

# Red River Valley Charter School Governance Council Minutes

## Governance Council Regular Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2020 - 5:30 pm

Location: Held via Zoom Virtual Meeting

*Mission Statement: To provide every student the opportunity to develop academically, socially and physically through quality learning experiences utilizing the Core Knowledge Curriculum*

### 1 – Call to Order

- a) Meet and Greet - Visitors –Zach Kirchgessner, Kimberly Ritterhouse, Kinsey Webb, Melissa Smith
- b) Roll Call – Courtney Henderson – Present, Heather Larson – Present, Joe Ben Mandonado – Present, late arrival, Reed Weimer – Absent, Liz Tate – Present. Regular Meeting, a quorum was present.
- c) Pledge of Allegiance
- d) Approval of Agenda\* – Liz Tate made a motion to approve the agenda for Governance Council Meeting October 26, 2020. Heather Larson seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –not present. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- e) Approve, Amend or Disapprove of previous meeting minutes\*
  1. Regular Meeting September 21, 2020
  2. Special Meeting September 28, 2020Heather Larson made a motion to approve minutes from Regular Meeting September 21, 2020 and Special Meeting September 28, 2020. Liz Tate seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado – not present. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.

### 2 – Public Comment – None

### 3 – Presentation & Reports

- a) Kimberly Ritterhouse, Administrative Report – RRVCS’ current SEG is 71 students and enrollment is 81 students, with potential of 2 additional students to be enrolled. Annual charter visit went well and RRVCS received good feedback. A few policies were requested to be updated, which the policy committee will meet to address. RRVCS continues with virtual learning, but there is a concern among the staff and administration about sustainability due to the number of extra hours demanded of teachers for online teaching. Problems with attendance continue but appears to be problematic statewide. QISD is moving forward with the donation of the portable buildings and classrooms and library will need to be moved prior to the donation. Due to the late decision by QISD, RRVCS won’t be able to break ground until spring of 2021. Building committee will meet with contractor to work on plans.

### 4 – Discussion & Potential Action Items

- a) Monthly Financial Statement\* - Zach Kirchgessner presented the financial report and reviewed all the functions, PO’s and Bank Statements. There will be a decrease in funding to the

operational budget due to a lower SEG than the initial estimate, but RRVCS hasn't yet received a total dollar amount. The board continues to monitor funds allocated for new construction, while accounting for potential budget decreases. Liz Tate made a motion to approve the Financial Statement as presented by Zach Kirchgessner. Heather Larson seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.

- b) Budget Adjustment Requests\* - Zach Kirchgessner presented BARs 14-I. Heather Larson made a motion to approve BARs 14-I. Liz Tate seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- c) Discussion & Vote Salary Schedule\* - Liz Tate made a motion to approve the Salary Schedule, reflecting a one percent salary increase. Heather Larson seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- d) Discussion and Vote OMA Resolution\* - Heather Larson made a motion to approve the OMA Resolution for SY21. Liz Tate seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- e) Discussion and Appointment of Council Members\* – Liz Tate made a motion to reinstate all Governance Council appointments, with Courtney Henderson as President, Joe Ben Mandonado as Vice President, Heather Larson as Treasurer and Liz Tate as Secretary. Heather Larson seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- f) Discussion and Vote Background Check Policy\* - Board reviewed the Background Check Policy. Liz Tate made a motion to approve the Background Check Policy. Joe Ben Mandonado seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- g) Discussion and Vote on Heater Protocol\* - Board reviewed the Heater Protocol as required by the state for reopening due to Covid-19. A local general contractor with HVAC certification has been contacted to do an inspection by the end of the month in order to see if the heaters meet standards. Joe Ben Mandonado made a motion to approve the Heater Protocol. Liz Tate seconded. Roll call vote: Courtney Henderson- Yes. Joe Ben Mandonado –Yes. Liz Tate – Yes. Heather Larson – Yes. Vote in favor was unanimous, motion passed.
- h) Discussion of 5:1 vs. Hybrid Re-Entry Models – Board Chair invited Kimberly Ritterhouse, Kinsey Webb and Melissa Smith to present their input to the board regarding re-entry models. Most of staff does not want to be subjected to state mandated covid testing, especially when symptoms are not present, and expressed concerns for staff that is high risk due to underlying health conditions for themselves or family members. Board requested input on what is sustainable for teachers in continuing with virtual teaching or moving to hybrid or 5:1, which demands both virtual and in-person teaching. Board presented questions in regard to what is equitable for students, especially high-risk students who choose to continue with virtual learning. After discussion and staff input, the board recommended remaining in a virtual learning setting due to the rising covid-19 cases in Taos County and to keep a consistent education system of virtual learning for students until RRVCS board and staff feel moving to in person learning is more advantageous and equitable than virtual learning. In preparation for in-

person learning, RRVCS will continue to move forward in meeting state requirements to reopen.

5 – Other – Liz Tate presented Governance Council Training Opportunities to board members in order to complete their 8 hours of continuing board training requirement.

6 – Closing Business

- a) Announcements – None
- b) Next Regular Meeting – November 16, 2020, 5:30 pm. Location TBD.
- c) Adjournment – Courtney Henderson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Liz Tate, Secretary.