

**RIVER SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**May 13, 2021**

**12:00 p.m.**

*Due to CA safer at home order, meeting was held electronically.*

*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, Board Treasurer Carl Burke, Board Director Louis Fetherolf, Board Director Chuck Vela, Board Director (left at 2:57 p.m.)	Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent Amy Podratz, Asst. Superintendent, Admin Operations Tanya Rogers, Asst. Superintendent of Business Vivian Price, Asst. Superintendent, Education Doug House, Asst. Superintendent, Personnel Debbie Daniel, Asst. Superintendent, Program Improvement Natali South, Director of Executive Support Linda Rhoads-Parks, Legal Counsel
---	--

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
  - Ms. Couch called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  
- 2. Action: Approval of Agenda**
  - Mr. Vela moved to approve the agenda.
  - Ms. Johnson seconded.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
- 3. Action: Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2021 Meeting**
  - Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting.
  - Mr. Vela seconded.
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Consent Agenda**
  - Mr. Fetherolf moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Warrants, Personnel Action Report, and Contract Ratifications: IT Recycling, Donation/Disposal of Materials, Contract Ratifications: Arredondo Alcantara Traffic Ave 46, Arredondo Alcantara Traffic FAPA, JJJ Perris, Miller's Fab and Weld FAPA, OPS, PD Play Ave 46, PD Play Chicago, Pear Deck, RBI Landscaping FAPA, Rosetta Stone, Smart Network Chicago, Sonwest Temecula, Southland Paving FAPA, Stewart Electric FAPA, Stewart Electric Perris, Verdin Concrete FAPA
  - Ms. Johnson seconded.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
5. **Information: PUBLIC COMMENTS**
  - None
  
6. **Information: Superintendent's Report**
  - Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed this month's report and provided updates regarding current legislation affecting charter schools. In addition, Dr. Price reviewed our upcoming HELLO program.
  
7. **Information: Public Comment - Local Control Accountability Plan**
  - Public Comment regarding our Local Control Accountability Plan was offered at 12:52 p.m. Katherine VanLeeuwen provided information regarding our LCAP. Board members asked clarifying questions and commended staff on the hearty survey and positive results. No one from the public made comments during the Public Comment window.
  
8. **Information: Covid-19 Updates and Guidelines**
  - Jared McLeod reviewed our procedures related to Covid-19 as they currently exist for gathering together in our schools and buildings.
  
9. **Information: Guidance Department Update**
  - Kristin Turner provided an update regarding the Guidance Department and things they've been implementing this year. A report with charter-specific data was shared with the Board.
  
10. **Information: First Reading of 5006.2 - Independent Study for Seat Based Program**
  - Amy Podratz explained that as a non-classroom based charter school, River Springs does not submit daily attendance for funding. However, due to recent legislative changes, it would be beneficial to switch some of our programs to being seat based. Seat based sites are eligible for additional funding streams. This policy was brought forward for First Reading at this meeting. No changes

were requested, so the policy will be brought back as written for Second Reading and Approval at the next meeting.

**12. Information: First Reading of Revised Board Policy 8006.1**

- Doug House provided an explanation regarding the updates to the Certification policy. No changes or updates were requested, and the policy will be brought back at the next meeting for Second Reading and Approval.

**13. Action: Approval of Financial Update**

- Mr. Vela moved to approve the Financial Update.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers reviewed the financial update report and explained that two budget plans were developed for the upcoming school year. One includes budget projections based on expected revenue including one-time funding and being paid for growth, while the other budget scenario is based on 2020 funding in the event that our funding is restricted. Tanya will bring back a more solid plan at the next meeting which will be developed after the Governor's May Revised Budget is released.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**14. Action: Approval of ESSER Funds II/III Compensation Plan**

- Mr. Fetherolf moved to approve the ESSER Funds II/III Compensation Plan.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: Dr. Hermsmeyer explained that ESSER II/III funds are Federal dollars that our school qualifies for. One acceptable use of the funds is employee compensation, and this plan would allow a 3% one-time bonus for our staff.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**15. Action: Approval of Payroll Protection Plan and Corporate Resolution**

- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Payroll Protection Plan and Corporate Resolution.
- Mr. Fetherolf seconded.
- Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that River Springs qualifies for \$9.8 million in PPP funds. Until recent revisions to the PPP program, River Springs employed too many people to qualify. The PPP is a 1% loan, but with certain reporting requirements, the full loan is forgiven through a grant.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

