

RIVER SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

27740 JEFFERSON AVE • TEMECULA, CA 92590

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2026

11:30 a.m. Closed Session

1:00 p.m. Open Session

27740 Jefferson Ave. Temecula, CA 92595

79-110 Ocotillo Dr. La Quinta, CA 92253

All RSCS Locations

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:

Jenny Adamo, Chair
Dr. Annica Meza Dawe, Vice Chair
Steffany Johnson, Treasurer
Stevie Heiliger, Secretary
Esteban Natal, Director
Dr. Givona Sandiford, Director
Jamie Thompson, Director

Dr. Vivian Price, Asst. Supt. of Education
Dr. Virginia Smith, Asst. Supt. of HR
Amy Podratz, Asst. Supt. of Admin. Operations
Michelle Sheane, Asst. Supt. Student Services
Natali South, Senior Director of Charter Relations
Trevor Johnson, Senior Director of Business
Aaron Lorenz, Senior Director of IT
Courtney Cook, Senior Director of Special Education
Ruth Newsome, Senior Director of HR
Tony Santistevan, Director of Facilities
Laura Banda, Director of Assessment & Accountability
Jon Webster, Legal Counsel
Renee Albright, Charter Relations Coordinator

- 1. Establish a Quorum and Call to Order**
 - Natali South called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.
- 2. Closed Session: GOV Code 54954.5/54956.9/54956.8, Entered into at: 11: a.m.**
 - Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 5865 •
 - Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 0815 •
 - Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 1545

- Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 5373
- Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 8166
- 54956.8: Conference with Real Property Negotiator VB-17157

3. Open Session - Report of Action Taken in Closed Session, Entered into at: 1:02 p.m.

- Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation GOV Code 54956.9
Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 5865
 - The Board approved the settlement agreement Student ID: 5865.
- Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation GOV Code 54956.9
Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 0815
 - The Board approved the settlement agreement Student ID: 0815.
- Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation GOV Code 54956.9
Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 1545
 - The Board approved the settlement agreement Student ID: 1545.
- Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation GOV Code 54956.9
Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 5373
 - The Board approved the settlement agreement Student ID: 5373.
- Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation GOV Code 54956.9
Approval of Special Education Settlement - Student ID: 8166
 - The Board approved the settlement agreement Student ID: 8166.
- Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54956.8) - VB17157
 - No action to report.

4. Approval of the Agenda

- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Agenda.
- Ms. Johnson seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

5. Action: Approval of Minutes - August 4, 2026

- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the Minutes from August 4, 2026.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.

- Vote: 6 Ayes: Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 1 Abstain: Adamo; Motion Adopted.

6. Action: Approval of Minutes - August 4, 2026 - Annual Board Training

- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the Minutes from August 4, 2026.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Vote: 6 Ayes: Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 1 Abstain: Adamo; Motion Adopted.

7. Action: Approval of Consent Agenda

- Ms. Heiliger moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Warrants, Personnel Action Report, and Contract Ratifications as posted: A Touch of Grace Inc at Facilities Warehouse, Al's Quality Painting Inc at Renaissance Valley Academy, Automatic Electronic Gates at iShine Student Center, Bemus Landscape Inc at Discovery Student Center Murrieta, Bemus Landscape Inc at Encore Student Center, City Wide Facility Solutions at Verve Church, City Wide Facility Solutions at Encore Student Center, Crown Lift Trucks at Facilities Warehouse, Davis Design Studio at Multiple Locations, Diamond Air Services at Discovery Center Murrieta, Diamond Air Services at Encore Student Center, Diamond Air Services at Pathfinder Student Center, Emergency Management Solutions LLC at Encore Student Center, Freedom Landscape Inc at Encore Student Center, Freedom Landscape Inc at Encore Student Center 2nd Contract, Freedom Landscape Inc at Flabob Preparatory Academy Student Center (FAPA), Freedom Landscape Inc at The Plaza, JC Williams, LLC at Hemet Quest Student Center, LTT Partners at Arbor Student Center, LTT Partners at Encore Student Center, LTT Partners at Facilities Warehouse, Luv R Blinds at Little Springs Kinder Center, M&M Tinting LLC at Encore Student Center, Moore Flooring Inc at Enterprise Resource Center, Moore Flooring Inc at Flabob Preparatory Academy Student Center (FAPA), Pinhero Construction Inc at Encore Student Center, Safeguard EnviroGroup at Discovery Student Center Murrieta, Safeguard EnviroGroup at Encore Student Center, Smart Network Solutions at iShine Student Center, South Pacific Commercial Property Services at Little Springs Kinder Center, Stand Guard Security Team at Verve Church - Arbor Student Center, Stand Guard Security Team at Encore Student Center, Taylor Underground Utility Contractor at Encore Student Center, Terra Network Solutions at Arbor Student Center, Terra Network Solutions at Encore Student Center, RS4K Curriculum, Purchases of Special Education Assessment Software License with Presence Learning for School Psychologists, Purchases of Special Education Assessment Software License with Pearson Digital Library for Various Providers, Purchases of Special Education Assessment Software License with

