

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 November 16, 2017 at 1234 State Route 94, Blirstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Dave McNulty, 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.

	present	absent
Voting Members		
Steve Andrasek	X	
Kerry Barnett	X	
Jenn Gurdak	X	
Andy Marancik	X	
Dave McNulty	X	
Dave Paulson		X
Jessi Sohl	X	
Non-voting members:		
Nanci Dvorsky, Administrative Coordinator	X	
Lisa Masi, Integration Guide	X	
Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator	X	
Glenn Richardson, SBA		X

Facilitator: Dave McNulty Guardian: Steve Andrasek Recorder: Nanci Dvorsky
Public Participants: Kyra Dosch-Klemer

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:10 pm

Public Participation: None

Correspondence: None

Leadership Team Updates:

Integration Guide Report: Lisa Masi read a report from Kasey Errico which highlighted the integration of the curriculum lenses into the fall overnight and expedition experiences and also the improvement of the integration of gardening and cooking KLE student work into the expeditions. Lisa reported that the Galaxy students are planning to work at a local restaurant, Buck Hill Brewery, to make soup from vegetables they grew in the school garden.

They will then spend time serving the soup at Manna House in Newton during the lunches provided for area residents. Lisa mentioned that she viewed the movie “Screenagers” which had been recommended by an RVCS parent as a possible community film and she found it to be quite good. Lisa reported that the graduate presentation at Wednesday assembly of their constructed mobiles as metaphors of their personal journey was very introspective and interesting. Lisa mentioned that next year there will be 10 staff children at RVCS. She also reported that she is happy with the ongoing development of rich classroom libraries which has been supported by a generous year over year book budget.

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported that Kris Tucker is stepping down from the Design stipend role due to family circumstances. Three Galaxy students have submitted a proposal for a dance which would be for RVCS middle school students only. The Trustees are in general support of the idea and offered some suggestions that could enhance the success of the event. Traci said that Independent Study rubrics are being completed for the first trimester. She also reported that the NJDOE has announced that there will be a spring field test of the new online science test for 2018 with spring of 2019 testing serving as the baseline year to establish proficiency levels. The Department of Education has contracted with Pearson Education for the test content which will be delivered on the current TestNav online system so for now it appears that RVCS will not have to do any immediate changes to the existing testing formats. Traci mentioned that Dillon Uzar’s alumni speech at the Charter School Conference had been uploaded to the Closer Connect page. Also, a modified version of the RVCS video created for the Deep Time Journey Network could be sent to the Alternative Education Resource Organization along with submission for the Deep Time Journey Network video awards.

Administrative Coordinator Report: Nanci Dvorsky reported: Approval of the October 19, 2017 minutes. **Resolution 11.16.17.a** To approve payment of bills in the amount of \$168,140.95 which includes payroll . Approved unanimously. **Resolution 11.16.17.d** To approve Drake Landscaping for the 2017-2018 snow removal at an hourly rate of \$50 per hour. Approved unanimously. Nanci gave an enrollment update noting that the current number of students is at 127 and the projected number for the 2018-2019 school year is 132.

Business Administrator Report: **Resolution 11.16.17.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers Reports for October 2017 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. Approved unanimously. **Resolution 11.16.17.c** To approve the 2016-2017 audit and CAFR report to acknowledge that there are no findings and therefore no corrective action plan is needed. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Parent Jessi Sohl reported that an online “Guide wish list” site had been created that will allow parents to gift items being requested by the class groups. The committee is working on a spring fundraising event at Camp Mason in April sponsored by Ridge and Valley Learning Circles. The Parent Committee is hosting a Winter Solstice Family Potluck on Friday December 15th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at the school. They are also working on an online RVCS gear sale through Abilities in Washington Twp.

Technology No report.

Facilities Nanci Dvorsky said that the parking lot improvement project will be the next thing on the task list for the Facility committee.

Finance Steve Andrasek reported that the Finance Committee is working with a New Jersey bank to obtain information about possible refinancing of the current school mortgage loans.

Communication There has been increased activity noted on the RVCS social media sites. Dave McNulty will reach out to Rob Yaskovic, a parent at the school, to invite him to come for a few hours to photograph activities at the school that can be posted. Dave will also reach out to Heritage Marketing Group to implement the promotional campaign.

Other Business Jenn Gurdak reported that she is working on the application for Sustainable Jersey Schools. The Trustees and Leadership Team discussed office administration support, tech, and PARCC needs going forward. Dave McNulty gave an update on the RVLC Community Education initiative. Dave McNulty will contact North Warren Regional High School to propose a partnership to host the movie "Screenager".

Executive Session to Discuss Personnel 8:30pm

Return to Public Session 8:55pm

Resolution 11.16.17.e To approve offering a contract to Athena Hawkins as Business, Technology, and Testing Coordinator for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year at a pro-rated salary of \$47,500.00. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 11.16.17.f To approve accepting a contract with Athena Hawkins as Business, Technology, and Testing Coordinator for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year at a pro-rated salary of \$47,500.00, upon return of the signed contract. Approved unanimously.

Resolution 11.16.17.g To approve Steve Andrasek as Co-Coordinator of the Board of Trustees along with Jessi Sohl. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Nanci Dvorsky, Board Secretary