APPROVED

River Valley Charter School

Minutes

Committee on Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday February 4, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
River Valley Charter School Middle School Humanities Room:

River Valley Charter School welcomes your participation at Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Trustees ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of the organization in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our school and assists the Board in making the best decisions for our school. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, guidelines are provided at the bottom of this agenda. All materials for all board and committee meetings, are available on our Board on track public portal found at rivervalleycharter.org.

Committee Members Present
C. Getz, E. Bradley, J. Nickerson, T. Murdy

Committee Members Absent
K. Kuse

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

T. Murdy called a meeting of the Committee on Trustees Committee of River Valley Charter School to order on Wednesday Feb 4, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

C. Approve 01/14/25 Minutes

E. Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes from Committee on Trustees Meeting on 01-14-26.
C. Getz seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Committee on Trustees

A. Update Bylaws

- Bylaws have been updated based on comments and aligning to guidance from DESE
- Need to time this with approval of new Whistle-blower and Complaint policies as the bylaws reference updated requirements
    - Discuss this with executive committee to work with ED to get policies through approval process to get final approval at the next meeting in line with the bylaws

B. Board Retreat and External Audit

- 30 minute interviews planned with each member of the board with baseline questions but allows room for broader dialog.
    - Noted that 30 minutes is a general time, not a fixed period
    - Questions will be asked about the relationship between governance and management without it going down a rabbithole
    - Planned as anonymous sessions with information being aggregated for themes and trends in the report out
    - Interested in information on what is important on board composition
- Target completion by end of February
    - Review by CoT before going to the larger board
    - Ideally talk through findings on 3/4 meeting but conflict with Kate - **ACTION - adjust schedule to align with Kate**
        - **Reschedule to 3/3 at 7pm**
    - **Need enough runway to get in two planning meetings before the 3/28 retreat**
        - **Create a subcommittee of the board for board education to simplify the process**

C. Action Items

- Review bylaws and new policies at Executive Committee meeting to ensure proper timing of review and updates
- Update the date of the CoT and/or subcommittee meetings for board training
- Address April 1 CoT and Exec Committee as this is Passover

III. Trustee conduct

A. Discussion

- Concerns raised as to the behaviors of board members in being impartial and aligned to best needs of the school, lack of adherence to open meeting law, lack of preparedness
  - Suggestion to present situation with opportunity for stepping down rather than going to a public vote
  - Not going to a public vote may "sweep the issues under the rug" rather than clearly and pubically shows that actions are not acceptable

Specific board language: **"Any trustee may be removed from the Board, *with or without cause*, upon recommendation by the Committee on Trustees and with an affirmative vote of *two-thirds of the entire voting Board* after *reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard* by the Board."**

- This establishes a **four-step, mandatory procedure**:
  - **The Committee on Trustees must recommend removal**
    - The full Board CANNOT vote to remove a trustee unless this committee first makes the recommendation.
  - **The trustee must receive reasonable notice**
    - Notice must include that removal is being considered
    - Must follow Open Meeting Law posting requirements
  - **The trustee must have an opportunity to be heard**
    - This occurs in **open session** (because trustees are not employees and OML does not allow executive session for this purpose)
    - They cannot deliberate in executive session about the trustee
  - **Removal requires a two-thirds vote of the entire voting Board**
    - Not of those present — of the **entire voting membership**
    - This is a high threshold

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
T. Murdy

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY The Board Chair reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.