

**RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Minutes**

Thursday, February 05, 2026
5:30 pm

Board members present: Mr. Emre Mese, Mr. Fatih Kurt, Mr. Serkan Dogan, Mr. John Qosimi

Staff members present: Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Executive Director; Jason Kurt, Business Manager; Sel Buyuksarac, Parent Representative; Alisher Kuvatov, Director of Academics; Ahmet Temel, Director of Operations and Compliance

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mese at 5:35 pm.

2. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks either in person or remotely

3. Approval of agenda items

Motion to approve agenda items by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of last board meeting minutes

Mr. Mese noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been shared in advance by the Board Secretary, Mr. Kurt.

Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

5. Approval of out-of-field teachers

Dr. Tozoglu presented the list of out-of-field teachers for the February Survey 3 reporting period. Teachers listed were hired after the October survey window. Three teachers were from RCSA Southeast Campus. One teacher was from RCSA Mandarin and Elementary Campus. No other campuses reported out-of-field teachers. Teachers are working toward required endorsements (such as ESOL or Reading), supported through district professional development and in-house training. Parent notification letters will be sent following board approval.

Motion to approve out-of-field teachers by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

6. Approval to ratify school recognition fund distribution

Dr. Tozoglu presented the School Recognition Funds plans received from the State of Florida based on A school performance. Eligible employees are all full-time staff who worked at least half of the 2024–2025 school year. Distribution includes all school personnel, including teachers, admins, support staff, secretaries, and custodians.

Motion to approve to ratify school recognition fund distribution plans by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

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7. Approval of annual enrollment capacity

Dr. Tozoglu presented the 2026–2027 enrollment capacity projections. Projections mirror those previously approved in the October board meeting. No changes in campus capacity were proposed. Maintaining consistent projections is necessary for district reporting requirements.

Motion to approve annual enrollment capacity by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt.

Approved unanimously

8. Approval of asset disposal

Dr. T. presented the list of items for disposal from each campus, consisting mainly of broken furniture, fixtures, and outdated technology.

Motion to approve asset disposal by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

9. Approval of financials and 990

Dr. Tozoglu and Yasin Kurt presented mid-year financial updates. Student enrollment numbers were updated from the October budget to reflect current enrollment counts. Minor student attrition occurred across campuses due to relocations. Across campuses:

Revenues received: ~50–56% of projected annual revenue

Expenditures: ~50–56% of projected annual expenditures

Overall spending remains aligned with projections. Schools remain financially stable with balanced budgets and positive year-end projections. A minor spreadsheet error related to an entry was identified and corrected with no material impact on financial results. The organization's 990 was also shared with board members, along with a summary of revenue and expenditures compared to the previous fiscal year.

Motion to approve financials and 990 by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

10. Approval of contract extension for the executive director

Board Chair Mr. Emre Mese presented the item regarding the contract extension for Executive Director Dr. Dogan Tozoglu. Mr. Mese noted that Dr. Tozoglu is the founding leader of River City Science Academy and has played a central role in the school system's development, growth, and continued academic success since its establishment. Under Dr. Tozoglu's leadership, RCSA has expanded from a single campus into a high-performing multi-campus charter school system recognized for strong academic outcomes, STEM programming, and community engagement. Mr. Mese emphasized that maintaining stable and visionary leadership is essential as the organization continues to grow, including the development of the new high school project and other strategic initiatives. For these reasons, the board considered it important to extend Dr. Tozoglu's contract to ensure continuity and sustained progress. The proposed extension maintains the same terms, benefits, and compensation structure as the previous agreements and extends the Executive Director's contract for another five-year term. Board members expressed their

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appreciation for Dr. Tozoglu's dedication, leadership, and long-standing contributions to the success and reputation of River City Science Academy.

Motion to approve a five year contract extension for the executive director by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

11. FLDOE Attestation of Compliance, Florida Statutes, Gulf of America

Dr. Tozoglu reported that the board chair signed and submitted a compliance attestation form verifying that instructional materials meet new statutory requirements related to geographic terminology in educational resources. All publishers and instructional materials have been verified to be compliant.

12. Review of succession plans for board members and leadership teams

Dr. Tozoglu presented documents outlining board and leadership succession plans.

