

# MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Riverview Charter School

August 8, 2019

81 Savannah Highway, Beaufort, S.C.

**Mission:** Riverview Charter School's mission is to create a small, diverse 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:** Chair Scott Lee, Vince Brennan, Gayle Carroll, Lamarr Cooler, Kathryn Ferguson, Nicole Johansen, Mary Jordan Lempesis, Arthur O'Kelley

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Scott Lee called the meeting to order at 6:08. The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mary Jordan Lempesis made the motion which was seconded by Lamarr Cooler and passed by the Board. It was stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

## Director's Report:

- Alison Thomas reported that Riverview is in "full swing" with Monday night "Meet the Teacher."
- Changes to the Family and Employee Handbook are few and consist mostly of edits. Areas of changes include:
  - Board of Directors - Committee work
  - Bus Transportation change about RCS no longer sharing a bus with AMES Academy
  - Athletic Eligibility...78 or higher in all four core content areas has been changed to cumulative of 80 in all four as recommended by Athletic Director who consulted with MS teachers and received their support before proposing change
  - Change in player dress for Game Day from wearing "Sunday best" since that is not a definite dress in today's culture and will instead buy and issue a shirt so that team members will wear that or their school uniform shirt instead of Sunday attire...Players cannot wear uniforms to school
- \*\*\*\*Question from the floor was asked... if 5th graders receive grades to which the answer was that they do not...
- Dress Codes...some major changes (some are applicable only to MS):
  - A. Outer wear clarity.
  - B. Hoodies will be sold to MS students and they will be allowed to wear
  - C. MS students will be allowed to wear any RCS t-shirts every day
  - D. Addition of smartwatches to rule that requires that cell phone/iPods brought to school must be checked in with HR teacher or office each day and kept out of sight...If violated, the First time will keep for week or parent can buy back for \$20.00; Second time will keep until June
  - E. Update what is applicable to Charter Renewal
  - F. any changes in Employment Agreement that were not found in Family and Employee Handbook

Chair Scott Lee asked if there are any questions/discussion...Vince Brennan asked about possible repercussions to cell phone policy. Alison Thomas says it varies depending on parents involved. This policy is not new and has been in Handbook for long time. Question was asked about the earliest grade that policy has been used. The answer was first grade.

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Motion was made by Mary Jordan Lempesis to approve the proposed changes to the 2019-2010 Family and Employee Handbook. Kathryn Ferguson seconded the motion and it was passed by the group.

- Director announced that there are 705 students enrolled in Riverview Charter School. There are openings on two levels. There are eight in 8th and there are seven in 7th grade. Due to the Charter Renewal terms the openings will not be filled. If a student leaves after January 1st that position will not be filled.
- Daily Bus Transportation: At this time there is **no Memorandum of Agreement** with County on number of buses. Leadership expects to need two in morning and four in the afternoon. Buses will not serve any other schools so RCS can determine time of their arrival.
- Charter Renewal: Tentative Plan is for it to be discussed at August 20th Board of Education meeting.
- Leadership will pursue with Office of Civil Rights about changing the RCS policy that we cannot charge for student bus usage.
- MAP data will be discussed at September meeting and Spring test data will be shared in October.

**Financial Report:** Lamarr Cooler passed out a summary/handout to the group and emphasized the following:

- June results included on the report with the explanation that an audit is underway and subject to change
- 806,000 in cash
- Deferred Revenue item....when will be recognized and move to Income Statement.
- June item out of line due to salaries and benefits being higher than NORMAL -possibly because of stipends that are paid.
- Other line items seem to be within Budget Expectations...
- Revenue for FY-2019 is based on 710 and RCS will only have 705. Beaufort County still owes money from last year (because of "calculated" enrollment number of 665) and will pay "back pay"

\*\*\*Director made a note to the Board that with our present enrollment RCS is at 53.3% white which is still within acceptable Office of Civil Rights expectations.

**Board moved to Executive Session.**

**Adjournment:** Board moved out of Executive Session. Motion made by Mary Jordan Lempesis to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Nicole Johansen and was passed by the group. Adjournment was at 7:20 p.m. The group was reminded of the next meeting on September 19.

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