

**MINUTES OF REGULAR VOTING MEETING  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**April 3, 2023**

*\*An Executive Session was held on Monday, April 3, 2023, from 6:00 until 7:00 pm to discuss personnel and legal matters and receive information.*

**CALL TO ORDER** Mrs. Jennifer Chaparro, Vice President, called the Regular Meeting of the Riverview Board of School Directors to order at 7:59 p.m., April 3, 2023.

**VISITORS PRESENT** Ernie Tillman, Erin Schuetz, Leanne Jacobs-Rohan, Katie Harley, Larry Stelitano, Jenna Ossler, Laurie Sliben, Brigitte Huffman, Dave & Carrie Longstreth, Nick Paradise, Kylie Longstreth, Daniel Showalter

**ROLL CALL** Present: Members: Mrs. Chaparro, Mr. Hawk, Dr. Pallone, Mrs. Wilton, Mrs. Garibay, Ms. Miller, Dr. McClure, Mr. Paris, Mr. Muscante, Solicitor; Dr. English, Supt.; Ms. Wehner, Business Manager; Mrs. Zatawski, Recording Secretary, Absent: Mrs. Hurt-Robinson,

**MINUTES APPROVED** Mrs. Chaparro presented the minutes for Minutes of the Regular Voting Meeting for February 13, 2023, the minutes were **TABLED** for clarification of the changes made to the 2/6/23 study session minutes that were approved with changes in italic font. Mrs. Garibay motioned, Mr. Paris second the motion and passed unanimously.

**BILLS** None at this time

**PRESIDENT’S REMARKS** Made by Vice President Mrs. Jennifer Chaparro, thank you for attending and patience with our audio and lay out changes to work best for everyone. There was an Executive Session prior to meeting.

**SUPTS. REMARKS** None at this time

**HEARING OF CITIZENS** None

**MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL**

Upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee (Dr. McClure/Mr. Hawk), Mrs. Garibay motion to approve the following items:

MOTION 1:

- The following change order in conjunction with the 2020-2021 Capital Improvement Project:
  - Merit for the Building Permit Reimbursement Costs for the Solar on the Project No 20-S18-03 Electrical Construction in the amount of \$3,665.44.
- Acceptance of the audit of the Riverview School District Financial Audit for 2021 – 2022 as prepared by Justin Vancheri from Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP, with no adverse findings.
  - Additional note by Mr. Paris clarifying that it was tabled to give everyone a chance to read it.
- Agreements between Riverview School District and Ricupero, Inc. to provide landscape maintenance at Verner Elementary, Tenth Street Elementary, and the Jr-Sr. High School for the service period April 1, 2023, through November 30,2023. REMOVE: #4, #8, #12.

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Dr. Pallone second the motion which passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Governance (Mrs. Chaparro), Ms. Miller moved that the following items be approved:

MOTION 1:

- The following revisions to the Riverview School Board Policy Manual:
  - Policy 249, Bullying/Cyberbullying: Third/Final Reading
  - Policy 907.1, School Visits by Board Members: Second Reading

Mrs. Garibay second the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Additional thanks by Dr. Pallone to Mr. Paris and Mr. Muscante for the work done on Policy 907.1. Mrs. Chaparro added all clear for school visits.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Governance (Mrs. Chaparro), Mrs. Wilton moved that the following items be approved:

MOTION 2:

- Confidential Student Settlement Agreement CSA2223-004.
  - Confidential Student Settlement Agreement CSA2223-005.
  - Confidential Teacher Confidentiality Agreement CSA2223-006.
- Mr. Paris second the motion, which passed 7 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Mr. Paris)

Discussion on Motion:

Mr. Paris mentioned to Dr. English that he feels that in situations where seeing same types to be mindful that we are not enforcing a zero tolerance policy. Try to not remove students, don't decide to remove them lightly. Not fall into a practice, offer them right to be in front of board for hearing. He urged administration to look into the Adagio company to come in free to do 4 sessions with students who have infractions.

Mr. Hawk mentioned that if they don't waive right, aren't we going back to zero tolerance if go back in front of board.

Mr. Muscante wants to be clear to have this discussion – stay away from details of infractions, should have those conversations in Executive Session due to FERPA. Permitted to have policy discussion but no specifics.

Dr. Pallone mentioned that due process is not waived, they would have hearing.

Mr. Hawk clarified that we are offering an alternative solution to not having a hearing.

Mr. Paris stated that if they didn't waive rights, school/board makes recommendation, brought to board and in conjunction to give their side, makes it more enlightening to board to understand the entire situation, see student and hear them out, board gets right to accept or overturn and bring Adagio in, (doesn't want to take out of learning environment)

Dr. English clarified these in these situations they are provided to parents as choice and the parent makes choice. At RHS, board doesn't hear cases anyway, we hire out (Mr. Paris stated we don't have to) we like board to remain impartial. Parents have chosen option so they don't have to go through the process. It is up to the parent to decide to take option.

Mr. Muscante stated that if go through expulsion hearing it does become part of transcript and lasts forever, where as if go this route it doesn't. Which is why parents usually go through voluntary agreement. Board needs to decide how they want to offer to parent(s). Feels this agreement is very similar and preferred route is usually voluntary instead of expulsion. Administration explains the options to the parents and encourages them to seek out guidance if needed.

Mr. Paris asks how many are for low income families who can't afford an attorney. Implying that it is pushed on them. Point was by Adagio presentation said that expulsion shouldn't be first avenue and

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advocating lesser degrees first. Pointing out what the Adagio presentation had and what we do is a disconnect.

