

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 December 16, 2021 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm by Dave McNulty, Guardian. 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 6:26pm	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: Jennifer Gurdak Guardian: Dave McNulty Recorder: Theresa Radline
Public Participants: Emily DelGrego, Anthony DelGrego, & Missy McEvoy

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:09pm

Public Participation: Emily and Anthony DelGrego shared their concerns regarding the COVID-19 policies and quarantine procedures of RVCS.

Missy McEvoy agreed with Emily and Anthony DelGrego's concerns and shared her additional concerns regarding communication from the school about COVID and quarantine timelines. She also shared her concerns about the level of education the children are receiving when they have to go virtual, stating that she has felt the need to supplement her child's school work during remote instruction.

Correspondence: 1. A letter regarding the concerns shared during public participation was received from Anthony and Emily DelGrego 2. An email was received from a guide regarding extending their family leave. 3. A card was received from Michelle Murray.

Leadership Team Updates:

Integration Coordinator Report: Lisa Masi reported:

1. We had 25-30 participants, including children and adults, at the Open House on Wednesday, December 8.
2. Discussion was held regarding having an Info. Session rather than an Open House in January or February. A date will be scheduled at the next meeting.
3. Enrollment is currently at 116 students.
4. The Community Supported Garden Share started recently. Guides and kids are excited to start cooking.
5. A lottery was held for the 2022-2023 school year's Kindergarten non-resident waiting list.
6. Nova went to White Lake today. They were studying symbiosis of the lake community.

Infrastructure Coordinator Report: Robin Balles reported:

1. The tents have been cleaned and are ready to be returned to us. Some repairs were made.
2. We've been starting up a social media presence. She is posting at least once a week. All are encouraged to follow our Facebook and Instagram.
3. The school went into a shelter in place yesterday for a little over an hour due to a situation in the area at a local school. Our school liaison supported our decision and notified us when he felt it was safe to lift the shelter in place. We've had drills to prepare for this situation and the students and guides all knew what to do. Traci Pannullo shared that we receive information from the county prosecutor's office when there are situations in the county and if they felt we needed to lockdown or go into shelter in place, they would notify us. Our decision was independent of the local school.

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported:

1. We have started the After School Academic support Program. There are about 40 students attending in person for ELA and Math and about 20 students are participating in the iReady, independent, self-paced portion of the program. We are hearing some positive feedback. The program will wrap up a few weeks after we come back from break. We will be offering another session in February/March.
2. Jonathan Bell, a student at Penn State, who decided to complete his doctoral dissertation on our school, defended his dissertation today.
3. Julie Budzinski-Flores brought up the Lenape People of PA treaty of friendship. The river trip and signing is next August.

Business Coordinator Report: Theresa Radline reported:

- Approval of November 18, 2021 with corrections and December 3, 2021 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 12.16.21.a** To approve to pay bills for the dates of November 19, 2021 thru December 16, 2021 in the amount of \$214,689.59 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 12.16.21.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers' Report for November 2021 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 12.16.21.c** To approve budget transfers from December 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021 as attached. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 12.16.21.d** To approve five (5) additional COVID-related leave days from January 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2022 to address the potential need for additional absences. Unused COVID-related leave days will not carry over to the 2022-2023 school year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 12.16.21.e** The approve contracting with BOLD NYC, LLC for the 2021-2022 school year to provide marketing and advertising services at a cost of \$650/month plus advertising costs not to exceed a total of \$6,000.00. Approved unanimously.

Theresa Radline reported:

1. The JCP&L bills have been squared away.
2. She continues to work with the auditor. The audit submission has been extended to February. The revised budget will be due after the audit submission.
3. State Aid figures were received on December 14.

Committee Reports:

Communication: Dave McNulty discussed launching the campaign for marketing.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: None.

Facilities: Robin Balles shared that the alarm buttons to satisfy Alyssa's Law are fully installed. There is one button in the office and one in Quasar.

Finance: Dave McNulty shared that we are awaiting final numbers from the auditor.

Landcare: Robin Balles shared that it's a quiet time for the committee right now. They are working with students on removing invasives. They are discussing erosion. There will be a PD in January as well to discuss land planning.

Parent: Jessi Sohl shared that Missy McEvoy took care of the gear sale. It should all come in next week. All items will be brought to school and sent home before the holiday break. A meeting hasn't been scheduled yet.

Policy:

2nd reading and adoption of Policy:

4150/4250 Family Leave and Medical Leave

Other Business:

1. Trustee Retreat is scheduled for January 22. A venue is being worked on.
2. Lisa Masi will follow up on the Land Access discussion.
3. Charter Renewal to be discussed in January.

Executive Session to discuss personnel: 7:38pm

Return to Public Session: 7:48pm

- **Resolution 12.16.21.f** To approve contracting with Jacob Deeney for part-time maintenance services for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$20/hr for a minimum of 4-6 hours per week. Ridge and Valley Charter School agrees to pay background check related costs. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 12.16.21.g** To accept Rebecca Garceau's request to extend family leave thru June 30, 2022. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Theresa Radline, Board Secretary