

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, 2023 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm 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		X
Dave McNulty	X	
Jessi Sohl		X
Cindy Terranova	X	
Julie Wiedemann-Ball	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: Julie Budzinski-Flores Guardian: Julie Wiedemann-Ball Recorder: Theresa Radline

Public Participants: Edward Ball, Missy McEvoy

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:04pm

Public Participation: None

Correspondence: None.

Leadership Team Updates:

Integration Coordinator Report: Lisa Masi reported:

1. Current enrollment remains at 135 students.
2. Calendar events were shared:
 - a. Thanksgiving Break-11/23 & 24
 - b. Winter Solstice Assembly-12/20
3. The following graduation projects were shared:
 - a. One student is working on a garden plot marker project.
 - b. Three students are working on restoring and renovating the trail going to the creek.
 - c. Two students are working on creating a medicinal spiral garden outside of Quasar Right.
 - d. Two students are working on the yearbook.
 - e. Three students are working on a reforestation project near the creek. They submitted a bake sale fundraising proposal to occur the week of December 4th. It was unanimously approved by the trustees.

4. The Teaching for Black Lives Study Group has met three times so far. It has been an informative experience.
5. Enrollment lotteries were held for the waiting list for non-residents in Grades K (12 students), 1 (2 students), 2 (4 students), and 6 (2 students) as well as residents in Grade K (11 students).

Infrastructure Coordinator Report: Robin Balles reported:

1. Landcare Committee and Classroom Guides are working together to winterize the gardens. The Fungi and Arthropod mentors/mentees sang a lullaby to the garden after they put their garden to bed.
2. Maintenance work continues to get ready for winter.
3. Repairs have taken place in two classrooms.
4. A new basketball hoop was installed.
5. The installation of the Gaga Ball Pit is coming along. The parts are being fabricated and are almost complete.

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Traci Pannullo reported:

1. Tri-County Behavioral Care completed their first session of counseling and has begun round 2 with 36 students. A new counselor, Jackie Toth, is running sessions.
2. The Holiday Party for staff was discussed.

Business Coordinator Report: Theresa Radline reported:

- Approval of October 19, 2023 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.16.23a** To pay bills for the dates of October 19, 2023 through November 15, 2023 in the amount of \$253,909.05 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.16.23.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers' Reports for October 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 11.16.23.c** To approve budget transfers for the month of October as attached. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.16.23.d** To approve the 2023-2024 Annual Charter/Renaissance School Fiscal Questionnaire. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.16.23.e** To approve contracting with Garry Hollenbeck for part-time custodial/maintenance services for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$20/hr for a minimum of 15-20 hours per week. Approved unanimously.

Theresa Radline reported:

1. The AudSum was submitted with no findings.

Committee Reports:

Communication: Dave McNulty the public relations position. He also shared that he and Kerry Barnett will be meeting with Carla Vanzant from Wildflower Montessori on 11/17 as she is looking to open a charter school.

Facilities: Covered earlier.

Finance: Julie Budzinski-Flores shared that the committee met on Tuesday, November 14 and that all finances are in good standing.

Parent: Covered during Public Participation: Missy McEvoy shared that at least 10 people attended the recent meeting. The Gaga Ball Pit fundraiser has ended and the committee would like to focus on the octagon for their next fundraiser. A discussion was held regarding the bi-annual fundraiser. The gear swap went really well. Kate Ravielli's sister inventoried all gear items. Ideas were discussed on how to support those in need of gear. There will be a gear sale starting the week after Thanksgiving.

Policy:

1st reading of Policy:

6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Students

2nd reading and approval of Policy:
5131.5 Vandalism/Violence

Other Business:

- Kasey Errico discussed the need for a trustee calendar
- Dave McNulty and Theresa Radline volunteered for a 20th year celebration committee.
- Upcoming events were shared:
 - Trustee Retreat (to discuss next month)
 - Moon Howl-12/28
 - Open Houses-1/10 & 4/11
- Theresa Radline offered to update agendas each month for the trustees. Trustees should send updates via email by the Monday before each meeting at 9am.

Executive Session to discuss security, legal matters, FRPL and HIB: 8:32pm

Return to Public Session: 9:50pm

- **Resolution 11.16.23.f** To approve a service agreement with LearnWell to provide 10 hours of educational services per week by a certified teacher at a rate of \$55/hr as well as an additional 33% for administrative costs. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56pm

Theresa Radline, Board Secretary