Board Succession Plan includes items like recommendation to expand the board from 5 members to 7 members; Representation from Clay County and St. Johns County as expansion occurs; Possible formation of additional board committees such as Governance Committee, Finance & Audit Committee, Academic Excellence Committee

Leadership Succession Plans were developed to ensure continuity if key leadership roles become vacant. Emergency and long-term succession procedures were outlined for: Executive Director, Director of Academics, Director of Operations, Campus Principals, Business and operational roles.

Internal leadership pipelines are being developed through principal recommendations and leadership development initiatives. Board members will review the documents and provide feedback before formal approval at a future meeting.

13. Academic updates

Director of Academics Alisher Kuvatov presented an analysis comparing River City Science Academy's academic performance with Duval County Magnet Schools. The results demonstrate that RCSA continues to perform at a highly competitive level across grade bands. At the elementary level, RCSA ranked 4th among A-rated magnet elementary schools, with particularly strong performance in mathematics and science. At the middle school level, RCSA campuses are performing competitively with dedicated magnet schools and are ranked among the top three. At the high school level, RCSA ranked approximately third among comparable magnet high schools, with notable strength in math achievement and math learning gains. While overall performance remains strong, the leadership team identified ELA learning gains—particularly among students in the bottom quartile—as an area for continued focus. To address this, schools are closely monitoring student progress using i-Ready and internal assessments, targeting support for lowest-quartile students, and implementing MTSS interventions to improve reading growth and overall academic outcomes.

14. School updates

Dr. Tozoglu shared several school updates with the Board. RCSA recently underwent the National School Lunch Program audit conducted by the state, which occurs every five years. The audit went very well, and appreciation was expressed to the business office and all staff members who contributed to ensuring full compliance and a smooth review

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process. The student enrollment lottery is scheduled for the following day, and the schools will begin contacting selected families immediately after the drawing. RCSA also participated a successful community engagement event at the Jacksonville Icemen hockey game, where the school system was recognized during the game, creating a positive opportunity to showcase RCSA within the community. Across campuses, academic competition teams are actively preparing for upcoming events, including Robotics, Math competitions, Science Olympiad, Debate, and Model United Nations. RCSA was also represented at the Duval County Teacher of the Year Gala, where teachers from across the district were recognized for their contributions to education. In addition, school leadership participated in the Florida Chamber Tallahassee Fly-In, which provided updates from state elected officials on legislative and education priorities. RCSA leadership will also participate in an upcoming visit organized by the Jacksonville Chamber to meet with the Duval legislative delegation and other state officials. Finally, the schools are preparing for the upcoming STEM and Health Expo this weekend, which has received strong local media coverage to promote the event. With the increased visibility and community outreach, the school expects even greater participation this year. Additional family, student, and staff activities continue across the system on an ongoing basis.

15. Title I updates

Dr. T. reported that RCSA MH campus will have Title I again for upcoming school year. Title I plan compliance is being closely monitored by the school leadership team. Parent engagement activities are being implemented in a timely manner, and the school has been receiving reimbursements for its schoolwide programs and on schedule in spendings. We will hold the development meeting in March for the following year.

16. High School project update

Dr. T. provided an update on the progress of the River City Science Academy High School project planned at the Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) South Campus site. He shared that the engineering phase of the project is nearing completion, including preliminary site work analysis, infrastructure planning, and coordination with project partners. The engineering deliverables are expected to be finalized soon, allowing the project to transition into the architectural design phase. During the upcoming stage, the focus will shift to developing detailed building layouts, academic and athletic facility design, and alignment with the educational program needs of the future high school. Dr. T. noted that the project team continues to work closely with partners and consultants to maintain the development timeline and ensure the facility supports RCSA's long-term expansion and college-preparatory STEM mission.

17. Charter School Growth Fund / EFF update

Dr. T. continues to hold regular check-in calls with the Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) liaison to monitor progress and provide updates on strategic initiatives. As part of CSGF's support for the development of the new RCSA High School facility, the organization has been assisting the school in exploring financing through the Equitable Facilities Fund (EFF). Dr. T. shared that RCSA has completed the due diligence process

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and submitted all requested documentation and materials to the EFF team, including financial information, enrollment projections, and project details. The EFF team also conducted a site visit, during which they were very impressed with and appreciative of the RCSA academic program and operations. With the due diligence phase now nearing completion, EFF plans to present the project to its board for consideration of a term sheet. This step represents an important milestone in securing facility financing and advancing the high school project toward the next phase of development.

18. Closure of the Meeting

Mr. Mese motioned to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary