

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 March 20, 2025 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Kerry Barnett, 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                   | X       |        |
| Kasey Errico-arrived at 6:12pm           | X       |        |
| Jenn Gurdak                              | X       |        |
| Cindy Terranova-left at 6:45pm           | X       |        |
| Non-voting members:                      |         |        |
| Robin Balles, Infrastructure Coordinator | X       |        |
| Lisa Masi, Integration Coordinator       | X       |        |
| Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator   | X       |        |
| Jennifer Ross, Business Coordinator      | X       |        |
| Rick Pressler, SBA/Board Secretary       | X       |        |

Facilitator: Kerry Barnett

Guardian: Jenn Gurdak

Recorder: Jennifer Ross

Public Participants: Jenniffer Fersch

**Trustee Circle Opening:** convened 6:08pm

**Public Participation:** Jenniffer Fersch shared concern regarding a situation with her children.

**Correspondence:** none

Executive Session: 6:35pm

Return to Public Session: 7:18pm

**Leadership Team Updates:**

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

1. Current enrollment is 133 students, enrollment will be offered from the waiting list. The 2025-2026 school year's enrollment is 135 students.
2. The March 19, 2025 Open House was well attended. Many new applications were received.
3. Passage Presentations will take place the weeks of May 19, 2025 and May 26, 2025
4. The school lunch program was discussed. Ms. Masi is still reaching out to local districts for interest in SFA to SFA program for next school year.
5. The graduation committee is continuing to explore ways to streamline the ceremony.
6. The current school year calendar needs to be updated due to unused snow days.
7. The Stardust and Galaxy students have been maple sugaring. The teams made a rocket stove to aid in the

sugaring process.

**Infrastructure Coordinator Report:** Traci Pannullo reported for Robin Balles:

1. The Land Care committee has been busy planning the Spring Garden Workshop. The committee is proposing that Spring Garden Workshop will begin the first week in May and run for five weeks, on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays. Sign ups will be via a google form. The committee plans on a minimum of 3 guides to run the club and asked if a fourth guide could be added if needed.
2. An Americorp intern will be visiting the school to plant trees in early May.
3. A proposal from Bradley White, on behalf of the Land Care committee, was shared to plant a tree to memorialize Dave McNulty. Funds from the plant sale fundraisers will be used.
4. Community Service Day will not take place on April 12, 2025 but will be scheduled for April 9, 10, 11, & 16, 2025. Dates will have different times in order to accommodate parent schedules.
5. Hot water heaters were removed and replaced, per contract.
6. A new school intercom system will be installed.
7. The gutter on the Universe Building will be installed to improve operational efficiency.
8. Future facility planning has commenced.
9. Immediate facility needs are being addressed.

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

1. The Cultivating Leadership Committee met via Zoom. It was discussed that working committee work can take place in the absence of a Trustee. This will aid in scheduling meetings during the school day.
2. The Hope Green Fair is taking place on April 26, 2025, 10am-2pm. The option to have a booth was discussed.
3. The next NJPCSA meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2025. This meeting will discuss changes in legislation on the State and Federal level.
4. An application to the NJ Green School, a national ranking, non-profit organization, was submitted. This will aid in connecting RVCS worldwide and provide international resources.
5. The Earth Charter application was submitted by M. Vetter. A copy of the presentation was shared.

**Business Coordinator Report:** Jennifer Ross reported:

- Approval of February 20, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25a** To pay bills for the dates of February 21, 2025 - March 20, 2025 in the amount of \$246,779.67 which includes payroll. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25.b** The Board of Trustees of Ridge and Valley Charter School approves the attached Budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Whereas, the Finance Committee has reviewed and recommended the proposed budget, It is therefore resolved that the Board approves the attached Budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25.c** To amend the previously approved contract with Icon Solutions to host and maintain the school's website hosting account. The originally approved amount, not to exceed \$1,000.00, is hereby revised to an updated amount not to exceed \$1,222.00. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25.d** To approve revising the 2024-2025 school calendar to reflect no school on the following dates, due to unused snow days: April 17, April 28, April 29 and June 13 (if another snow day is needed, this date will be a school day). Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25.e** To approve Jonah McGowan as a substitute for the 2024-2025 school year. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25.f** To approve contracting with Green Mentors, Inc. to provide a review of Ridge and Valley's application for the National Green School Ranking program at a cost of \$105.00. Approved unanimously.

- **Resolution 03.20.25.g** To approve contracting Alte Roofing to furnish and install additional gutter on the Universe Building. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 03.20.25.h** To approve reimbursement for expenses for the Trustee retreat to be held on April, 12, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$300.00. Approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Communication:** No report.

**Facilities:** Covered earlier.

**Finance:** Covered earlier.

**Parent:** No report.

**Policy:** No report.

**Cultivating Leadership:** Covered earlier.

**Hiring:** The committee is accepting applications.

**Graduation:** Covered earlier

**Other Business:**

1. The student-led Galaxy dance will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025.
2. The Trustee Circle will be having a retreat on Saturday, April 12, 2025, 9am-5pm, at Centenary College.
3. The Evolutionary Cosmology sessions are scheduled for March 26, April 30 and May 5, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Jennifer Ross, Business Coordinator