

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

Thursday, February 06, 2025
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; Jason Kurt, Business Manager; Sel Buyuksarac, Parent Representative; Alisher Kuvatov, Director of Academics; Ahmet Temel, Director of Operations and Compliance

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

2. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks

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

Mr. Mese informed the Board that the minutes from the previous meeting had been shared in advance and invited members to provide any corrections or amendments.

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

5. Approval of out-of-field teachers

Dr. T. presented the out-of-field teacher list for all RCSA schools. A few teachers were hired after the October count. The majority of the teachers were out-of-field in ESOL. The schools have been closely monitoring out-of-field areas and providing guidance and assistance to ensure compliance through in-house training or district-offered courses.

Motion to approve out of field teachers by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

6. Approval of annual enrollment capacity

Dr. T. presented annual enrolment capacity for each school as part of the deliverable requirements

The enrollment capacities for RCSA schools for the 2025-26 school year are as follows:

RCSA Middle-High: 1020

RCSA Elementary: 590

RCSA Innovation: 860

RCSA Mandarin: 900

RCSA Intracoastal: 860

RCSA Southeast: 860

Motion to approve annual enrollment capacity by Mr. Mese and seconded by Mr. Kurt. Approved unanimously.

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7. Approval of asset disposal

Dr. T. shared the list of asset disposal items, primarily from the middle-high campus, which consisted mainly of broken student desks, chairs, and tables.

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

8. Review of school financials

Mr. Mese informed the board that the midyear budgets were approved in the previous board meeting and there has been no significant changes since then. Dr. T. presented the current financial reports, comparing budget to actuals. The schools are performing well and are expected to finish the year with a positive balance, with no anticipated cash flow issues or outstanding payments.

9. ICE visit procedures

RCSA presented the procedures for a potential ICE visit in response to the recent executive order. These procedures were prepared by RCESA's legal counsel team. The schools shared the guidelines with the leadership team, and each school has informed and trained its front desk personnel. So far, no visits have occurred.

10. Academic updates

Mr. K., RCESA's Director of Academics, presented a detailed summary of each school's performance on state assessments, PM2 data, and in-house assessments, including i-Ready. The comparison included fall-to-winter assessment results. Overall, the schools are performing and progressing well compared to district and state averages. Internal assessments also show progress in reading and math across all grade levels. The schools have been providing targeted interventions to improve any deficiencies for below grade level performers.

11. School updates

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

School Updates and Highlights

The RCESA Intracoastal campus received the State Character School Designation.

RCESA, as a system, was awarded the 2025 State District of Character.

RCESA schools were featured on the cover page of the NF Education Guide.

Several outstanding volunteers were recognized with the prestigious Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

Schools are nearing the end of the re-enrollment season, typically achieving a 95% re-enrollment rate.

Open houses were held for prospective parents for the upcoming school year.

Schools will begin receiving enrollment applications for lottery winners in two weeks.

The STEM and Health Expo is scheduled for this Saturday, with two media coverages highlighting the event.

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RCSA sponsored and attended the Eddy Awards Teacher of the Year event, where the leadership team and Teacher of the Year winners represented RCSA exceptionally well.

Three school principals, along with Mr. K., participated in the FLDOE Chancellor's Leadership Academy, a prestigious accomplishment that will bring valuable networks and knowledge to the organization.

A staff-family holiday party was held across all campuses during the last week of school.

Schools organized a toy drive campaign, successfully donating thousands of toys across campuses.

Science Olympiad, debate, and robotics teams have participated in numerous competitions and received recognition for their achievements.

The staff intention-to-return survey will be launched soon.

Schools are preparing for upcoming District Site Visits, which will begin soon.

12. Title I updates

Dr. T. informed the Board about Title-I updates

School Events and Activities

Parent and Student Engagement Efforts

Efforts to engage parents and students have been enhanced through a variety of events and activities:

- Parent-Principal Breakfasts – Providing opportunities for direct communication between parents and school leadership.
- Academic Teams Parent Presentations – Showcasing the achievements and goals of academic teams while encouraging parental involvement.
- Back-to-School Orientation/Curriculum Night – Offering insights into the curriculum and expectations for the academic year.
- Welcome Picnic – A community-building event fostering connections between families, students, and staff.
- Parent Academy - Technology Talk (Including Virtual Options) – Hosting workshops to equip parents with tools and resources to support student success.
- Home Visits – Strengthening relationships between educators and families through personalized outreach.
- Transition Nights for 9th, 10th, and 11th Grades – Guiding students and families through key academic planning milestones.
- FAFSA Night (in Collaboration with FSCJ) – Assisting families in understanding and completing the financial aid process.
- International Festival – Celebrating cultural diversity within the school community.
- STEM Expo – Showcasing student innovation and scientific exploration.
- College and Career Fair – Providing students with exposure to post-secondary opportunities and career pathways.

Parent Communication Enhancements

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- Digital Uploads and Communication Platforms – Strengthening parent outreach through multiple channels:
 - School Messenger, Website, Email, and Newsletters – Delivering regular updates and important notifications.
 - Parent Right-to-Know Letters – Informing parents of their rights under Title I, ensuring transparency and compliance.
 - Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) – Available in multiple languages to promote inclusivity.
 - School Improvement Plan (SIP) – Uploaded and translated into several languages to meet the needs of the diverse school community.

Staff Development

- Professional Development Sessions – Focused on strategies for fostering effective parent communication, aligning with Title I objectives.

Compliance Update

- Title I Compliance – All requirements are being met, with processes in place to ensure continued adherence to regulations.

13. Charter School Growth Fund update

Dr. T. informed the board that, as a final step, the RCSA leadership team has been invited to Denver next Tuesday and Wednesday to deliver the final presentation. All expenses will be covered by the Charter Growth Fund. This presentation serves as a critical opportunity to showcase progress, address any remaining questions, and solidify support from the Growth Fund for the next stages of the project. Preparations are well underway to ensure a successful and impactful presentation for all stakeholders.

14. Closure of the Meeting

Mr. Mese moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kurt seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary