

Board of Trustees, Ridge and Valley Charter School  
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Ridge and Valley Charter School was held on November 21, 2024 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Dave McNulty, Facilitator. The Trustees operate on a consensus basis in all matters. We choose to dispense with Robert's Rules of Order and Conventional Parliamentary Procedure. Our intention is to affirm the mission of the school. Ridge and Valley Charter School offers an integrated, experiential course of study in the context of the universe and its interrelationships. Adequate notice of this meeting had been made in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1975 in the New Jersey Herald, the County Superintendent's office and with the County Administrator.

	present	absent
Voting Members		
Kerry Barnett	X	
Julie Budzinski-Flores-left @ 7:05pm	X	
Kasey Errico	X	
Jenn Gurdak-arrived 6:25pm	X	
Dave McNulty	X	
Cindy Terranova	X	
Julie Wiedemann-Ball	X	
Non-voting members:		
Robin Balles, Infrastructure Coordinator--left @ 7:05pm	X	
Lisa Masi, Integration Coordinator	X	
Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator	X	
Theresa Radline, Business Coordinator	X	

Facilitator: Julie Wiedemann-Ball    Guardian: Kerry Barnett    Recorder: Theresa Radline

Public Participants: Edward Ball, Jennifer Ross

**Trustee Circle Opening:** convened 6:04pm

**Public Participation:** None

**Correspondence:** A letter of resignation was received from Guide Theresa Radline.

**Leadership Team Updates:**

**Integration Coordinator Report:** Lisa Masi reported:

1. Current enrollment will be 135 students as of December 2.
2. Graduation projects were discussed.
3. A fundraiser proposal to sell dried flower bouquets on November 27 for \$10 each was approved.
4. The HIB grade was discussed.
5. Enrollment lotteries were held for the waiting list for non-residents in Grades Kindergarten (12 students), 2nd grade (4 students), 6th grade (2 students), and 7th grade (4 students). A second lottery was held for the waiting list for residents in 2nd grade (2 students), 6th grade (3 students) and 7th grade (2 students). A third lottery was held for a sibling waiting list in 1st grade (2 students).
6. The second round of clubs were shared: Gaga Ball, Natural Building, Nature Journaling, Word Search, Story Craft, Hula Hoop, Art, Land Care, and Trading Card.

**Infrastructure Coordinator Report:** Robin Balles reported:

1. The broken HVAC unit in Nebula Right was replaced.
2. The insurance claim in Quasar was discussed.
3. She will be meeting with H2M Architect/Engineers next week to discuss upcoming projects and long term facilities planning.
4. The FRED Conference she attended was mostly focused on funding options.
5. The Earth Charter Seal club and committee worked diligently on the application. It should be finished prior to Thanksgiving.
6. Graduation projects focused on the land are moving along.

**Curriculum Coordinator Report:** Traci Pannullo reported:

1. She shared that Guide Maggie Vetter is doing a great job getting the Earth Charter Seal application together.
2. On October 30 Nurse Toni brought her certified therapy dog, Ro, to RVCS. They had a presentation at assembly and Ro spent the day in the office being visited by many students and guides. They will set up another day for Ro to visit in the near future.
3. She and Guides Beck Garceau and Sundae Greame attended an Alfie Kohn presentation at Lenape Valley Regional High School on October 30. He shared information on human behaviors, education and strategies to motivate learners. It was rewarding to hear that RVCS has already committed to many of the strategies he shared.
4. Professional Development on November 13 was focused on alternative education and whole student reports. The Stardust Team will be piloting parent-guide conferences this fall instead of whole student reports. A summary of progress will be placed in each student's file.

**Business Coordinator Report:** Theresa Radline reported:

- Approval of October 17, 2024 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24a** To pay bills for the dates of October 18, 2024 through November 21, 2024 in the amount of \$288,724.72 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers' Reports for October 2024 and to certify that no major account or fund has been over expended and to confirm that sufficient funds are available to meet the school's financial obligations for the remainder of the year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.c** To approve budget transfers for the month of November as attached. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.d** To approve the 2024-2025 Annual Charter/Renaissance School Fiscal Questionnaire. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.e** To approve contracting with NOLS Wilderness Medicine to provide Wilderness First Aid Training, along with lodging, travel and meal expenses in August 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.f** To accept the 2023-2024 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. The RVCS school grade is 52 out of a possible 78. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.g** To accept the resignation of Theresa Radline effective December 31, 2024. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 11.21.24.h** To approve Jaime Murray as a substitute for the 2025-2025 school year. Approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Communication:** None.

**Facilities:** Covered earlier

**Finance:** Covered earlier

**Parent:** A meeting was not held. The book club was discussed.

**Policy:** None

**Other Business:**

- The Graduation Committee was discussed. Guide Theresa Radline will send an email to Trustee Cindy Terranova with the names of the committee members.
- Winter Solstice-Garden Ceremony on 12/18
- Trustee Retreat-Trustee Dave McNulty will get back to the circle with a location.
- Trustee Development-To be held Monday, December 2 at 6:00pm online with facilitators Ari Makridakis and Ezekial Fugate. This will be the first session in a series of seven sessions.
- Upcoming events-Open house-1/8/25
- Summer Camps-A trustee will follow up with Guide Robin Balles via email.

Executive Session to discuss personnel: 7:25pm

Return to Public Session: 7:56pm

- **Resolution 11.21.24.i** To approve paying Administrative Support Guide, Jen Ross, a \$2,000 stipend for December 1-31, 2024 for interim collaboration with the Business Coordinator as the Business Coordinator concludes their work with RVCS. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm

Theresa Radline, Board Secretary