

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Riverview Charter School  
February 21, 2019, 6:00 p.m. - 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, Lamar Cooler, Kathryn Ferguson, Joey Grice, Nicole Johansen, 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:** Meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chair Scott Lee.

**Public Session:**

Approval of Agenda-Move to approve agenda by Mary Jordan Lempesis; seconded by Arthur O'Kelley and approved by the group.

FOIA-Alison Thomas notified the media in advance and therefore, the Board is in compliance with FOIA.

Statement from Public-There was no one seeking to make a statement to the Board.

**Finance Committee:**

Financial Statement for January- Lamarr Cooler handed out a summary of the financial statement for January. The very good news includes that retroactive funding from Beaufort County has been received; \$41,000 from Twilight Funds; \$5000 expenses for Open House enrollment; supply line still negative, but set up under WordWare line...net income is \$467,000 positive...\$392 for year is positive;

Two profit centers reported included TideWatch and Lunch program. It was noted that involvement by Alison has turned around "losses" and this year net income through January is \$26,000 profit. Mr. Cooler asked for any questions about revenue. It was noted that timing and participation seem to be ahead of last year and sponsorships and collecting of funds earlier is helping school from having to take out of pocket. Chair Scott Lee extended a thank you to both Lamarr Cooler and Alison Thomas for their continued efforts on our budget work.

**Directors Report:**

Salary Structure Policy: RCS does not have a cap in place for teacher salaries. RCS includes a staff that has been at RCS for 10 years and many have advanced degrees. Alison reviewed various structures for salaries increases: some businesses and districts provide cost of living instead of merit raises; some give merit but no COLA; and some give COLA and an annual bonus. There are many models. There is an interest in providing limits in the future without causing a shortage of funds. The RCS legal representative thinks that RCS should plan ahead so that it does not become an issue in the next five years. It became an issue years back when there was a need to cut spending and for several years has become an issue.

It has now been brought to Board's attention for some feedback ...not action, but a proposal needed to take action. Arthur O'Kelley asked for a projection of normal trajectory in next five years as opposed to a policy that limits or later that can be increased; one that would tie in with

hiring, evaluation, medical retirement issues. It was noted that South Carolina is an “at will employment” State.

**Field Work Donation Policy-** Since 2012 any donation for field work experiences had to be disseminated among all students. This does not allow funds to sponsor a child unless the child is indicated specifically and school cannot choose the student in present policy. RCS has always done this because of established policy. This has kept local businesses and others from sponsoring one who has not been earmarked under the present policy. Question was raised as to if there is a will to change. Leadership is open to change or continue the present policy. If the consensus is to change, the change would be for August or after. Arthur O’Kelley asked for the thoughts of the administration on this policy. An issue continues to be that it is hard to make assumptions that students are not participating because of funding. It is thought that contributions not made by others in past because they did not know someone to specify. The question was raised if RCS could have students write one page seeking support and be eligible for funds from donors who do not earmark funds. Businesses seem to be the ones that offer a sponsorship. Field work scholarships available for other trips (not Capstone) ...earn some and receive some...Alison raised the question if this should apply to Capstone as well, but no specific opinion expressed by Leadership. Questions raised included the following: are Capstone trips more costly and, therefore eliminate a greater percentage of students attending...Alison said that possibly, but finance may not be the reason; WorldStride does give scholarships for the DC trip (they operate separately from RCS...) Donations for sponsoring student is for the money to go into an account to discount cost of trip for **qualifying students**...free/reduced lunch qualifies students for discount on regular field trips and they receive paperwork with F/R forms (some do not apply for this funding even if eligible). It was noted that sometimes field works expenses don’t offset cost of field trips in budget. Alison gave a prior example of a need by a family for the DC trip and how it was worked out and led to the policy being formulated. Mary Jordan Lempesis asked that this be brought back to the Board for discussion at a later meeting.

**Enrollment Report:** Enrollment Procedures for 2019-2020 Open Enrollment has concluded. “Trial lotteries” in all ten kindergarten outcomes “hit” the needed percentage every time. Office of Civil Rights will accept **outlier** outcome and this has only happened once in the past drawings. For the lottery the following applies:  
one card for applying in all grade levels  
one additional card for a particular zip codes.  
Three cards is max for some Kindergarten.  
One additional card for a particular listed areas.  
Only weighted grade levels that are needed this year are K, 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th grades.  
Mary Jordan Lempesis moved to accept the proposed procedure tested and the motion was seconded by Kathryn Ferguson. The motion passed and Leadership will send the proposal to BCSD who will send to OCR. The desire is to receive approval and run the lottery in April. The question about number of vacancies revealed that there are now 700 new applications for all grades of which 215 of the applications are for Kindergarten.

### **Report: Charter Renewal**

There has been communication between representatives from BCSD and RCS and on Tuesday, March 5 was on the agenda for BCSD Board. So far no changes have been requested and the expectation is that it will be proposed for approval as submitted. RCS will have until the end of April if changes are requested. Leadership will possibly take 8-10 minutes to showcase school which will include a video about RCS. The Board is encouraged to attend and be part of celebratory beginning of next decade. The meeting to be held in Bluffton library. On topic of Diversity in BCSD it was noted that RCS is in the middle of all county schools and a presentation by Dr. Berg in November included a video that had many positive slides showcasing RCS and our place as a #1 school.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes for January 24 and February 2 meetings- There was a proposal to approve minutes by Nicole Johansen and the motion was seconded by Mary Jordan Lempesis. The group approved the motion.

Proposal was made and passed to move the March meeting back one week because of date of BTR; and April meeting to 25th because of Spring Break.

Qualified Charitable Distributions sheet handed out by Vince Brennan as a follow-up to the group's discussion at Retreat. These will be addressed at 7:45 on Thursday, 28th for Grandparents Day. This event will include a "meet and greet;" Morning Meeting with children in the classroom; "Grandparents" back to cafeteria for presentation and Q&A and at that time a presentation by Vince Brennan about Qualified Charitable Distributions.

**Adjourn:** Mary Jordan Lempesis moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Nicole Johansen. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.