

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 January 15, 2026 at 1234 State Route 94, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm by Jenn Gurdak, 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		X
Jenn Gurdak	X	
Jonathan Jablonski	X	
Cindy Terranova		X

Non-voting members:

Ieva Alverson, TBD Coordinator (left @6:50pm)	X
Lisa Masi, Integration Coordinator	X
Traci Pannullo, Curriculum Coordinator	X
Robin Balles, Infrastructure Coordinator	X
Jennifer Ross, Business Coordinator	X
Rick Pressler, SBA/Board Secretary	X

Facilitator: Jenn Gurdak

Guardian: Kerry Barnett

Recorder: Jennifer Ross

Public Participants: None

Trustee Circle Opening: convened 6:07pm

Public Participation: None.

Executive Session to discuss personnel & CST: 6:12pm

Return to Public Session: 6:25pm

Correspondence: An email was received from an alumni parent inquiring about possible student involvement in an upcoming project.

Leadership Team Updates:

TBD Coordinator Report: Ieva Alverson reported:

1. It was reported that the Team Liaisons continue to meet. The group has reinstated the Cultivating Leadership Committee for preparation for the upcoming school year.
2. The distinction between the Team Liaisons and the Cultivating Leadership Committee was explained.

Curriculum Coordinator Report: Reported by Ieva Alverson for Traci Pannullo

1. Referrals to the Child Study Team have been exceptionally high this school year. Increased special educational needs will impact the current resource room number and overall staffing.
2. With the increase in special education needs, some staff scheduling adjustments need to be made.

Integration Coordinator Report: Lisa Masi reported:

1. Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is 133 students. One additional student is expected to register, bringing enrollment to 134.
2. The 2026-2027 school calendar was discussed. The Trustees approved holding Back to School Night on one night with two sessions.

Infrastructure Coordinator Report: Robin Balles reported:

1. Feedback was sent to Metcalfe Architects, and the feedback documents will be shared with the Facilities Committee.
2. The Landcare Committee compiled a site analysis in order to delineate the designated areas of the land.
3. A request was made to include dedicated time during the Trustee Retreat to discuss the next steps for the future facility project.
4. The January Guide Professional Development topic was gardening, and the Guides developed their spring garden plans.

Business Coordinator Report: Jennifer Ross reported:

- Approval of December 18, 2025 minutes. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 01.15.26.a** To pay bills for the dates of December 19, 2025 thru January 15, 2026 in the amount of \$281,802.18 which includes payroll. Approved by 3 ayes and 1 abstention.
- **Resolution 01.15.26.b** To approve the Board Secretary and Treasurers' Report for December 2025 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 01.15.26.c** To approve reimbursement for food and lodging expenses for the Trustee retreat held on February 20-22, 2026, in the amount not to exceed \$3,500.00. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 01.15.26.d** To approve reimbursement for food expenses for the Guide-Trustee development to be held on February 26, 2026. Approved unanimously.
- **Resolution 01.15.26.e** To approve the revised 2025-2026 RVCS budget for submission to the State: General Fund, \$2,828,121; Special Revenue Fund, \$63,963; Total Budget, \$2,892,084. This budget includes a maximum of \$1,000 to be reimbursed for Board of Trustee/employee travel expenses. The Board of Trustees of Ridge and Valley Charter School approves a total revised budget for the 2025-2026 school year for a total of \$2,892,084. Approved unanimously.

1. Rick Pressler reviewed the revised 2025-2026 budget and reported that work has begun on the 2026-2027SY budget.

Committee Reports:

Communication: No report.

Facilities: Reported earlier.

Finance: Reported earlier.

Landcare: The committee has been discussing proper maintenance of the aging Autumn Olive trees on the property. A suggestion was made to reach out to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Warren County for guidance.

Parent: Jonathan Jablonski reported the Winter Solstice Potluck held on Friday, December 19, 2025 was well attended and enjoyed. The committee would like to schedule four events annually around the equinoxes and solstices.

It was suggested to plan the dates in advance for inclusion on the school calendar. It was shared that *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer will be this year's book club selection.

Policy: No report.

Other Business:

- Lisa Masi reported that an email has been sent to a resident on Phippen Hill, in regards to the school's access to their property. The resident is a relative of a current student.
- Upcoming Events
 - Next Formal Action Meeting-February 12, 2026-6:00pm
 - Trustee Retreat-February 20-22, 2026
 - Guide-Trustee Development-February 26, 2026-5:30-7:30pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:30pm

Jennifer Ross, Business Coordinator