

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

Thursday, October 02, 2025
5:30 pm

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

Staff members present: Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Executive Director; Jason Kurt, Business Manager; Adrina Winter, Parent Representative; Alisher Kuvatov, Director of Academics; CPA: Michelle Martinez, King & Walker, CPA, PL

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mese at 5:33 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 and thanked Board Secretary Mr. Kurt.
Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.
5. Approval of new board member
Mr. Mese reviewed the procedure for selecting a new member based on the bylaws. The Board currently has one vacancy. Mr. John Qosimi's resume had been shared in advance.
Mr. Mese nominated Mr. Qosimi, noting his prior experience in the charter sector and expressing confidence that he would be a valuable addition.
Motion to approve Mr. Qosimi as an RCSA Board member by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of 2024-25 SY audits
All school audits were completed on time. Auditor Michelle Martinez joined the meeting and summarized the audit results. All schools received clean audits with no findings.
She highlighted two required reports included in each audit:
Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and Compliance – No material weaknesses or deficiencies were identified.
Management Letter – Required by the Auditor General; no comments or findings were reported.
She also noted that a combined Federal single audit is required and will be completed in the coming months.
Motion to approve the school audits by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

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7. Approval of out-of-field teachers
Dr. T. presented the list of out-of-field teachers at each campus, including their certified areas and out-of-field areas. Most require ESOL certification. Schools plan to offer in-house ESOL coursework through the Schultz Center to support them.
Motion to approve the out-of-field teachers by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.
8. Approval of the owner's representative for the high school project
Dr. T. presented four proposals for owner's representative services and compared them based on scope, experience, locality, and pricing. The leadership team recommended Partner Engineering and Science.
Motion to approve Partner Engineering and Science as the owner's representative by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Dogan. Approved unanimously.
9. Approval of annual school performance goals
Dr. T. explained that the new charter contracts require each school to set annual performance goals based on its grade category and to review and update them each year. Mr. K., Director of Academics, reviewed last year's goals and outcomes, noting that most schools exceeded expectations. In areas where goals were not met, performance still surpassed district and state averages. Updated goals were developed in collaboration with school leadership teams. Next year, a detailed analysis will evaluate achievement and provide rationales.
Motion to approve annual school performance goals by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Dogan. Approved unanimously.
10. Approval of Preliminary Projected Enrollments for 2026-27SY
Dr. T. presented current enrollment numbers and projections for 2026–27, as required by district deliverables.
Motion to approve projected enrollment by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.
11. Approval of the finance committee meeting minutes and items
Mr. Mese stated that the Finance Committee met over the summer. Dr. T. summarized the items reviewed and approved, including the year-end budget and the initial budget for the new fiscal year. Five items were approved in total, and meeting minutes were shared with the Board.
Motion to approve Finance Committee minutes and items by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.
12. 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.

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13. Approval of school policies: Access Control Requirements; Cell phone; Data Privacy; Employee Arrests; School Safety; Student Information Protection; Student Welfare; Threat Management

Dr. T. presented several updated policies developed by the legal team in response to recent legislative changes and FLDOE guidance. The updates ensure alignment with new requirements. Policies include Access Control Requirements, Cell Phone, Data Privacy, Employee Arrests, School Safety, Student Information Protection, Student Welfare, and Threat Management.

Motion to approve the policies by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Dogan. Approved unanimously.

14. Approval to authorize the Board Chair or Executive Director to execute AIA Document A141 – 2014, Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Design-BUILDER, between River City Edu Management, LLC, and Summit Construction Management Group, LLC, subject to review by River City's legal counsel and its Owner's Representative

Mr. Mese and Dr. T. explained the purpose of the Design-Build Agreement with Summit Construction Management Group. With the lease agreement with FSCJ finalized, the project is ready to enter the pre-construction phase, including architectural and engineering work, permitting, and related services.

Motion to authorize execution of the agreement, subject to legal and owner's representative review, by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

15. Academic updates

Dr. T. and Mr. K. presented academic performance across all campuses. They reported that every RCSA school earned an A grade, including the new Southeast campus, marking its second consecutive A. Test scores remain significantly above district and state averages.

16. RCSA Southeast and Intracoastal CSP update

Dr. T. shared that FLDOE awarded an additional \$800,000 in Charter Start-Up funding for RCSA Southeast. Shortly after, FLDOE also offered \$900,000 in additional funding for RCSA Intracoastal. Required documents have been submitted to FLDOE and the district. RCSA Southeast got approval and RCSA Intracoastal is awaiting final approval.

17. Title I and PFEP plan update

Dr. T. reported that the Title I plan for RCSA Middle-High was approved. The school held its annual Title I meeting, and parent engagement activities and schoolwide initiatives continue to be implemented.

18. High School project update

Dr. T. shared that the lease agreement has been finalized. A meeting with the district charter director was held to explore options for school structuring and relocation. A pre-construction agreement will soon be executed to begin design and permitting. The leadership team is exploring financing options, including eligibility for the EFF program through the Charter School Growth Fund.

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19. Charter School Growth Fund update

Dr. T. reported attending the Charter Growth Fund CEO gathering, fully funded by CSGF. Regular check-in calls continue with the fund's liaison. Data collection requirements are being met, and CSGF is supporting the school's exploration of EFF financing.

20. Closure of the Meeting

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Mese, seconded by Mr. Kurt. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary