



Riverhead Charter School
3685 Middle Country Road
Calverton, NY 11933
Phone (631) 369-5800
Elementary Fax (631) 369-6687
Middle School Fax (631) 727-7191
Administration Bldg. Fax (631) 727-7193
www.riverheadcharterschool.org

Board of Trustees

David Edwards, Board President
Aimee LoMonaco, Vice President
Maria Cintron, Treasurer
Natasha Jeffries, Secretary
Zenobia Hartfield, Trustee

Superintendent
Dr. Raymond Ankrum

Co-Principals K-6
Taylor Henninger and
Samantha Camillery

Principal 7-8
Katherine Gang

Principal 9-12
Dr. Patrick McKinney

Chief Financial Officer
Nicola Graham

Riverhead Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, at 6:30 pm

RCS Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire today's learners to become tomorrow's leaders by setting high academic standards, promoting solution-oriented thinking, and embracing the cultural diversity of our community.

Board Trustees

Aimee LoMonaco, David Edwards (Remote), Maria Cintron, Zenobia Hartfield (Remote), and Natasha Jeffries.

Guest Present

Dr. Raymond Ankrum, Nicola Graham, Dr. Patrick McKinney.

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

David Edwards called a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Riverhead Charter School to order on January 31st, 2024, at 6:38 pm. The Riverhead Charter School Board of Trustees meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.

C. Approve Minutes

Maria Cintron made the motion.

Natasha Jeffries seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the Minutes motion of December 20th, 2023.

D. Public Comment



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II. Academic Excellence

A. Superintendent, Dr. Raymond Ankrum

- **Dr. McKinney provided a report regarding Riverhead Charter High School: College Update.**
 - Quick Stats:
 - Class of 2024:
 - Graduating class consists of 13 students- all students are projected to graduate on time.
 - All 13 Seniors have been accepted into multiple 4-year colleges.
 - There are acceptances from 60 different colleges and universities (56 US-based universities across 16 states & 3 international universities across two countries).
 - 76 college acceptance letters were received, and \$4,200,000 in combined scholarships were awarded.
 - Of 170 total applications: 50% accepted - 2% denied - 1% waitlisted - 47% waiting
 - RCS Students:
 - Meet high academic standards:
 - College credits and rigorous high school programming, which includes our first AP class for all students.
 - Are well-rounded:
 - Over 350 hours of extracurricular activities per student.
 - Most students maintain part-time work.
 - Give back to their communities:
 - Robust community service records for each senior.
 - Lead school wide programs at all levels.
 - Overcome challenges:
 - Each student has a story to tell and has overcome significant adversity throughout their academic career.
 - Covid and space.
 - Are career-minded:
 - Students have begun taking on internship opportunities beyond the school day (ex., Northwell Health, Brookhaven Labs, Riverhead Animal Shelter, Riverhead Courthouse, etc.)
 - Are goal-oriented:
 - College and career vision.
 - Yearly goal tracking.
 - Are critical thinkers:
 - Senior “pre-college” programming focuses on critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



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- Multilingual:
 - All students have mastered their high school language requirements, and most students are fully bilingual.
- College and Extracurricular Learning:
 - College credits:
 - All students have an opportunity to participate in our partnership with Suffolk Community College. To date, this partnership has resulted in over 200 college credits. Students have also taken 22 different courses in only a year and a half. We have also partnered with Five Towns College for sophomores and juniors to receive access to a free course each summer. As a result, 92% of our seniors will graduate with at least 12 credits, and 70% will graduate with at least 30 credits. Based on GPA, all but 13 credits are expected to be eligible to transfer to colleges that accept transfer credits. SCCC has partnerships with other colleges (such as NYIT & SUNY schools) that ease this process. Additionally, we have maintained a 3.35 GPA in school, and only one class has failed).
 - Extracurricular Activities:
 - All students are required to participate in community service each year. This includes whole school trips during half days and ongoing community support (animal shelter, food shelter, peer tutoring, etc.)
 - All students participate in daily club activities that are built into their program and bus schedule. These include a competitive eSports team, mock trial, media club, art club, athletics club, and health & wellness club. These change throughout the year and across years based on students' requests.
 - In addition to all students participating in the advanced regents pathway, students can select from some electives that round out their high school experience.
 - High school sports programs now include JV girls' soccer, JV boys' soccer, cross country, and Varsity girls' flag football.
- Additional Information:
 - 77% of students are eligible for SUNY's EOP program based on financial need.
 - We had our first ever Questbridge Finalist, and upon admittance of one of their partnered schools, this senior will receive a significant financial aid package.
 - RCS 4 Year College Program:
 - This includes yearly college visits, college and career planning meetings, two-year college application support, parent workshops, financial aid application support for all families, visitation of college



