

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 October 19, 2023 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm 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		
Kerry Barnett	X	
Julie Budzinski-Flores		X
Kasey Errico		X
Jenn Gurdak-arrived 7:26pm	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: Kerry Barnett Guardian: Dave McNulty Recorder: Theresa Radline

Public Participants: Edward Ball, Julie Weidemann-Ball, Missy McEvoy

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:06pm

Public Participation: None

Correspondence: An article was received by Steven Andrasek, highlighting a former student, Avery Andrasek's implementation of a composting program at Blair Academy. Several emails were received from guides thanking trustees for the additional compensation received in September.

Leadership Team Updates:

Integration Coordinator Report: Lisa Masi reported:

1. Current enrollment remains at 135 students.
2. Calendar events were shared:
 - a. NJ Professional Development Days-11/9-10
 - b. Thanksgiving Break-11/23-26
 - c. Trustee Meeting-11/16
3. Current newsletters were shared.
4. Class group names were shared. The names include:
 - Stardust Arthropods: Crab Spider
 - Stardust Reptile & Amphibians: Northern Red Salamander
 - Nova Birds: Eastern Wood-Pewee
 - Nova Plants: Bleeding Heart

Constellation Mammals: American Beaver

Constellation Trees: Kentucky Coffeetree

Galaxy West Fish: White Sucker

Galaxy West Rocks & Minerals: Gneiss

Galaxy East Fungi: Wild Yeast

5. The first club cycle began. Clubs being offered are: Arts & Crafts, Garden, Aviation, Frisbee, Card, Stream, Art in Nature, Skateboarding, and Sign Language.
6. The Expedition Facilitator's Report was shared.
7. Graduation Project proposals are being submitted.
8. The School Dance Committee is getting ready to submit another proposal.
9. She took a 3 day Project Based Learning Workshop that was interconnected. She will be taking a one day workshop targeting Social Emotional Learning.

Infrastructure Coordinator Report: Robin Balles reported:

1. Community Service was rainy; however, we had 26 total people participating and completed several projects including beginning preparations for the Gaga Ball Pit sight, gardening and processing, cleaning, and building picnic tables.

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported:

1. NJSLA Scores were shared. RVCS continues to be at or above the state average in ELA and Mathematics.
2. The leave replacement coverage for the CST Coordinator was filled.
3. Guide Ebony Erickson from Tri-County Behavioral Care has begun meeting with small groups. One-on-one counseling sessions will begin soon.
4. Trustee Kasey Errico shared an article with her regarding the new Office of Climate Change Education and the head of the department, Sarah Sterling-Laldee.
5. The Earth Charter Conference's theme this year is "Reimagining Education for Ecological Civilizations" and will take place at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, April 12-14. She is wondering if a few members of the community want to attend.

Business Coordinator Report: Theresa Radline reported:

- Approval of September 14, 2023 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23a** To pay bills for the dates of September 15, 2023 through October 18, 2023 in the amount of \$509,771.81 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers' Reports for September 2023 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 10.19.23.c** To approve budget transfers for the month of October as attached. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.d** To approve accepting the Nursing Service Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.e** To approve the 2023-2024 Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management Team as follows: Robin Balles, Meaghan Manole, Tina Manning, Toni Marek-Mazzariello, and Lisa Masi. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.f** To approve Tina Manning as the Ridge and Valley Charter School Substitute Anti-Bullying Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year (upon start date). Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.g** To approve Tina Manning as the Substitute Section 504 Officer for the 2023-2024 school year (upon start date). Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.h** To approve accepting Tyler Thurgood's Amended Yearbook Coordinator Stipend position contract to reflect a \$500 increase with a new total of \$1,000 for the 2023-2024 school year to be paid in two installments of \$500 each (January and June). Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.i** To approve Angela Schwartz as a substitute for the 2023-2024 school year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 10.19.23.j** To approve utilizing Krapf School Bus to provide field trip transportation on an as needed basis for the 2023-2024 school year. Approved unanimously.

- **Resolution 10.19.23.k** To approve mileage reimbursement, when applicable and approved by the Leadership Team and/or the Business Coordinator prior to the event, for the use of personal vehicles for field trips (excluding carpooling trips), tent pickup/dropoff, and professional development events at the approved NJ Department of Treasury rate of \$0.47/mile for the 2023-2024 school year. Approved unanimously.

Theresa Radline reported:

1. She thanked the Trustees and Leadership Team for their support of the Love & Wellness Faire. It was a great success with almost 100 people in attendance.

Committee Reports:

Communication: Dave McNulty shared that he will write a job description for a public relations stipend position. Kerry Barnett shared that there were no attendees for the Information Session.

Facilities: Robin Balles shared that the committee is ready to move forward with the tent sale. A new upright, commercial grade freezer was purchased. There are plans to replace the insulation around the pipes under the buildings.

Finance: Kerry Barnett shared a discussion about working to control the difference between the highest and lowest paid staff members, while keeping in mind that some staff work 12 months or have different responsibilities. There was discussion around the possibility of a percentage difference as well as a salary cap.

Lisa Masi thanked the Finance Committee and the trustee circle for the additional compensation received in September. She stated it was well timed and very generous and a responsive approach to conversations.

Parent: Missy McEvoy shared that there were a lot of people in attendance at the meeting on October 11, directly after assembly. Discussion items included: gaga ball pit fundraiser update, Autumn Olive Festival, a gear swap to be held on November 2 & 3, online gear store, and fundraising needs for the school. Lisa Masi shared that 1/3 of the Classroom Wishlist items have been purchased.

Policy:

1st reading of Policy:

5131.5 Vandalism/Violence

Other Business:

- Kerry Barnett gave an update on Muriel Baki's work on the alumni outreach update. The database currently holds about 80 emails. The work will continue as Muriel tries to reach our 200 graduates.
- Discussion was held regarding Leadership Team and trustee communications
- Discussion was held regarding confidentiality
- 20th year celebrations were discussed, in particular, having refreshments for alumni at graduation, along with a group photo.

Executive Session to discuss personnel: 7:57pm

Return to Public Session: 8:40pm

Trustee Review Committee: The Trustee Review committee recommended Julie Wiedemann-Ball as a new Trustee. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Theresa Radline, Board Secretary