

Board of Directors Meeting  
Riverview Charter School  
September 19, 2019 6:30 pm  
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, Chair; Aby Bandoh, Lamarr Cooler, Joey Grice, Nicole Johansen, Arthur O'Kelley, Julia Wittschen-Price

**Leadership Present:** Alison Thomas

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Lee.

**Public Session:** A motion was made by Aby Bandoh to approve the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded by Arthur O'Kelley and approved by the group. It was announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. There was no one present to offer public comments/questions to the Board.

**Finance Committee:** A handout was given by the Treasurer, Lamarr Cooler and a summary followed:

- \$751 thousand in the bank account
- in line with budget with a few variances
- anticipate being ahead in two months
- there are questions concerning the federal funding
- at present, showing short on revenue
- Beaufort County is still only paying school on an enrollment of 658 students
- Federal funding are the **IDEA** (are based on ADA) and will be dispersed on December 1
- Supplies entry are showing a variance which is due to a timing issue

**Director's Report:**

Beaufort County School District still paying RCS on "old" pupil head count. RCS will be about 5 students less than number on which budget was written. There will be an audit in Beaufort County School District in December so there could be a "washout" with the differences. Our director is monitoring this closely. The weights for each category will be adjusted after the audit and we may or may not even out due to that adjustment. That will continue to be reported in the fall after the 45 day count and the audit. Timing is more of the essence. Beaufort County is aware, but they continue to push off until after the 45 day head count. A question by Scott Lee was in reference to RCS' buffer. It was reported that RCS has an adequate buffer. The audited financials will not be available

until November. The State has asked about the buffer, but they have not at this time dictated that it be moved to a separate account, only that it is in place. An audit is submitted every year to the State. At some point there will be a conversation as to whether we want to move the buffer to a separate account or keep it in the Operations account. Lamarr Cooler asked if communication is directly to the State or through the District. The letter is sent through the districts that sponsor a charter. There has been no follow-up since March 2018. Nicole Johansen pointed out that it may be worth moving to an alternative account in order to gain interest on that sum that is reserved as a buffer. Alison Thomas responded that this has been so unpredictable that we have been “riding it out.” However, when the audit goes through and the monies are truly there, at that point that would be a time to talk about moving money around. By November/December we should have a better feel about where the monies will stay.

**Enrollment Update:** RCS is currently at 699 students. Missing one 5th grader, one open seat and the remainder are in 7th and 8th grade. Feedback received from the Specials’ and 7th and 8th grades is that there was a great and stable start with that cohort. One teacher has really commented on the calming effect of that decision on the Middle School as a whole. K-6 feedback has really been positive. RCS’ demographics is 53.3% white which is right where the Office of Civil Rights wants RCS to be. For next year, RCS will not be in a hole going into enrollment regulations.

**Handbook:** There were two additions to the Family Handbook.

1) There have been many requests for birthday invitations. Best Practices for every child is that they be backpacked home, and if not then, RCS will not. There was some push back from families about where that policy is in the Family Handbook. This has always been procedure, but not policy. In the Section “Material Distribution” a line has been added to make a policy if invitations are not for the entire class then they will not be distributed.

2) Fighting has been separated from “push, kick and spitting” in the behavior chart located at the back of the Handbook. There are a range of consequences, however they need to be separated.

a) threatening verbal and nonverbal have been combined

b) use of a weapon has been added to threatening, harassment, intimidating and bullying

c) ISS one of two days...change to one day of ISS. No effective.

Lamarr Cooler asked how a weapon is defined. The obvious, but also the things that are being used “as a weapon.”

A motion was made by Arthur O’Kelley to amend the Handbook to include the outlined changes. The motion was seconded by Joey Grice and was passed by the group.

**Charter Renewal:** There is no update. BCSD is dragging their heels on the document. It has not been forgotten and contact is made frequently with the District, however they have not given a clean copy. Next step is to have Wendy seek to be placed on the agenda for a BCSD Board meeting. Wendy and Beth continue to go back and forth in order to move forward. Beth feels that it is at this point being passed around and Wendy does not have enough expertise in Charter School law to stop the editing of the contract

from/by multiple people, therefore Beth continues to reference statute and follow the template that the state has published. The State Department does know that RCS is not the hold up. Alison will continue to update the Board and will alert the group if/when it is added to the BCSD Board agenda.

**Approval of August minutes:** Question as to whether A.K. Harper was in attendance was clarified noting that she was present. A motion to show the correction was made by Nicole Johansen and seconded by Julia Wittschen-Price.

**Executive Session:**

**Adjournment:** At 8:11 pm Arthur O'Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Joey Grice.

Reminder of next meeting on Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 pm.