

MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Riverview Charter School
May 24, 2016 6:30pm
81 Savannah Highway, Beaufort, SC 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: Reece Bertholf, Lamarr Cooler, Denise Jones, Aileen Cangiano-Heath, Cathy Hoogenboom, Susanne Douglas, LaShonda Scott,

Members Absent: Jaime Dailey-Vergara, Jim White

Staff Present: AK

Call to Order by Mr. Bertholf at 7:07pm

Mr. Bertholf stated we are in compliance with the FIOA

No public comments

Mr. Cooler moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Troutman Second. Approved

Student Showcase – Middle School Band concert in the RCS Gym.

Director's Report

The last day of school is Friday, May 27. Teachers are packing up classroom supplies and moving everything into the gym for storage during the renovation of the existing facility. Administrative Staff will be telecommuting during the renovation during the months of June and July. For safety reasons, no staff can work in the building in the event demo presents asbestos.

Lottery Update – OCR gave a negative response to the request to the one card lottery and requested we provide more details on how to run a more diverse outcome. BCSD is 40.1% white in grades k-8, therefore under the RCS Desegregation Agreement with OCR, the school's White student enrollment must be within 15 percentage points of the BCSD's average. For the 2016/2017 the white enrollment should not exceed 55.2%. Mrs. Thomas presented a projected outcome with a weighted lottery with 2 cards for zip codes 29906 + an additional card for applicants with a single parent in K stating that 29906 provided the most applicant diverse pool. Various alternatives including additional cards for openings in 1st grade also did not produce a result within the limits. In some years RCS has weighted kindergarten applicants with more than 1 card with only 1 card in other grades. Mrs. Thomas thinks it is possible in future lottery's to achieve non-race related options based on a broader more diverse applicant pool. In prior years the OCR response has given approval of the lottery submission incorporating their comments and suggestions. Mr. Berthold asked Board members to provide their thoughts on OCR response. Mr. Troutman stated that we do not want to prolong the lottery. The zip code is a generic weight. Mrs. Scott did agree to use the zip code weighting. Mrs. Jones suggested zip code weighting but wanted to state how disappointed she is with OCR response, especially after her GFE in recruitment over the past year. Ms. Gayle, it is hard to base our decisions on trusting a system, when they don't trust us. Ms. Gayle agrees with the zip code weighting. Mrs. Hogeboom agrees with zip code but we need to decide on the % goal for the number white students. Mr. Cooler agrees with zip code weighting. Mrs. Douglas agrees with zip code weighting. Additionally (1.) RCS needs to push for Unitary Status for BCSD (2.)

When OCR comes back with their response, we need to have a Board meeting immediately and not wait until June 16 meeting OR motion that if OCR agrees with a new lottery plan we are immediately prepared launch the lottery. Per Mrs. Thomas, BCSD also operates under a Desegregation Agreement, and has considered Unitary Status. Board of Education needs to push for it for BCSD. Other School Districts have successfully petitioned to be released from desegregation agreements, and our attorney is familiar with the petition. Mr. Bertholf feels strongly that we represent the school, the parents and the students. The ongoing response from OCR indicates that we cannot exceed the number of white students by even 1 even though the 2016/2017 enrollment will be 608 students. Don't scrabble over 1 or 2 children. Mr. Bertholf is against setting an exact % to the new plan. OCR cannot revoke, BCSD can revoke the charter. We are representing the students and new applicants; OCR has delayed their response even though we have showed them the most diverse applicant pool to date. The underprivileged have an opportunity for a great education, and we are having the hold the lottery. Mr. Bertholf does not require a positive response from OCR to hold the lottery. Whale Branch did not have a positive response from OCR and here they are thriving. RCS would not be here if we didn't take a stand. RCS has a good reputation and we have the full support of the community and BCSD. OCR can without Federal Funding if BCSD does not comply with agreements. In the past, OCR approves the lottery procedure but the outcomes are still outside of parameters. Mrs. Scott, "what are the next steps to resolve the lottery issue?" (1.) Mr. Bertholf, we are within our rights to hold the lottery. (2.) We can ask BCSD to support to hold the lottery and (3.) RCS can ask OCR to give their approval to a weighted lottery. If a parent feels they are discriminated against by a weighted lottery and brings a law suit against RCS, the legal fees could negatively impact the school's cash reserves. Discussion to request a weighted lottery not provides a target. Last year we did not have a defense, this year we have doubled our efforts for a broader more diverse lottery. As responsible board members we agree it is irresponsible to hold the lottery so late in the summer. Mr. Drew was on the conference call with Alice, so BCSD is aware of the OCR response. Discussion ended with no motion on the floor.