Presence Learning for Speech Pathologists, and Motor Vehicle Network Advertising Renewal.

- Dr. Sandiford seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

8. Public Comments

- None

9. Information: Springs Nation - IGNITE! 2026

- Renee Albright presented the Springs Nation - IGNITE! 2026 video.

10. Information: Student Spotlight - Temecula Student Center

- Principal Valerie Walker presented a Temecula Student Center video featuring TK students.

11. Information: Student Spotlight - Riverside Student Center

- Principal Gina Corby-Potter presented the Riverside Student Center STEAM update.

12. Information: Superintendent's Report

- Michelle Sheane reviewed the Superintendent's Report. She reviewed highlights from each department, and reminded the Board that this year's theme is LEGO — Learning that Empowers Goals and Ownership and shared how the theme is being implemented to engage and empower both staff and students.

13. Action: Approval of Superintendent Goals 2026-2027

- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Superintendent Goals 2026-2027.
- Mr. Natal seconded.
- Discussion: Dr. Vivian Price and Amy Podratz reviewed the Superintendent's goals for the upcoming school year, which address several key areas of focus for the school, including academic achievement, enrollment, LEGO-themed initiatives, and high school graduation rates and college and career readiness
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

14. Action: Waive the First Reading and Approval of Revised Board Policy - 7001.1 - Board Stipends

- Ms. Johnson moved to waive the first reading and approve revised Board Policy - 7001.1 - Board Stipends.

- Dr. Sandiford seconded.
- Discussion: Natali South explained that the policy would change the Board member stipend from \$500 per meeting to \$650 per month and responded to the Board's questions. She further explained that waiving the first reading would allow the policy to take effect immediately.
- Vote: 5 Ayes: Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Thompson; 1 No: Sandiford; 1 Abstention: Adamo; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

15. Action: Waive the First Reading and Approval of Board Policy - 6006.1 - AI Use and Governance

- Ms. Johnson moved to waive the first reading of Board Policy - 6006.1 - AI Use and Governance.
- Dr. Sandiford seconded.
- Discussion: Aaron Lorenz explained that recent legislation has taken effect establishing requirements and responsibilities for the school related to the use of artificial intelligence (AI).
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

16. Action: Approval of Special Education Contract with Harbottle Law Group

- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Special Education Contract with Harbottle Law Group.
- Mr. Natal seconded.
- Discussion: Michelle Shaene explained that, following the retirement of Debbie Cesario, Hatch & Cesario has transitioned the school's casework to Harbottle Law Group. She noted that there will be no change to the school's legal team.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

17. Action: Approval of i-Ready Contract

- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the i-Ready contract.
- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: Jared McLeod explained that we utilize i-Ready as a tool to measure student academic achievement.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

- 18. Action: Approval of Outdoor Adventures by Boojum Contract for 8th Grade Camp**
- Dr. Saniford moved to approve the Outdoor Adventures by Boomjum contract for 8th Grade camp.
 - Mr. Natal seconded.
 - Discussion: Jennifer Walker showed the 8th Grade Leadership video and requested the Board approve the contract for the summer of 2026-27.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
- 19. Action: Approval of Contract with JB Roofing & Weatherproofing at Palm Academy**
- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the contract with JB Roofing & Weatherproofing at Palm Academy.
 - Ms. Thompson seconded.
 - Discussion: Tony Santistevan explained that this contract will provide roof repair at Palm Academy.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
- 20. Action: Approval of Contract with JB Roofing & Weatherproofing at Magnolia Student Center**
- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the contract with JB Roofing & Weatherproofing at Magnolia Student Center.
 - Dr. Sandiford seconded.
 - Discussion: Tony Santistevan explained that this contract will provide roof repair at Magnolia.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
- 21. Action: Approval of the Larson Communication Contract**
- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Larson Communication contract.
 - Mr. Natal seconded.
 - Discussion: Amy Podratz reviewed the Larson Communication contract and explained this firm assists with targeting marketing efforts.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

