

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

Thursday, May 30, 2024
5:30 pm

Board members present: Mr. Emre Mese, Dr. Sakhavat Mammadov, Mr. Fatih Kurt, Mr. Serkan Dogan

Staff members present: Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Executive Director; Yasin Jason Kurt, Business Manager; Sel Buyuksarac, Parent Representative.

Chris Klotz, Summit Construction Management Group

1. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mese at 5:30 pm.

2. Public Remarks

Two members of the public who were Mandarin campus parents spoke during public comment. addressed the board, expressing their interest in becoming more involved in school and parent engagement groups. Dr. T. continued the conversation with the parents after the meeting, discussing opportunities and addressing their inquiries.

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

Motion to approve the last board meeting minutes by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

5. Approval of high school project and resolution

Mr. Mese reminded the board about the potential partnership with FSCJ for the high school project. RCSA has been working with Summit Construction Management Group, which built three of the RCSA campuses. Dr. T. and Mr. Klotz from Summit updated the board on recent developments with FSCJ and project layouts. Mr. Klotz shared the proposed location and site plan at FSCJ's south campus. Summit has conducted preliminary research and analysis on the site. To move forward with the project, some upfront work is needed, and the school legal team will be involved in the agreement. The Board had motion to approve Reimbursement Resolution, on behalf of River City Education Services, Inc., and River City Edu Management, LLC, to allow for reimbursement of RCES or RCEM for capital expenditures out of bond proceeds in the event that bond financing is used to fund construction of a campus at Florida State College of Jacksonville Beach Boulevard Campus; and to authorize Dr. T. to execute the Preliminary Design-Build Agreement between River City Education Services, Inc. and Summit Construction Management Group, LLC, once it is in final form acceptable to Dr. Tozoglu and River City's legal counsel.

Motion to approve Reimbursement Resolution and authorize Dr. T. executive design build agreement and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

6. Approval of Reading Plan

Dr. T. explained and shared with the board that RCSA needed to develop its reading plan after consulting with the DCPS teams. Dr. T. answered questions from board members about the plan's items. The RCSA academic teams have worked on the plan and created the document.

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Motion to approve reading plan and authorize executive director and/or his designee make any changes depending on the feedback from the district or state by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

7. Approval of finance committee

Mr. Mese informed the board that there will be a financial committee consisting of the Board Chair, Executive Director, and Business Manager, and he welcomed any other board member to join the committee. The committee will meet during the second week of July, and the meeting details will be posted for the public on the school website.

Motion to approve financial committee by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

8. Approval of summer projects

Dr. T. shared the summer projects planned for each campus, including the projected costs. All projects are expected to be completed before schools reopen in the fall.

Motion to approve summer projects by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

9. Approval Title I and PFEP plan

Dr. T. informed the board that RCSA Middle High campus has become eligible to be a Title I school. He shared plans and budgets detailing how the funds will be utilized for parent activities and school-wide initiatives.

Motion to approve Title I and PFEP plans and budget and authorize executive director and/or his designee make adjustments as directed by the district and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

10. Approval of insurance effective date change

Dr. T. informed the board about the requested change in the insurance start date for new hires. The team recommends that the insurance effective date for newly hired employees be shifted to September instead of starting immediately.

Motion to approve insurance effective date change by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

11. Approval of employee handbook and compensation revisions

Dr. T. explained the proposed changes to the employee handbook and salary scale to clarify certain items and align with recent legislative changes. The Board requested an increase in the payment for unused sick days to \$250 on the salary scale.

Motion to approve employee handbook and compensation revisions by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

12. Approval of ESSER Grant management contribution

Dr. T. reminded the board about the additional one-month salary compensation proposed for the business and HR office staff who have been managing the ESSER grants. Instead of hiring additional personnel, some of the business staff took on grant management responsibilities alongside their current duties, a practice maintained over the last two years. The ESSER grants are scheduled to conclude by the end of September.

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Motion to approve ESSER Grant management contribution by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

13. Approval of asset disposal

Dr. T. shared the asset disposal items from each campus which were mainly broken furniture fixture and outdated technology items.