Financial Report –

Mrs. Hogeboom stated we have a year to date deficit of \$40,000. We are ahead of budget and most of the larger variances are similar as last month. Mrs. Thomas has emailed Tonya Crosby at BCSD regarding the Base Student Funding paid in April and May as it appears there could be an over payment. It is possible the June payment may be reduced once BCSD reconciles the amount due to RCS for the year. The amounts reported under USDA revenue may be overstated. Two explanations could be that in December we got categorical state restricted funding, they may have combined it together and maybe miscoded. The accounting firm has been asked to reconcile the accounts.

Mrs. Thomas provided the first reading of the FY2016/201717 budge. The most significant concern is that the budget does not result in a positive contribution to the cash account. We are paying for the larger facility while still growing the student enrollment. This is another bridge year until we begin receiving all student funds. There will also be one-time expenditures of approximately \$173,000 for furniture and equipment required for the new facility. The budget also provides for additional staff and a provision for staff raises. Question was raised whether the school could use current cafeteria furniture and just wait until the following year for new furniture. The 2015/2016 budget provided a deficit however we expect to have approximately \$500,000 in cash at the end of the fiscal year. On revenue side we expect \$208K for Tidewatch for FY2015/201 and budget \$215,000 in the 2016/2017 budget. Mr. Cooler states we will have to make provisions for some capital items and we are going to dip into the cash reserve for some of the one-time expenditures. Mrs. Thomas asked how comfortable we are not contributing to a reserve account. Mr. Bertholf asked what are we giving up? Mrs. Thomas indicates there is not a lot of cushion in the budget as the largest % is personnel salaries and benefits plus the lease costs. The only motion is to increase personnel costs in the amount of \$300K from amounts previously approved. We can approve other line items on June 16th and that's the second reading. We can always come back on other options. Mr. Cooler mad a motion to approve

the personnel expense from \$ 4.2 million to 4.5 million in the FY2016/2017 budget. Mr. Troutman second. Approved.

Other Committee Reports –

Outreach – Galluah Festival is this weekend. If anyone has not been involved they should attend. Working with Outreach staff, similar to what we did last year. Mr. Bertholf said it's important to keep the effort up.

Fund Development – Brick fundraiser is underway. Mr. Cooler recommended pricing of \$100 for the 4"x8" brick, \$200 for 8"x8" brick and \$300 for 8"x8" brick with corporate logos. Mr. Cooler plans to solicit 70 families by the end of the year. Mr. Cooler is now Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Bertholf made motion to accept suggestions. Mrs. Douglas second. Approved. Mr. Bertholf is now Chairman.

People and Programs – Mr. Bertholf thanked Aileen for serving on the board. Mr. Michael Ricks has offered to come back to the board. Committee to review his credentials. Aileen provided Barbara Morales. The committee presented the Director Survey results. The results report a positive outcome. Mr. Bertholf recommended the Director Evaluation be completed immediately to meet the deadline.

Facility Report – Mrs. Thomas spoken with Sam (architect) and Anthony. Fraser continues to indicate completion of the new middle school facility by August 1. There are construction update meeting on June 1 and June 15 after which time we will determine if we need to make another decision. Staff is aware that if there is delay in construction, we may have to push school back to starting school after Labor Day. Fraser is aware that if they have to push the date, the new date will be the new date to prepare for school. We will know by June 15. If the new building is done by August 1, then all kids can occupy the new building until the renovation of the existing facility is complete. The renovation construction documents were released with a final price, for \$7M by June 3. They are opposite that they can meet our price. Mr. Cooler asked when do we have to order our furniture, because you will need approval to furniture. Mr. Cooler motioned to approve purchase of new classroom furniture up to \$45K. Mrs. Scott Second. Approved.

Executive Session – Mrs. Scott move to go into Exec. Mr. Cooler second. Approved.

Mr. Bertholf moved us out of executive.

Mr. Bertholf asked if there any motions on the floor? Mr. Cooler is now Chairman. Mr. Bertholf moved that the response to OCR's telephone request for a weighted lottery be that staff develop a weighted lottery that beats the minimum requirement+15% of the BCSD 45 day count. Motion died. Mrs. Thomas read the desegregation agreement. RCS white and AA required be within 15%. RCS has made good faith efforts for community outreach and communication with OCR. Mrs. Hoogenboom suggested our attorney draft a letter to OCR stating we are not in a position to hold a weighted lottery based on our GFE signed by and include a lottery date in one month in the letter, response from OCR in two weeks. If we do not hear from OCR, we should proceed with a non-weighted lottery. Mrs. Douglas Second. Approved.

Mr. Cooler moved to approved to pay the legal fees in the amount of \$2,250 for the student deemed eligible for SPED services. Mrs. Scott second. Approved.

Mr. White moved to approve minutes from 4/21/16 meeting. Mr. Troutman second. Approved.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 6pm @

Mrs. Scott Moved to adjourn at 10:37pm. Mrs. Jones Second. Approved