

River Heights Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2010

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm. Board members present: Sandy Christie, Doreen L'Allier, Eileen Devine, Ruth Johnsen, Lindsey Jelle, Ross Berbig, and Ellen Schaub. Others in attendance: Jane Davin, Dean Walczak and Tina Kuecker.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ross made a motion to approve the agenda, and Sandy seconded. All approved.

3. Public Comments

There were none.

4. Financial Report

We have \$43k in the bank as of 3/31/10, which is better than expected. Things are looking slightly better than two months ago. We will probably end the year with a deficit of approximately \$5k, but we should be able to pay the teachers in July and August. Jane mentioned that we have a very good relationship with our landlord, and she believes he would want the teachers to get paid. So if it looks like we cannot pay them, she will talk to the landlord about deferring part of our lease payment.

It is looking very promising that the state will be paying back the \$170k, mostly in August through October.

We need 75 students to meet our budget. In the past month we have enrolled four more students.

Sandy made a motion to approve the wire transfers, Lindsey seconded and all approved.

5. Director Report

- New Schedule: surveys indicated that parents believe the four day week is a good idea. Starting the week of April 19, the schedule will be 8:30 – 3:30, Monday – Thursday, with 30 minutes for lunch. Students will be given home projects every week, which should be completed on Fridays and/or over the weekend, and returned to their advisor on Mondays. Jane will ask Tony to highlight this on the website.
- Testing this week: MCAs in Writing, 10th grade Reading and 11th grade Math. Most students seem to be working better at testing, and Shoua is working very hard to keep it all organized.
- If we are going to use the TRIO system, we will need a tech-savvy paid staff person to do it. (Possibly Shoua, if she no longer had receptionist duties.) TRIO is a one-page per student record-keeping system that was introduced to us as an option by Charter School Partners. The cost is \$3.75 per student.

6. Recruitment

We have six or seven graduates this year. We need to focus on finding incoming ninth-graders. We are inviting counselors from middle schools to our next Open House, which is Thursday, April 29th. Also, a new color flyer is in the works.

7. Advisor Updates

- Lindsey: school store has made \$250.00 so far. Considering adding more “lunch” food.
- Ross: ten students are scheduled to attend the Audubon retreat this year. A van will be rented.
- Eileen: recently did mock MCA testing, so that students would know what to work on before the real thing.

8. Old Business/New Business

- Ellen made a motion to instate Eileen as a board member, Lindsey seconded, all approved.
- Will the school be open next year? The staff will have ideas to share at the next meeting, and the board will need to vote on it. Our goal is 85 students, and we need to have at least 75 to maintain current staff. Three years ago, 35 students were recruited over the summer, and the past two years we have made it up to about 70 by September, so we know it can be done. But it will take a concerted effort by multiple people to make it happen.

9. Confirm Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 4:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.