

# RIVER SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to Shelter in Place Orders, this was a virtual meeting

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2020

12:00 p.m.

*Our mission is to empower students by fostering their innate curiosity, engaging their parents, and promoting optimum learning by collaboratively developing a personalized learning program for each student.*

### Present:

Reginald Wadlington, Board Chair Rachel Couch, Vice Chair Jamie Thompson, Secretary Steffany Johnson, Treasurer Carl Burke, Board Director Chuck Vela, Board Director (left at 1:11 p.m.) Louis Fetherolf, Board Director	Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent of Operations Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent of Business Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education Doug House, Interim Asst. Superintendent, Personnel Debbie Daniel, Assistant Superintendent of Program Improvement Natali South, Director of Executive Support Linda Rhoads-Parks, Legal Counsel
---	--

- 1. Action: Call to Order**
  - Mr. Vela called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Oath of Office:**
  - Natali South led River Springs' newest Board member, Louis Fetherolf, in the Oath of Office.
- 3. Action: Approval of Agenda**
  - Mr. Burke moved to approve the agenda.
  - Ms. Couch seconded.
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted
- 4. Action: Election of Officers and Appointment of Subcommittees**
  - Mr. Vela moved to elect Reginald Wadlington as Board Chair.
  - Ms. Couch seconded.

- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted
  
- Mr. Fetherolf moved to elect Rachel Couch as Vice Chair.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted
  
- Mr. Vela moved to elect Jamie Thompson as Board Secretary.
- Mr. Burke seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted
  
- Mr. Burke moved to elect Steffany Johnson as Board Treasurer.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted
  
- Mr. Vela moved to appoint Rachel Couch, Louis Fetherolf and Reginald Wadlington to the Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted
  
- Mr. Fetherolf moved to appoint Carl Burke and Jamie Thompson as River Springs' representatives on the Succession Plan Subcommittee.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**5. Action: Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2020.**

- Mr. Burke moved to approve the Minutes from August. 28, 2020.
- Mr. Vela seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 1 Abstention: Fetherolf; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**6. Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**

- Mr. Burke moved to remove the Personnel Action Report for separate consideration and to approve the remaining Consent Agenda consisting of Warrants, Certification of Signatures, Contract Ratifications: Jim Graves, Honorlock, Apostolic Church Lease Amendment Indio, Intercity Security Systems, Harbor Building Maintenance Corona, Harbor Building Maintenance Murrieta, Harbor Building Maintenance Plaza, Smart Network Data Drop Indio, Smart Network Surveillance Indio, Sonwest RVA, Stand Guard RVA, Wall Craft Plaza.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**7. Action: Approval of Personnel Action Report**

- Mr. Burke moved to approve the Personnel Action Report.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: Mr. Burke asked if the number of terminated employees was higher than typical for this same time of year in previous years. Staff explained that the number was relatively similar, but that many of the terminations on this report were substitute teachers who found other employment or for other reasons did not wish to remain in our sub pool.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

**9. Information: Superintendent's Report**

- Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed the Superintendent's Report. She provided updates and information about our Distance Learning efforts as well as other measures being taken to ensure student engagement.

**10. Information: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revised Board Policy 8006.1 – Certification**

- Doug House reviewed the updates to the policy which includes language to meet requirements regarding the certification of our teachers. No amendments were requested, and the policy will be brought for second reading and approval at a future meeting.

**11. Information: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Covid-19 Board Policies**

- Debbie Daniel reviewed revisions to policy 3010.2: Visitors and Guests, which now includes language about disease-related protocols for attending one of our campuses or sites. Additionally, Debbie introduced 3012.1: Covid-19, and 8008.1: Covid-19 Staff policies. All policies were presented for First Reading.

Staff indicated that the word “current” will be removed from Covid-19 language in order to allow the policies to be utilized long-term. Additionally, a statement will be added to authorize staff to implement or discontinue Covid-19 related policy usage as needed without additional Board action. With these amendments, all three policies will be brought to a future meeting for Second Reading and Approval.

