

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025  
5:30 pm

**Board members present:** Mr. Emre Mese, Dr. Sakhavat Mammadov, 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 5:40 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 2024-25 SY single audit

The auditor has completed the single audit for the 2024-25SY. We received an unmodified, clean audit opinion, the highest level of assurance. This means the auditor found our financial statements to be accurate, well-supported, and compliant with all required accounting standards. Two key indicators continue to validate RCSA's financial stability: 121 days of cash on hand, far exceeding the bond covenant minimum of 45 days. A Debt Service Coverage Ratio of 1.92x, well above the required 1.10x. These metrics confirm that RCSA remains well-positioned to support ongoing operations and long-term capital plans. The auditor reported:

No material weaknesses, No significant deficiencies, No compliance issues, No questioned costs. This reflects the hard work and consistent discipline of our finance and administrative teams across all campuses.

RCSA remains financially positioned to support growth, facilities expansion, and continued investment in student learning while maintaining compliance with state and federal requirements.

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

6. Approval of school improvement plans

Dr. T. presented the school improvement plans (SIP) for each campus. The plans are developed by each leadership team in each campuses and have detailed information about the schools as well as school wide goals and strategies to be used. There are prepopulated areas that show the summary of the school's demographics, student test

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025  
5:30 pm

performances, subgroup data, etc. These are live documents and can be updated during the school year.

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

7. 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.

8. Review of Financials

Dr. T. and Mr. Kurt presented the financial reports to the Board. There were no changes to the approved budgets since the previous Board meeting. Midyear budget updates will be prepared and presented at the next Board meeting. Actual-to-budget comparisons and current budget status reports were shared with Board members. Overall, revenues and expenditures are tracking in line with the fiscal-year timeline, and there are no outstanding financial issues at this time.

9. Academic updates

Mr. K. presented an overview of RCSA's academic performance in comparison to other charter schools in the district. The results were very strong. RCSA's performance was analyzed across elementary, K-8, and high school levels, with test scores remaining significantly above the averages of other charter schools. RCSA continues to be the top-performing charter school system in the district. While overall performance is strong, a few areas—such as bottom quartile learning gains—were identified as opportunities for improvement, and school leadership has plans in place to address these areas. Mr. Mese requested that the leadership team also include comparisons to magnet schools in future analyses.

10. School updates

Dr. T. shared the following updates:

- Re-enrollment for current students has been completed, with the system typically maintaining a re-enrollment rate above 95 percent.
- Enrollment for upcoming school years has begun and is progressing well. Campuses have initiated outreach efforts through flyers, social media, magazines, and websites, and have begun hosting open houses for prospective families. The enrollment lottery is scheduled for February.
- School-based activities and events are going very well. Nearly every week, campuses host a variety of activities and events for students and families.
- The fall semester signature event, International Day, will be held at the Intracoastal campus. More than 50 countries will be represented through food,

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025  
5:30 pm

cultural artifacts, posters, and music. Students and families from all campuses participate in this large, systemwide event.

- Each campus held Thanksgiving celebrations for students, staff, and families. In alignment with character education themes, campuses also organized food and toy drives, collecting and donating a significant number of items to the community.
- Student camps, home-visit programs, and alumni engagement activities are ongoing, with positive participation and renewed connections with alumni.
- A systemwide holiday party will be held for staff and their families to recognize and celebrate the RCSA community.
- All RCSA campuses were included in the U.S. News Best Schools rankings.
- High School Day events were held at RCSA high school campuses, allowing incoming high school students to spend a day on campus and experience high school programs and environments.
- School leaders Mr. Ustaomer, Dr. Akgul, and Mrs. Vincent were accepted into the FLDOE Chancellor's Leadership Academy. Last year, four RCSA leaders successfully completed the program.
- Accreditation renewal is scheduled for next year, and all stakeholders are actively preparing for the renewal process.
- Additional family, student, and staff activities continue across the system on an ongoing basis.

11. Title I updates

Dr. T. reported that 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 begun receiving reimbursements for its schoolwide programs.

12. High School project update

Dr. T. shared that he had a productive meeting with Dr. A., President of the College, to provide updates on the project. Dr. A. agreed to coordinate a groundbreaking ceremony and press release once the plans are approved, as well as a grand opening event when the school opens. He expressed strong enthusiasm for the project and the partnership. The project is currently in the engineering phase for the site, with the engineering firm actively working on land-related components. Preliminary plans are ready to transition into architectural design pending completion of the engineering work. In parallel, the leadership team is engaged in ongoing discussions to pursue eligibility for the EFF financing program through the Charter School Growth Fund.

13. Charter School Growth Fund update

Dr. T. reported that the second Charter School Growth Fund payment is scheduled to be received before January. Regular check-in calls continue with the CSGF liaison. CSGF is supporting the school's exploration of EFF financing, and RCSA has completed the initial submission of all requested materials to the EFF team. The project is expected to be presented at the EFF board meeting in January.

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025  
5:30 pm

14. Closure of the Meeting

Mr. Mese motioned to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary