

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Riverview Charter School
March 28, 2019, 6:00pm, Conference Room
81 Savannah Highway, Beaufort, 29906

Mission: 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, Aby Bandoh, Vince Brennan, Gayle Carroll, Lamarr Cooler, Kathryn Ferguson, Joey Grice, Mary Jordan Lempesis, Arthur O'Kelley, Julia Wittschen-Price

Leadership Present: Alison Thomas, AnnMarie Bowden, Donna Haram, A.K. Harper, Elizabeth O'Brien

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chair Scott Lee.

Public Session:

Approval of the Agenda: Lamarr Cooler moved to approve the agenda and Arthur O'Kelley seconded the motion which was passed by the group.

Statement of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act: In compliance

Public Comments to the Board: No one present to make comments.

Discussion and Action:

Finance Committee:

Monthly Financial Report (February) Lamar Cooler handed out copies of February format presented in detail and a summary. He reviewed net income for February and for the year to date. Revenue base funding was pointed out and he gave a review of what the accounting firm does with revenue information...Additional comments/explanations included: BTR has taken in \$87,000 year to date with a budget of \$45,000, but expectation is intake should exceed \$100,000; supplies were listed as unfavorable because of earlier explanation of supplies bought and later reimbursement by parents. Question about expenses for BTR...separate line for these expenses...BTR continues to pay vendors for expenses, but hopefully by April should have final amounts...sponsorship \$105,000 goes to RCS; entry fees should pay expenses with a final accounting to come by April.

Personnel, Facilities, Operations & Reserve percentages for FY-20 Budget
FY-20:

Unusual position because of so many variables and therefore more challenging than past years.

- Charter renewal process not complete so enrollment # not determined
- Beaufort County experiencing short fall in tax collection which will impact # per pupil
- 135 day of school was past Monday and State Department has not certified # of corrected pupils on days 45 - 135

Two proposals from Leadership to forecast revenue and expenses.

Copies of the two proposals were handed out based on the following:

1)684 pupils

2)710 pupils

Proposals also based on

- using \$7.5 million shortfall;
- using Pupils in Poverty lowest projected number

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The right approach: Taking more in and putting more aside?

Take in less so will need to spend more?

Conservative decisions are a concern because of not knowing and, therefore, several things can impact numbers/decisions -

- Shortfall may not happen
- Pupils in Poverty number may correct self

Hard to determine number to spend not knowing

Certification of 135 number closes State Department for 2019...can be corrected next year. A reserve would be great, but not yet certified...and how large should the reserve account have...

Percentages were based on hard research not estimates...

Arthur O'Kelley said that LT would know better than Board as to what RCS can afford and the confidence the Board has with Leadership was reinforced during this decision-making period.

The need for \$600 thousand in Reserve Fund is a definite; as revenue increases will need to have more placed in Reserve.

Alison Thomas said that the Board may need to meet again when some of the unknowns become known so that making decisions can be done before spring break.

The following may or may not be impacted:

New personnel hiring

Raises built in

Two teachers are not returning

Internal interviewing

Number of total student at 135 should be announced within next two weeks - providing best chance to know revenue fund for 2019

Next number to find out will be the Charter Renewal number - Leadership predicts 50/50 % chance it will be accepted

Expect to hear from OCR anyway so that can run lottery. OCR will accept lowest numbers and then pull if there are extra seats.

Last number to be reported to RCS will probably be the tax collection shortfall amount.

Needs are great for supplemental support and hiring of personnel. These are future investment opportunities in Riverview Charter School.

A motion by Lamarr Cooler was seconded by Mary Jordan Lempesis to approve the proposed Personnel Budget based on a 710 pupil projection for 2019-2020. The motion passed the group. There was no further discussion.

Executive Committee

Board Committee Assignments were announced and those who needed to indicate a preference made their choices in writing.

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Director's Report

- School Calendar 2019-2020 - worked on laboriously; attempt to “shorten” time between Winter Break and Spring Break - the new calendar has built in some four-day week-ends to address this issue.
- School Make-up days for 2018-2019 days have been made-up and/or days have been forgiven; Alison Thomas reviewed County and State policy and reasons for choosing the proposed make-up days for 2019; new calendars to be sent to parents this week.
- Update: Beaufort Twilight Run- great day; weather, participants; State record 10-Mile broken for men and women by entrants in RCS; hope to close books on BTR by April; please thank leaders and those in the “village” for their part; former band director Rod Williams had his BCHS group at BTRun...which included some former RCS students.
- Charter Renewal approved on March 5 and reflects an improved relationship with BC School Board.
- Alison was asked to present to group about referendum list and proposals for approval; there is a \$550 million Needs List...the \$5 million request by RCS for a gym “seemed” high for some on the committee...Dr. Berg suggested that our \$5 million request be cut in half. There is a parent and 2 grandparents “from RCS” on the Referendum committee created to give their approved list to Dr. Berg who promises to pass it on directly to BCS Board for approval at their work day in April; The BC School Board will make recommendation the end of April for approved list for upcoming referendum.
- Update: on Student Enrollment made.
- Report: Director's Succession Plan (Annual Review & Approval): 2013 and 2014 meeting attended by Alison Thomas led to a succession plan to be formulated and updated every March; Handed out update for March, 2019 including all updated log-ins and other information; Alison is seeking ratification by RCS Board; a motion to adopt updated version for 2019 was made by Kathryn Ferguson and seconded by Arthur O'Kelley. Motion was passed.
- Parent concern about if hot lunches are serving enough food or if there is enough time for students to eat; Leadership is addressing these issues; another issue expressed by some parents included that the dress code does not allow jersey wearing and some parents have had to drive over to the campus to bring approved shirt...
- BTR t-shirts ran out prior to end of the Run...solution for future included that sponsors commit earlier to what they need for shirts. This year's later registration date than usual may have led to the shortage.

Highlights on RCS and our students:

There is an Art display at USCB that includes work by RCS students ...nine 4th graders featured in River of Words book; AnnMarie Bowden, Aby Bandoh and Vince Brennan attended a meeting held by a coalition formed to explore opportunities for community members to get involved in meeting various educational needs...1st graders ' play was huge success...DC trip for 5th graders in 2 weeks; Barrier Island trip on Monday, April 1; RCS had a recent visitor on campus who spoke to athletes and to our 10 Junior Scholars (10 at RCS); RCS former student (Julia's daughter)...named Student Leader for high school trip to Costa Rica in 2020; Vince Brennan attended Morning Meeting in Mr. Bridge's class today;

Consent Agenda

Minutes for February 21 Board Meeting - Lamarr Cooler moved to approved the minutes and Julia Wittschen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Director might call a meeting before spring break if additional meeting needed to cover timely business prior to next meeting.

April 25 is next scheduled Board meeting.

Adjourn:

Mary Jordan Lempesis moved to adjourn our meeting and Aby Bandoh seconded the motion which then was passed by the group.