meeting. **Resolution 9.17.09.c** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers Reports for July and August 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 for the year. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 09.17.09.f** To accept the IDEA ARRA 2009-2011 grant in the amount of \$21,851.00. Can proceed to order tech supplies at this time. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 09.17.09.b** To approve the July budget transfers for 08.09 From Line 75 Misc to Line 80 Purchase Land Improvements \$600, Line 75 Misc to Line 47 Instr Supplies \$10,591 and to approve the 09.10 Budget Adj of Increase of Line 23 Other Revenue by \$10,356 (SRECS) and increase line 62 Mortgage interest by \$4,681 and Line 82 Mortgage Principal \$5,675. July 2009 Transfers of from Line 54 Benefits to Line 44 Other Salaries Instr. \$22,050, Line 43 Salaries Teachers to Line 53 Salaries Admin Supp \$1,651 and Line 66 Salaries Support \$1,130, Line 75 Misc to Line 52 Salaries Support \$1,056 and Line 82 Mortgage Payments Principal \$1 adj. Estimate of a free fund balance of around \$130,000, amount to be confirmed by the audit. Cash summary of accounts receivable and revenues indicate collections from district schools for 08.09 will materialize the free fund balance into the bank account. Additional \$30,000 will be moved into maintenance reserve when receipts occur.

Administrative Coordinator: **Resolution 09.17.09.a** To approve payment of bills in the amount of \$103,896.82 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 09.17.09.g** To approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement 2007 revisions with no changes for 2009-2010. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 09.17.09.i** To approve the attached list of substitute guides for the 2009-2010 school year. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 09.17.09.h** To accept the REAP 09-10 Grant in the amount of \$23,892.00. Approved unanimously. Nanci Dvorsky reported that Hardwick Twp has inquired as to whether RVCS would like to have a table at Hardwick Day in October. Donna Best will contact them. A lottery drawing for out of district 3rd and 4th grade students was held. Cathy Conner asked for approval of the fall Princeton Blairstown Center use fee for all 6,7,8th grade students Oct 19th and 20th and for all K-5th grade students Oct 21st and 22nd of approximately \$3,745.00. Approved unanimously. Nanci presented the final draft of the Safety and Preparedness Manual. RVCS has registered with NJAlert for emergency notifications. Approved unanimously.

Nanci reported that the County Superintendent denied the request for travel to the AEE conference in Montreal Canada. The Leadership Team will look into the spring regional conferences being offered in Maryland and Maine.

Leadership Team Update:

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported that Refresh Week for Guides was successful with Miriam MacGillis and Sarah MacDougall attending on Monday as an introduction to the work for the week together. The Rutgers Safe and Drug Free Communities Program sent a facilitator to RVCS on Wednesday to present an informative program about the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The Meet and Greet experience was a great community event for everyone and Traci reported that Sarah MacDougall facilitated a Community Peer Spirit evening which included parents, students, and community members. The Wednesday Independent Project curriculum got off to a good start and the advisor groups were formed with multi-age student groupings. Traci reported that the College of Guides format for one Wednesday afternoon per month has begun with the Guide Circle which facilitates collaboration and identifying talents, knowledge, and expertise that can be shared with each other internally for the benefit of the Guides and students. Traci reported that two evening sessions will be held for the Reading and Writing Family Workshop Tuesday 9/29 and Thursday 10/8 from 7-8:30pm. **Integration Guide Report:** Lisa Masi reported that work had been done to set up the classrooms and organize the classroom libraries. She has been working with the teams of Guides during lunch collaborations and working on assembly format and seasonal celebrations. Miriam MacGillis will be coming to the Fall Equinox celebration on Wednesday 9/23 to host a few seasonal activities. Lisa said she has also been working on curriculum writing and key learning experiences with the Guides as well as communication and refinement of dismissal procedures. She said she also enjoyed the Meet and Greet evening to welcome students and families back for the school year.

Differentiated Learning Coordinator Report: Rowena McNulty has been meeting with the School Psychologist and School Social Worker and reports that the new Child Study Team format is working very well. She is organizing the Water Festival on Friday September 25th and there will be several environmental groups represented including Project Wet, Project Wild, Hackensack Riverkeepers, Highlands Environmental group, to name just a few. She is also working with the Volunteer Coordinators and they have a Community Service Day scheduled for Saturday Oct 3rd. Rowena reported that she has been working on the Math and Language Arts assessments which took place this week. She provided an explanation of the revised Behavior Rubric and Medicine Wheel behavior concept that is meant to encourage positive student behavior.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: No report.

Technology Committee: Dave McNulty reported that the committee is working on a list of priorities for the long range tech infrastructure at the school.

K-12 Committee: No report.

Peace Core Committee: No report

Communication Committee: Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers to advertise the Open House. Jay Bacco reported that Service Electric Cable will run a free advertisement for the Open House.

Land Care Committee: No report.

Other Business: Peer Spirit facilitator Sarah MacDougall hosted an evening for Trustee Circle development and Kerry Barnett said she feels Peer Spirit annual work with the RVCS community is desirable for continually improving communication, inter-relationships, and circle governance process. Kerry Barnett reported that the Ecozoic Community Education Committee will have their first meetings on Wed 9/23 at 10am and Tues 29th at 7pm in the yurt. She requested that the community calendar be improved to avoid conflicts in the schedules. Pati Uzar presented the final draft of Guide and Parent run afterschool club agreements. It is agreed that Trustees will attend the Guide third Wednesday pm meetings following the month of their facilitation of Trustee meetings.

Fundraising Committee: Donna Best will communicate with a parent who has offered to facilitate a TerraCycle fundraiser at RVCS.

Executive Session: 9:00pm regarding personnel.

Return to public session 11:00pm

Resolution 9.17.09.d To approve increasing Maggie Vetter's special education role to full time at a per diem rate of \$220 through October 31, 2009. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 09.17.09.e To approve Saja Dingler as a long term substitute guide in the Constellation Team at a per diem rate of \$100.00. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 11:10pm

Nanci Dvorsky, Board Secretary