- 16. Action: Approval of Extended Learning Opportunities Expenditure Plan**
- Mr. Burke moved to approve the Extended Learning Opportunities Expenditure Plan.
  - Mr. Vela seconded.
  - Discussion: Dr. Price reviewed the plan for utilizing Extended Learning Opportunities funds in keeping with the requirements established by the ELO program.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 17. Action: Approval of Corporate Resolution in Opposition to AB 1316**
- Mr. Fetherolf moved to approve the Corporate Resolution in Opposition to AB 1316.
  - Ms. Thompson seconded.
  - Discussion: Dr. Hermsmeyer reviewed AB 1316 which is a piece of harmful legislation designed to reduce funding for Independent Study charter schools, among other negative effects. The Board was asked to adopt a resolution in opposition of the Bill, which will be forwarded to legislators.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 18. Action: Approval of SB 740 Grant**
- Mr. Burke moved to approve the SB 740 Grant.
  - Ms. Johnson seconded.
  - Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that certain River Springs sites qualify for this grant based on being seat-based programs.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 19. Action: Approval of Consolidated Application (Con-App)**
- Mr. Burke moved to approve the Consolidated Application.
  - Mr. Vela seconded.
  - Discussion: Tanya Rogers indicated that this application allows the school to submit for various Federal Funding opportunities.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

- 20. Action: Approval of MOU with River Springs for Food Service**
- Mr. Burke moved to approve the MOU with River Springs for Food Services.
  - Ms. Johnson seconded.
  - Discussion: River Springs provides food service to Citrus Springs, and the MOU outlines the reimbursement of direct costs.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 21. Action: Approval of Authorized Pacific West Bank Signers**
- Mr. Fetherolf moved to approve the Authorized Pacific West Bank Signers.
  - Mr. Burke seconded.
  - Discussion: Tanya Rogers explained that a staffing change has resulted in the need to update authorized signers.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 22. Action: Approval of Girard Lease Amendment - Hemet Learning Center**
- Mr. Vela moved to approve the Girard Lease Amendment for our Hemet Learning Center.
  - Mr. Burke seconded.
  - Discussion: Dave Black explained that the lease for this property is up for renewal.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 23. Action: Approval of Ave 46 Lease Amendment**
- Mr. Fetherolf moved to approve the Ave 46 Lease Amendment.
  - Ms. Thompson seconded.
  - Discussion: This amendment extends the duration of the lease.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
- 24. Action: Approval of Stand Guard Security at Renaissance Valley Academy**
- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Stand Guard Security at Renaissance Valley Academy.
  - Ms. Thompson seconded.
  - Discussion: Dave Black explained that security remains a considerable issue at RVA, and therefore having security is essential for this location.
  - Vote: 7 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Vela, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

**25. Board Comments**

- Mr. Wadlington: I've been in poor health recently, but I've been improving due to a recent change in medication. I serve as a Chaplain for Murrieta, and recently was called in due to a tragic suicide of a 12 year old. We are seeing a significant increase in trauma related incidents.
- Mr. Fetherolf: As a fellow public servant, I appreciate this information. I am my brother's keeper, as we all are.
- Ms. Couch: I am glad to be part of a Board that is mindful that people are struggling, and looking for healthy ways to respond to trauma.
- Mr. Burke: I'd like to thank staff for all the hard work. I extend my condolences to the families who have experienced loss. Personally speaking, another of my children was recently married. I'm proud to say I am now the father of two teachers.
- Ms. Thompson: I'd like to thank Springs. My sons are so excited to attend campus on the two days that the campus is open, which speaks volumes about the quality of the programs we offer.

**26. Closed Session - in Accordance with Gov Code Section 54957.1/54957.9 - entered into at 2:39 p.m.**

- Conference Regarding Settlement Agreement with Public Employee #305593
- Conference Regarding Pending Litigation: Employee #294378

**27. Open Session: Report of Action Taken in Closed Session - Entered into at 3:07**

- Conference Regarding Settlement Agreement with Public Employee #305593
  - The Board approved the ratification of the Settlement Agreement.
- Conference Regarding Pending Litigation: Employee #294378
  - The Board authorized Tanya to settle on their behalf and provided a Not-to-Exceed limit for this settlement.

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

- Mr. Burke moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Burke, Couch, Fetherolf, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington;  
1 Absent: Vela; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

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

06/10/2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date