Motion to approve asset disposal by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

14. Review and approval of financials and audit engagement letters

Dr. T. and Mr. Kurt presented the financials for each RCSA school. No significant payments, cash flow issues, or outstanding debts were reported. Some negative balances were attributed to major construction projects conducted over the summer, but the schools have sufficient fund balances to cover these costs. Additionally, each school maintains ample reserves in their accounts to address any unforeseen incidents. Audit engagement letters for each campus were also shared with the Board.

Motion to approve financials and audit engagement letters by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

15. School updates

Dr. T. provided the board with the following updates:

Charter School Growth Fund:

We are thrilled to announce that we have been approached by the Charter School Growth Fund for possible partnership. We were referred to them by FLDOE executive director. Their support will be instrumental in expanding our campuses and enhancing our academic programs. This collaboration ensures we remain at the forefront of innovative education.

All A Schools:

I'm proud to report that all six campuses became 'A' schools this year. This achievement reflects the dedication of our educators and the hard work of our students. It also underscores our commitment to academic excellence across all campuses.

Testing and Projections:

We have finished the state testing without any issues. Our latest testing shows great results across all grade levels. Based on these trends, we project maintaining our A grades. We are implementing targeted interventions to ensure continued student growth.

Enrollment:

All school campuses have been very proactive in their recruitment efforts, and we don't see any issue on meeting our enrollment targets.

Staff Recruitment:

Our leadership teams have been successfully recruiting highly-qualified teachers and staff members for any vacancies. Our competitive salaries and professional development

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opportunities have made us an attractive destination for top talent. We continue to focus on retaining and developing our outstanding team.

Building Hope National Charter School Award:

We are honored to receive the Building Hope Charter School Impact Award. This prestigious recognition highlights our commitment to creating a supportive and effective learning environment with dedicated leadership, positioning us as a model charter school in the nation. The award will further enhance our reputation and attract additional resources.

Science Olympiad Championship:

Our students excelled at the recent Science Olympiad Championship, bringing home multiple medals. Their success is a testament to our strong STEM program and dedicated coaching staff. We are incredibly proud to represent our state at the national tournaments once again. We are proud of our students' achievements and look forward to more victories in the future.

International Day:

International Day was a huge success, celebrating the diverse cultures within our school community. Students and families shared their heritage through food, music, and dance, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and global awareness. This annual event continues to be a highlight of our school year.

National Character School Designation:

We have been designated as a National Character School for our commitment to character education. This recognition reflects our efforts to cultivate a positive school culture and instill strong values in our students. It is an honor to be acknowledged for our work in developing well-rounded individuals.

Graduation:

This year's graduation ceremony was a memorable celebration of our students' achievements. We had a great graduation event at UNF. Our graduates are well-prepared for their next steps, thanks to the rigorous education and support they've received.

Leadership Jax:

I am pleased to announce my graduation from the Leadership Jax program. This initiative allowed me as a school leader to engage with community leaders and enhance my leadership skills. It was an excellent opportunity to represent our schools and for professional growth and building stronger community partnerships.

16. FLDOE site visit for RCSA Southeast

FLDOE Grant Office conducted a site visit to our RCSA Southeast campus to monitor our Start-up Grant compliance. Board member Mr. Kurt was also present as the board representative. We were in compliance with all items, and they were very appreciative of our practices and compliance. The site visit concluded with good news; they mentioned there is a strong possibility of receiving additional funds for our schools.

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17. DCPS site visits

DCPS conducted their routine yearly site visits for each of our campuses. They monitored almost every aspect of our operations, including academics, board compliance, testing, ESE, Gifted, ESOL, HR, and finance. All campuses performed very well, and we had no compliance issues.

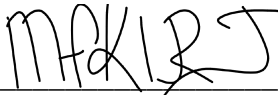
18. Charter contract extensions

We have been in communication with the district charter office regarding aligning all our charters with the state model charter school contract. During these discussions, we also requested that our renewals occur in the same year and asked for contract extensions. As a result, all our charter contracts have been extended for another 15 years, until June 30, 2039. This is a significant testament to our strong relationships with the district and the success of our programs.

19. Closure of the Meeting

Mr. Mese moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kurt seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary