

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Riverview Charter School  
May 23, 2019, Conference Room  
81 Savannah Highway, Beaufort, 29906

*Riverview Charter School's mission is to create a small, diverse learning community that actively engages students in meaningful and innovative learning experiences. Emphasizing "learning by doing," family and community involvement, and engaged citizenship, Riverview is committed to nurturing the whole child and preparing each student for a global society.*

**Members Present:** Scott Lee, Chairman; Aby Bandoh, Vince Brennan, Gayle Carroll, Lamarr Cooler, Kathryn Ferguson, Joey Grice, Nicole Johansen, Mary Jordan Lempesis, Julia Wittschen-Price,

**Leadership Team:** Alison Thomas, Director; AnnMarie Bowden, Donna Haram, A.K. Harper, Liz O'Brien,

Meeting called to order at 6:38 by Chairman Scott Lee.

Public Session: No one present for this purpose.

Mary Jordan Lempesis moved to approve the proposed agenda and the motion was seconded by Julia Wittschen-Price and passed by the group.

Alison Thomas said the notices were made and that the meeting is in compliance with FOIA regulations.

Finance Report: Lamarr Cooler handed out copies of a summary of the July-April Budget. He pointed out the following **"Financial Highlights:"**

- Year to Date Revenue was \$6.4 million for the 10 months that ended April 30, 2019 which is \$415 thousand favorable to budget
- Net Income through April 30, 2019 is \$505,801.00 vs. the Budgeted Amount of \$123,664.00 resulting in a favorable variance of \$382,137.00
- Year to date expenses: \$5.9 million which means \$34 thousand favorable to Budget.
- Cash Balance as of April 30, 2019 was \$608,117.00. It was noted that there is a Deferred Revenue from PEBA to be recognized in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.\*
- Year to date unfavorable of \$30,000. Contracted services for year was more than budgeted....
- Two negatives in line item are being offset by facilities expense and Tidewatch expenses.

Favorable variance ...

\*Deferred revenue for next year...the Leadership Team has agreed to continue to seek an explanation and assess the impact on the proposed 2019-2020 proposed budget

Lamarr Cooler asked if there were any questions about the report, but none were voiced. He concluded with the statement that it has been a good new year in finances...

**FY-20 Budget:** Alison Thomas led the Second Reading of the proposed Budget for 2020: A visual was projected for the group and the following points were emphasized:

Last month's presentation...2019

**Decrease** - Changes made based on actual revenue numbers since then or First Reading

**Increase** - Field Trip amount increased since next year will be first trip with 76 in class so more will probably go

- Funding for Board certified teachers is shown as money in and then money out so no notable change....
- Instructional salaries...some personnel changes...one potential open position...internal candidate is interested in position...will not be a major change overall
- Approved \$5,555,000—5,528,000 so far under approved amount
- Need additional personnel for TideWatch so budget reflects addition for part time staff... Worked with smaller staff this year because of turnover...more part time this year
- Food Service numbers look solid...
- Custodial expenses expected to increase \$3,000 next year
  
- No changes in several categories have been made since First Reading
- \$30,000 expenses increased, but revenue up so difference of about \$5,000 between First Reading and tonight's Second Reading

**Summary:**

- Note the PerCentages listed in summaries on Overhead
- \$600,000 expected in reserve at year's end...

The following **Questions** were asked from the group:

- Transportation numbers...Charging for bus transportation is very common in U.S. for Schools of Choice programs...

Most models offer 50% discount for those on Free/Reduced and 70% for those who are on Free Lunch Programs

The Family Cap is at 21/2

This formula is commonly used by other programs.

Question for the Board by Alison Thomas is how much does the Board want to recoup of the Bus Cost (\$75,000)

Some models used by other schools: daily rate, but must keep track of riders with a daily invoice...this model involves a lot of accounting

Some other models: weekly rate; trimester rate; Buss Pass that allows certain number of rides (keep track with a "card")

A question for Riverview is *How to predict LOSS in children if riders are charged for bus use...*

Options:

- Could use less busses
- Charging an amount such as 184 days x \$3.00 per day
- Buying a bus is an expensive option...not necessarily because of the cost of the bus, but because of the cost of a driver, gas, maintenance for the bus

Field Trip bus usage is charged by County...

Encouraged Alison Thomas to include all facts in a proposal to be presented at June meeting, but will send to the members before the meeting.

A point was emphasized by AnnMarie Bowden concerning the "culture" of Charter Schools: Charter Schools require more effort...effort from all stakeholders... (started for poverty children so was not an issue in the beginning...)

Alison Thomas believes that this situation can be handled successfully even with the possible bumps or we would not undertake it - She emphasized how committed to making it and helping it work for families that need help.

Question was raised about the “announced” cut in BCED budget by 2% and how it will impact 2020 budget. (It was noted that other schools operate on upcoming year...) Teacher raises will not be impacted because they are funded by state...

Last reading of the proposed FY20 budget will be at June meeting.

Director’s Report:

**Charter Renewal** has not been approved yet. Alice Paylor continues to inquire about its status of County, but the approval has not been finalized yet.

**Lottery** - phone call from Office of Civil Rights - still have not gotten go ahead on proposed procedure for the upcoming Lottery for incoming new students.

AnnMarie Bowden gave a Tour yesterday to Think Tank (a Community Partnership)...one of men attending will be the principal at the Catholic HS... Comments made indicated that the group left with all expectations of RCS exceeded...this group is designed for helping all schools come together to pool resources...comments were made to indicate that these visitors will be back with others to share the RCS Experience.

BHS Seniors who are former RCS students are visiting tomorrow at 1:00 to “Walk” the halls as is a tradition of our Eighth graders on their final day on campus...former Riverview students who are BCHS Seniors will be coming next week for their “Walk”

Tuesday is Field Day and if necessary to make a change due to weather it will be made on Monday. There are guidelines that have been made for this kind of decision.

Moving Up Ceremony for our Eighth Graders is next Thursday, June 6.

May 31 is the last day of school for students for the 2018-2019 year. June 3 is the last day for teachers.

**Executive Session:** Mary Jordan Lempesis made the motion that the Board move to Executive Session. Julia Wittschen-Price seconded the motion which was passed by the group.

A motion was made by Mary Jordan Lempesis to accept the minutes from the April 25 meeting. The motion was seconded by Lamarr Cooler and was passed by the group.

June meeting discussion revealed that there were several conflicts with members concerning their attendance. It was proposed that it be changed from Thursday, the 20th to Tuesday, June 25 at 6:00.

Director’s Evaluation committee discussed finalization of their evaluation process with Joey Grice volunteering to be responsible for the written report. Other members volunteered to meet with him before its presentation at the June meeting

Mary Jordan Lempesis moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded and passed by the group.