**12. Action: Approval of Superintendent’s Goals 2020-21**

- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Superintendent’s Goals for 2020-21.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed her goals for the year and explained that this year’s goals are significantly different than her typical goals due to Distance Learning and changes in standardized testing. This year’s goals are largely focused on student engagement in a virtual setting.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**13. Action: Approval of Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan**

- Mr. Vela moved to approve the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan.
- Mr. Fetherolf seconded.
- Discussion: Amy Podratz indicated that a Public Hearing was held at a previous meeting, followed by a survey and window of opportunity for stakeholder feedback. The input was factored into the final plan which will be submitted to the county.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**14. Action: Approval of EPA Actuals**

- Mr. Burke moved to approve the EPA Actuals.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that changes in state funding calculations account for a revision to the estimates that were provided in June. The current number of River Springs teachers’ salaries that are covered by EPA is 103.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**15. Action: Approval of Unaudited Actuals**

- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Unaudited Actuals.
- Ms. Couch seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the report and explained that while adjustments were made in both positive (revenue) and negative (expenditure) directions, the net outcome leaves River Springs in a positive

budget position. The external auditors will be conducting their review in a few weeks.

- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**16. Action: Approval of Special Education Contracts**

- Mr. Burke moved to approve the Special Education Contracts.
- Mr. Fetherolf seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that some adjustments have been made since the contracts were originally presented in June. The revised amounts reflect the current projections.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**17. Action: Approval of Key Charter Advisors Contract**

- Ms. Couch moved to approve the Key Charter Advisors contract.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that this is the annual contract renewal for Karl Yoder's CFO services.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**18. Approval of Preferred Meals Contract**

- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the contract with Preferred Meals.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that this vendor provides our student meals. The cost is offset by federal reimbursement.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Vela, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 0 Absent. Motion Adopted

**19. Approval of IT Consulting Contracts**

- Mr. Fetherolf moved to approve the IT Consulting Contracts.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that due to the resignation of TJ Krause who provided high-level IT services, we will subcontract with him and Phil Hermsmeyer until a replacement is hired.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela. Motion Adopted

**20. Action: Approval of Employee Handbook Update**

- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the updated Employee Handbook.
- Ms. Couch seconded.
- Discussion: Doug House reviewed the changes made to the Handbook which were related to Covid-19 requirements.

- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela. Motion Adopted

**21. Action: Approval of Revised Salary Schedule**

- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the revised Salary Schedule.
- Mr. Burke seconded.
- Discussion: Doug House explained that a change has been made to the Education Specialists' salary schedule. Rather than paying ESEs on a per-student basis, they will be placed on standard salary schedule. This change provides a benefit to the teachers, allowing more of their income to count toward STRS retirement, and will also simplify payroll calculations for staff.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela. Motion Adopted

**22. Action: Approval of ST Math Contract**

- Mr. Burke moved to approve the ST Math contract.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: Vivian Price indicated that this is the annual renewal of our ST Math program.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela. Motion Adopted

**23. Action: Approval of Stand Guard Contract**

- Mr. Burke moved to approve the contract with Stand Guard.
- Ms. Couch seconded.
- Discussion: Leilani Weiss reviewed the security services that are provided by Stand Guard at our Renaissance Valley Academy.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela. Motion Adopted

**24. BOARD COMMENTS**

- Steffany Johnson: Welcome, Louis to River Springs. I look forward to getting to know you. I miss having our meetings in person.
- Jamie Thompson: Welcome, Louis, and congrats, Reggie. I want to thank Springs for having Chatter Camp this summer. My son benefitted greatly from it; it was good for his mental health to connect with other kids.
- Rachel Couch: It's such an honor to be on the Board with you all. Reggie is a natural, and I'm so glad to work with Louis again. I am looking forward to finding ways to advocate for charter schools during this unique time.
- Louis Fetherolf: It's a pleasure and privilege to be a part of River Springs' Board. It's been a year since I was involved in this way. Although I am retired from my profession, I've been busy. I've recently written my autobiography which includes music.
- Carl Burke: Wishing good health to everyone. Welcome aboard, Louis.

- Reginald Wadlington: I'm glad to be Chair this year, and I have big shoes to fill after Chuck. Is there a way to have a virtual Advocacy Day?
  - Staff indicated that they would inquire with CCSA.

**25. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

- Ms. Couch moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 p.m.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Noes; 1 Absent: Vela. Motion Adopted

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Thompson, Secretary

10.15.2020  
Date