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representatives, onsite college admissions, yearly college fairs, and NCAA counseling.

- Upcoming: First annual Stony Brook Financial Aid Night on 1/22 at Riverhead Charter High School.
- 7 students were admitted into the National Honor Society, maintaining an average of over 90%.
- Daily mentoring for all students and weekly mentoring by seniors for underclassmen

➤ **Dr. Ankrum provided multiple Updates:**

- Stakeholder Surveys Update:
 - Surveys released in the spring of last year.
 - Addressing stakeholder concerns with senior leaders.
 - Data presentations shared with the board.
 - Survey results to be released to stakeholders next week.
 - Abridged follow-up survey planned post-presentations.
- Bomb Threat Incident Report
 - A diligent parent reported the incident.
 - Immediate coordination with Dr. McKinney and Mr. Dozier.
 - Police alerted and conducted a building sweep.
 - Student arrested; notifications sent via Parent Square.
 - Press release issued; student support and transparency ongoing.
- Performance Rubrics Implementation
 - Performance rubrics in place for all staff
 - Training for senior leaders on rubric-based staff conversations
 - Introduction of performance-based disciplinary actions
 - Rubrics effective immediately
- Hiring for 2024-25
 - HR Manager position posted
 - Interviews commence this week
 - Candidates vetted by David and Aimee
 - Aim to fill position by 3/1
- Teacher Hiring for 2024-25
 - Ongoing teacher recruitment campaign
 - Focus on improving and ensuring the charter school mindset
 - Critical evaluation by senior leaders.
- College Acceptance High School Highlights
 - 100% 4-year college admission rate
 - Interviews planned for the Edupurist podcast



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- Over \$3 million in scholarships earned
- Student achievements and college tiers highlighted
 - Fundraising Gala Progress
- Date set for 4/12/24
- Last year raised over \$14k
- Discussions for upcoming Giving Tuesday
- Potential additional galas and FT Development Director role.
 - Real Estate and Finance Updates
- Ongoing due diligence for new projects
- Applications for project and portables by mid-February
- Bi-weekly meetings to address potential issues
- Bond refinancing for current property
- Further details in the CFO's report.
 - Upcoming Dates and Events
 - Elementary School:
- 2/2: Half-day PT Conferences
- 2/8: 100th day
- 2/15: Black History Month Celebration at 6 pm
 - Middle School:
- 1/16-19: midterms
- 1/22-26: I-Ready progress monitoring
- 2/2: Report Cards
- 2/9: PS I Love U



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III. Finance

A. Director of Finance and Operation Report, Ms. Nicola Graham

- Discussed Cash Disbursements for December 2023 in detail.
- Presented Finance and operation Dashboards.
 - All cash accounts are healthy.
 - Informed about the compliance calendar (November 2023).
 - ✓ Served 16 days of Breakfast and 15 Lunch days in December (1/2 day PD 12/22 and Christmas Break 12/25-12/29).
- Review the first draft of the Meal Modification Policy.
- Announcement of official student enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Students enrollment January 1st to April 1st.
 - April 12 Ceremony.
- Reviewed Intent to return form to the current families.
- Update regarding the issues at the high school.
- Discussed Procedures for Refunding of series 2013 A&B Bonds.
- The 2024 National Charter Schools Conference will take place in Boston, June 30-July 3, 2024.

IV. Development

V. Facility

VI. Governance

VII. Other Business



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VIII. Closing Items

A. Enter Executive Session

N/A

B. Exit Executive Session

N/A

C. Adjourn Meeting

Maria Cintron made a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 31st, 2024.

Natasha Jeffries seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana M. Salcedo Gomez.