

# RIVER SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

## SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2021

**2:00 p.m.**

**43174 Business Park Dr, Temecula, CA 92590**

*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 Steffany Johnson, Board Treasurer Jamie Thompson, Secretary Louis Fetherolf, Board Director Stevie Heiliger, Board Director Jenny Adamo, Board Director	Kathleen Hermsmeyer, Superintendent 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**
  - Natali South called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and Mr. Fetherolf led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Oath of Office for New Board Members: Stephanie Heiliger and Jennifer Adamo**
  - Natali South led new Board members, Stephanie Heiliger and Jennifer Adamo, in the Oath of Office. Both members were appointed for a three-year renewable term. Their first term ends 6/30/24.
- 3. Action: Approval of Agenda**
  - Mr. Wadlington moved to approve the agenda.
  - Mr. Fetherolf seconded.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Adamo, Couch, Fetherolf, Heiliger, Johnson, Wadlington;  
1 Absent: Thompson; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

4. **Action: Approval of Approval of Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators**
  - Ms. Couch moved to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators.
  - Ms. Johnson seconded.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Adamo, Couch, Fetherolf, Heiliger, Johnson, Wadlington; 1 Absent: Thompson; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
5. **ACTION: Approval of Local Assignment Options EC §44258.7(c)(d) and EC §44263**
  - Mr. Wadlington moved to approve the Local Assignment Options EC §44258.7(c)(d) and EC §44263.
  - Mr. Fetherolf seconded.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Adamo, Couch, Fetherolf, Heiliger, Johnson, Wadlington; 1 Absent: Thompson; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
6. **ACTION: Approval of Canvas Contract**
  - Mr. Wadlington moved to approve the Canvas Contract.
  - Ms. Johnson seconded.
  - Vote: 6 Ayes: Adamo, Couch, Fetherolf, Heiliger, Johnson, Wadlington; 1 Absent: Thompson; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted
  
7. **Information: Annual Board Training**
  - Linda Rhoads-Parks provided annual training on the subjects of The Ralph M. Brown Act, Conflict of Interest, GC1090 and other mandated training.
  
8. **Information: New Program Information**
  - Dr. Vivian Price reviewed information related to new educational programs offered at Springs this year, including the Virtual Academy, H.E.L.L.O., and Montessori Village. In addition, Dr. Price provided the Board with an update regarding programs that we offered to students and teachers over the summer months.
  
9. **Information: Springs Charter School COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Plan and School Reopening Plans**
  - Debbie Daniel reviewed the requirements related to opening school under current guidelines as developed by the California Department of Education as well as the County Department of Public Health. At the present time, masks must be worn by all individuals while on school campuses, while students are present, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, Sarah Kollman with Young, Minney & Corr addressed the legal requirements and answered questions.

**10. Public Comments**

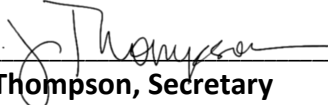
- The public comment portion of this meeting was extended to 1 hour total in an effort to hear from as many individuals as possible wishing to address the Board on the issue of masks or any other item. Ultimately eight individuals spoke.

**11. Board Comments**

- Ms. Couch: This meeting has been educational to say the least. I want to exemplify that we are here to represent the parents, and I am wondering if Sarah can speak to what the harm or risk is to the school to put to vote a resolution regarding masks.
  - Sarah Kollman with Young, Minney and Corr indicated that having the Board vote on not complying with a state-ordered mandate put the school at significant risk and liability, including potential closure.
- Louis Fetherolf: I have a singular opinion as related to the law, having spent my the majority of my life in law enforcement. I believe in using the electoral process that we have in order to change the law, rather than to vote as a body to oppose the law. We may not all be on the same page, but that's what makes America a great country. I want to thank our staff for handling this issue admirably. I'd like to welcome Jenny and Stevie to the Board.
- Mr. Wadlington: Welcome to our new Board members. Thank you to our administrative staff. This is a tough issue, for sure, but could become an existential threat if not handled properly. We cannot allow our personal proclivities to risk the existence of our school. It's our job to be the eagle's eye view, and to look long term. If we violate the law, we have violated our duty to our students. We have to support the school.
- Ms. Adamo: This is my first meeting. Thank you for the warm welcome. I want to thank all of the presenters. I cannot imagine what Debbie has been going through dealing with all of this, and it was very helpful to hear from the attorneys as well. I really enjoyed hearing Dr. Price's presentation on the new programs.
- Ms. Johnson: I am happy to be here today in person. Welcome to our new Board members. I am choosing to take the viewpoint of optimism and am thankful that we're able to return to school. Thank you, Springs leaders for all you do!
- Ms. Heiliger: This is my first meeting with Springs, but our fifth year as a family. Thank you to the staff who has worked so hard to take care of our kids throughout this situation.
- Ms. Thompson: I too, want to thank our staff for all of their efforts. I think all of this emotional charge has created an interpretation of "letter of the law" vs. "spirit of the law", and I am thankful for the clarity offered by the attorney. While my heart aches for the conflict that this is causing, I agree with Reggie that we cannot lose focus of what the goal is, which is to keep this school open.

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

- Ms. Couch moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m.
- Ms. Adamo seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Couch, Fetherolf, Heiliger, Johnson, Thompson, Wadlington; 0 Absent; 0 Noes; Motion Adopted

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

08/18/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**