

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

Thursday, February 08, 2024
5:30 pm

Board members present: Mr. Emre Mese, Dr. Sakhavat Mammadov, Mr. Fatih Kurt, Mr. Serkan Dogan

Staff members present: Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Executive Director; Yasin Jason Kurt, Business Manager; Sel Buyuksarac, Parent Representative.

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Yar at 5:30 pm.

2. Public Remarks

None

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

Motion to approve the last board meeting minutes by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Dogan. Approved unanimously.

5. Approval of 990

Dr. T informed the board that an extension to file Form 990 was requested due to waiting for the completion of the single audit, and it was granted. Once the single audit was finalized, Form 990 was completed and submitted electronically. Dr. T then presented the Form 990 and highlighted key points.

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

6. Approval of out-of-field teachers

Dr. T. explained to the board that teachers hired after Survey 2, with out-of-field areas on their assigned subjects, need to be presented to the board for approval. The board must approve their out-of-field areas. Once approved, schools will share the out-of-field letters with parents. Across each campus, there were a few teachers in this category, with the majority having out-of-field areas in ESOL or Reading Endorsement. The School PDFs are actively monitoring these teachers to facilitate the completion of out-of-field areas, taking advantage of available district-level trainings/courses as well as in-school options.

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

7. Approval of asset disposal

Dr. T. shared the asset disposal lists from each campus which mainly consisted of broken furniture fixtures.

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

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8. Approval of Approval and Ratification of Preliminary Projected Enrollment for RCSA Schools

Dr. T. informed the board that schools with new charter contracts are obligated to report preliminary projected enrollments by November 1st of each year for the subsequent school year. It's important to note that the Preliminary Projected Enrollment will not serve as a cap on the school's enrollment for the following year. The board is required to approve these projections. Dr. T. then shared the following enrollment projections for the upcoming year:

RCSA Middle-High: 1020
RCSA Elementary: 590
RCSA Innovation: 850
RCSA Mandarin: 905
RCSA Intracoastal: 850
RCSA Southeast: 750

Motion to approve Preliminary Projected Enrollment for RCSA Schools and ratify the date as of Nov 1st by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

9. Approval employment-based permanent residency sponsorship guidelines

Dr. T. informed the board that RCSA Schools are proactively exploring avenues to hire qualified teachers and staff, including considering international candidates due to significant teacher shortages. However, it was highlighted that once these candidates are hired, their stay is limited for a certain period. As a strategic approach, schools can consider sponsorship for employment-based permanent residency to retain these individuals for a longer duration. Dr. T. presented employment-based permanent residency sponsorship guidelines to establish a standardized procedure for this process.

Motion to approve employment-based permanent residency sponsorship guidelines and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

10. Approval of Common Expenses to be paid from the LLC Account

Dr. T. informed the board that certain expenses can be covered from LLC funds to alleviate the burden on the school budget. The LLC can allocate funds to cover expenses such as legal fees, audit and 990 fees, immigration-related fees, major maintenance and construction fees, conference and membership fees for administration and identified staff by the admin, workers' comp fees, and common employee costs. The business office will provide quarterly reports to the board detailing these expenses.

Motion to approve common expenses to be paid from the LLC funds and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

11. Approval of Duval Property Tax 1 Mil Referendum Fund Distribution Plan

Dr. T. reminded the Board that in the previous board meeting, the board had authorized the executive director and the business/HR office team to finalize the plan and execute the distribution. Dr. T. then presented the distribution plan that was initiated, and initial payments were made with the January payroll.

Motion to approve Duval Property Tax 1 Mil Referendum Fund Distribution Plan by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

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12. Review of Financials

Dr. T. and Mr. Kurt presented the financials for each RCSA school. There were no significant payments, cash flow issues, or outstanding debts reported. Some of the negative balances were attributed to major construction projects carried out over the summer, but the schools had sufficient fund balances to cover these costs. Additionally, each school has an ample reserve in their accounts to address any unforeseen incidences.

13. School updates

Dr. T. provided the board with the following updates:

2024 STEM and Health Expo event was an overwhelming success!

1000 Student Passports Returned; 7000 Attendees/Guests/Participants; 65 Student Tables; 73 Vendors/Sponsors; 8 Sold Out Food Trucks; 75 Children's Entrepreneur Market Booths. Many thanks to our teams, admins, staff and teachers, students, parents, and community and business partners for making this great event possible.

RCSA hosted our annual holiday party for all campus staff and families, creating a fun and productive event for our staff, their families, and children.

Dr. T, Sel, and school administrators visited many of the district staff, including the DCPS board and superintendent, to convey holiday wishes and express appreciation for their work and support.

We have submitted a character school application for two campuses, and I am pleased to inform you that our Elementary campus has received state character school designation. Currently, four of our campuses hold this distinguished designation, making us eligible to apply as a system now.

Our brilliant students from 4 of our campus locations were invited to participate in STEM Day at the Capitol! They demonstrated their STEM experiments and inventions in the rotunda for visiting elected officials.

RCSA Recognized by Ziegler Investment Banking. In their recent charter school financing z-newsletter in an article entitled, "Creating Future Innovators Through a Dynamic STEM Approach"

Building Hope Award: Our school is officially a Semi-Finalist for the 3rd Annual Building Hope IMPACT Grant Award in the S. Joseph Bruno Leadership Award Category. We eagerly await the announcement on March 18th to hear if we advance to the final round!

Our partnership with UNF is progressing in the right direction. We are currently hosting several paid interns at each campus, and our program is set to be highlighted at the National Conference in collaboration with UNF Faculty and our interns.

We received many TV coverages this month through STEM expo and Impact award.

Some of our high school students had the incredible opportunity to participate and watch a panel discussion with the CEO of Apple. This experience provided them with valuable insights, allowing them to hear firsthand stories and learn about current trends in the industry.

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Our enrollments, open houses, and school tours are progressing exceptionally well. We are experiencing a high level of interest, and based on our current projections, we are optimistic about achieving our target goals. The schools are scheduled to host the lottery on February 9th.

14. Closure of the Meeting

Mr. Mese moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kurt seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 06:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary