

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 15, 2022 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Kerry Barnett, 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 (all attendees via Zoom)		
Kerry Barnett	X	
Julie Budzinski-Flores	X	
Jenn Gurdak-arrived 8:05pm	X	
Dave McNulty		X
Jessi Sohl	X	
Cindy Terranova	X	
Non-voting members:		
Robin Balles, Infrastructure Coordinator	X	
Lisa Masi, Integration Coordinator	X	
Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator	X	
Theresa Radline, Business Coordinator	X	

Facilitator: Kerry Barnett Guardian: Julie Budzinski-Flores Recorder: Theresa Radline

Public Participants: Nicole Bostdorff, Kasey Errico, Rafael Flores, Daisy Flores, Stas Flores, Laura Fritzky, Maggie Fritzky, and Jen Ross

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:02pm

Public Participation: Laura Fritzky shared concern regarding a situation with her child. Maggie Fritzky shared concern regarding a situation with her grandchild. Nicole Bostdorff asked how a new fundraiser should be proposed.

Correspondence: An email was received from Laura Fritzky regarding a situation involving her child.

Leadership Team Updates:

Integration Coordinator Report: Lisa Masi reported:

1. Enrollment for this school year is at 129 students.
2. The first assembly of the year was a new Rite of Passage for our Kindergarten students. We welcomed them to RVCS by sharing bioregional related gifts from each team, sang to them, and created a passageway for them to walk through by linking hands. It was a beautiful way to usher them into the school and will culminate as a final Rite of Passage as we usher them out as graduates.
3. The first assembly with the entire community felt more like the assemblies we had before Covid. It was a joy to have everyone in the same space again.
4. The first round of clubs will begin September 26.

Infrastructure Coordinator Report: Robin Balles shared:

1. She is transitioning to the start of the school year by wrapping up summer projects.

2. The Emergency Response Template (ERT) has been completed and submitted to law enforcement.
3. Community Service Day will be held on October 1. Nicole Bostdorff suggested we create a signup genius for families.

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported:

1. We have two new guides on staff and they are proving to be incredible additions to RVCS with positive attitudes.
2. Professional Development during Refresh concentrated on deepening our circle practice. RVCS consulted Rich Rivera, President of Renew & Redesign Consulting, in order to provide training for all guides. People truly relaxed into the day and a half with him. He had a huge impact on guides and our circle work, especially how we host ourselves in circle. He will return on 9/21 to work with guides, 10/12 to work with guides and trustees, as well as 11/9 to work with guides. Guides are joining the Design Team and will work together to design upcoming Professional Development days. This training is an excellent use of ESSER II funds.
3. There are two guides entering their tenure acquisition year.
4. The school is in need of substitute teachers and a support guide.
5. The Emergency Virtual/Remote Instruction Plan was discussed.
6. NJ Public Charter Schools Association will be holding a webinar on October 17, 2022 at 7:00pm for trustees on renewal best practices.
7. Updating of the website was discussed.
8. The Leadership Team is recommending that Robin Balles and Theresa Radline attend a Circle Practicum in December. It will be hosted by Quanita Robertson and Tenneson Woolf.
9. Guide Maggie Vetter emailed regarding the Green Schools Conference (GSC) in New York on September 24. Julie Budzinski-Flores offered to attend as a representative of the school.

Business Coordinator Report: Theresa Radline reported:

- Approval of August 18, 2022 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 09.15.22a** To pay bills for the dates of August 18 thru September 15, 2022 in the amount of \$211,221.36 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 09.15.22.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers' Report for August 2022 and to certify that no major account or fund has been over expended and to confirm that sufficient funds are available to meet the school's financial obligations for the remainder of the year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 09.15.22.c** To approve the 2022-2023 Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 09.15.22.d** To approve Benjamin Pannullo for part-time clerical/maintenance work at \$25.00/hr for the 2022-2023 school year. Hours not to exceed 24 hours per week. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 09.15.22.e** To approve the 2022-2023 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA) without changes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 09.15.22.f** To approve Robin Balles and Theresa Radline to attend Circle Immersion: A Practicum for the Inner & Outer of Belonging and Contributing from the dates of December 7-11, 2022 at Hope Springs Institute, Peebles, Ohio. Total cost not to exceed \$5,000 which includes registration, lodging, travel, and meals. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Communication: Jessi Sohl shared how much she loved the school's presence on social media.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Julie Budzinski-Flores shared some of the follow-up discussion from the committee's meeting with the Leadership Team. The possibility of hiring a consultant as well as a curriculum audit were discussed.

Facilities: Robin Balles shared that new shelving was installed in the Nova and Galaxy West building foyers and is working out well. The HVAC replacement is being scheduled for October. The committee will be meeting on September 16.

Finance: Kerry Barnett shared that the committee is meeting on September 16 to discuss the charter renewal application. The audit is still in progress.

Parent: Cindy Terranova shared that there were 5 people on their most recent call. They discussed the role of the parent committee, the charter renewal, upcoming events, possible fundraisers, community gatherings, back-to-school night, graduation banners, the guide wish list and community service day.

Policy:

2nd Reading & Adoption of Policy:

- 4140/4240 Health Benefits and Insurance Waiver

Trustee Review Committee: The Trustee Review committee recommended Kasey Errico as a new Trustee. Unanimously approved.

Other Business:

1. An update on the Charter Renewal Application was given
 - a. Renewal Site Visit: Tuesday, November 22, 2022
2. RVCS branded scholarship moved to next month
3. Correspondence to Young Men's Philanthropic Association moved to next month
4. Plan for annual appeal will be brought to the Parent Committee
5. 2022-2023 Community Gatherings were shared. Ideas for future gatherings were discussed.

Executive Session: 8:04pm

Return to Public Session: 8:45pm

- The Leadership Team read a statement responding to a parent concern.
- Ideas to support a family in need were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm

Theresa Radline, Board Secretary