- 22. Action: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between River Springs and Riverside County Office of Education**
- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between River Springs and Riverside County Office of Education.
 - Ms. Thompson seconded.
 - Discussion: Amy Podratz explained that River Springs' charter was recently renewed by RCOE and the MOU outlines the agreement between the authorizer and the charter.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
- 23. Action: Approval of Long Distance Travel - CSTAG Train the Coach Training (Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines)**
- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between River Springs and Riverside County Office of Education.
 - Ms. Thompson seconded.
 - Discussion: Michelle Shaene explained that this training will certify her as an official CSTAG certified trainer.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
- 24. Action: Approval of Revised 188 Salary Schedule**
- Ms. Johnson moved to approve the revised 188 Salary Schedule.
 - Ms. Thompson seconded.
 - Discussion: Dr. Virginia Smith explained that an error was identified in the recently approved Salary Schedule. She noted that the revised schedules contain the correct information and confirmed that all employees were paid correctly.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
- 25. Action: Approval of EC §44831: Speech and Language Services for Tisha Martinez**
- Ms. Thompson moved to approve EC 448321: Speech and Language Services for Tisha Martinez.
 - Mr. Natal seconded.
 - Discussion: Erin Chafin explained that this waiver is required until the employee's out-of-country education can be confirmed and qualified.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

26. **Action: Approval of Unaudited Actuals**
- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Unaudited Actuals.
 - Mr. Natal seconded.
 - Discussion: Trevor Johnson reviewed the Unaudited Actuals and explained any differences between projections and actual revenues and expenditures.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
27. **Action: Approval of the Annual Prop 28 Report**
- Ms. Thompson moved to approve the Annual Prop 28 Report.
 - Ms. Johnson seconded.
 - Discussion: Trevor Johnson reviewed the annual Proposition 28 report, which details the use of funding provided for arts and music education.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
28. **Action: Approval of Supplemental Pay Agreement Form Schedule for 2026-27**
- Mr. Natal moved to approve the Supplemental Pay Agreement Form Schedule for 2026-27.
 - Dr. Sandiford seconded.
 - Discussion: Trevor Johnson reviewed the positions and projects that are paid via the Supplemental Pay Agreement.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
29. **Action: Approval to Piggyback Hemet Unified School District Bid # PUR2026-01**
- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the Piggyback agreement with Hemet Unified School District Bid # PUR2026-01.
 - Ms. Thompson seconded.
 - Discussion: Trevor Johnson explained that the agreement will allow the school to receive the same pricing as Hemet Unified School District through a recent competitive bidding process for school furniture and supplies.
 - Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.
30. **Action: Approval to Piggyback Kern County Superintendent of Schools / PEPPM Contract Bid #546422**
- Mr. Natal moved to approve the Piggyback agreement with Kern County Superintendent of Schools / PEPPM Contract Bid #546422.

- Ms. Thompson seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson explained that the agreement will allow the school to receive the same pricing as Kern County Superintendent of Schools through a recent competitive bidding process for school furniture and supplies.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

31. Action: Approval of Longevity Bonuses presented at Ignite!

- Dr. Sandiford moved to approve the Longevity Bonuses presented at Ignite!
- Mr. Natal seconded.
- Discussion: Trevor Johnson explained that longevity bonuses are paid to individuals who reach longevity milestones.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.

32. Board Comments

- Ms. Johnson: Ignite! was amazing this year. It seems like the school year is off to a great start.
- Ms. Heiliger: I'm thankful that Springs has people looking out for the details that help save money and keep us compliant with all of the requirements. Also, I'm looking forward to the upcoming site visits.

33. Action: Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- Ms. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m.
- Dr. Sandiford seconded.
- Vote: 7 Ayes: Adamo, Dawe, Heiliger, Johnson, Natal, Sandiford, Thompson; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; Motion Adopted.


 Stephanie "Stevie" Heiliger, Secretary

09/10/2026
 Date