Mrs. Wilton feels that Mr. Paris is making an assumption and that administration is giving the best option for the students.

Dr. Pallone stated that we are doing everything that Adagio has. Feels should consider for the future for a progressive punishment.

Dr. English stated that he reached out to a lot of places in how places manage. We are going to bring some things to the May meeting to offer. Not a one stop shop, we do consider how we are handling, continually, we are open to discussions and are having them in May. Need to find a middle ground so that we are not destroying student lives but need to be sure that they understand they can't do it.

Ms. Miller stated there is an understanding that there is a success rate for these students that have been involved in these situations.

Dr. English confirmed yes. But we do have had 1 repeat offender.

Mr. Paris does not want to remove a student from their environment after one mistake.

Mr. Hawk stated as a parent, lay the heavy hand on them.

Mr. Paris felt easier to say in middle or upper class, and not for a lower class.

Mrs. Chaparro interjected distinct situations

Mr. Hawk pointed out that we don't know the five or the walk of life, we are treating them all the same, thankfully. Same option and same choices.

Dr. Pallone suggested that maybe we consider more of how it is handling.

Mr. Paris stated he was giving an opinion since we had a presentation from reputable organization that has offered free services and asking to consider.

Mrs. Chaparro stated to focus on the three items and to discuss in May

Upon the recommendation of Personnel (Mrs. Chaparro) Mrs. Garibay moved that the following personnel item(s) be approved:

MOTION 1:

- An Article XI, section (a) Medical leave for Nick Kinek beginning on March 23, 2023, for the duration of the 2022-2023 school year.
  - Position is being filled until the end of the school year, possibly reopen for next year.
- Approval of Long Term Substitute at Riverview Jr-Sr. High School for Medical Leave Replacement of Cathy Cecil for the duration of the 2022-2023 school year pending all certification and clearance requirements:
  - Chinyu Shu
    - Mr. Paris questioned about AP preparations, Mr. Hewitt stated that Mrs. Cecil felt confident in her students and they are ready for the exam.
- Intermittent unpaid leave according to Board Policy 339 for the following paraprofessional:
  - Jennifer Murphy-Holsing

Ms. Miller second the motion which passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Personnel (Mrs. Chaparro) Mr. Paris moved that the following personnel item(s) be approved:

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**MOTION 2:**

- The following individuals as bus drivers/aide with Allegheny Transportation Services Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year pending any certification requirements:
  - Kathryn Benson Bus Driver

Dr. Pallone second the motion which passed unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of Education (Mrs. Wilton), Mrs. Garibay moved that the following student life item be approved-

**MOTION 1:**

- Nathan Hart to attend PMEA Sr. High District Orchestra scheduled for April 19 – April 22, 2023 at Kalahari Convention Center, Poconos, PA. Cost to the District is approximately \$514.79.
  - Mrs. Chaparro questioned about meals, thought price low. Mr. Hawk questioned why Mr. Hart going instead of Mr. Libell, explained there was a scheduling conflict, and Mr. Hart has PMEA status.

Dr. Pallone second the motion which passed unanimously.

**DELEGATE REPORTS** None at this time.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** None at this time.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

- Katie Harley has a senior in high school and I am a grad and older daughter who grad as well. Just wanted to say thank you to the School Board for the high school musical. Impressed by all, proud of all performances, extremely proud to say she and her children are from Riverview. The Kids knocked it out of the park. Thank you to JP Bertucci as well. HE gives everything to the program. Great experience. Even if they don't do anything down the road great opportunity and learning experience. Proud to be a member of RHS.
- Brigitte Huffman – Oak Meadow, parent of 4 children. Agree with Katie but need to add differing perspective of content value. JP Bertucci is great but would like to raise the awareness of junior and senior high student and felt that it was too much for that age group. Again, total support for the musical and the production and kids were outstanding, just concerned over the content. Do not want to diminish anything but wanted to give her perspective.
- Kylie Longstreth – 607 Pennsylvania Ave., senior at RHs and has been participating for 6 years, and wanted to say thank you for the 6 years and more the support and approval of the musical. It has helped me grow and become the person I am today, thanked all in the production. Exposure helped mold me and others to come out of their shells and form creative expression. Opportunities and access to the arts in general. Such access to wonderful program. Proud to be part of and gave many compliments, etc. Joy/laughter/community post COVID. Especially to her, cast, team everyone, appreciation and thanks before she graduates.
- Dave Longstreth – 607 PA Ave – opportunity to express thanks and gratitude for the 6 years that we have been involved. Thank all those involved from the staff, paid, and volunteers to all they have

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done. Thanks to the board for financial parts. Next year please pencil in more room for musical rights - continue to invest. Thanks to board and teachers – for approve censorship, excellence, quality. Quality of it all – we are competitive with the big schools and all can be proud of. Honor to serve as producer, volunteer, and parent. Thank you on behalf of self and wife for the Arts.

- Tillman 1231 PA Ave – respect to musical, been building sets for 15 years, but wanted to talk about a visitor that came to his house running for school board and dropped off pamphlet that was full of ignorance of school finance and what school board does. In the past there was an effort for meet candidates – is anyone doing this for this year?

Mrs. Chaparro responded that the Oakmont democrats will be putting out newsletter that will go to the homes. Also information on website. There should be a meet the candidate’s night. We can’t put that on district – we cannot promote political event.

Dr. Pallone mentioned that when ran was contacted by writer from advance leader, suggested to do again.

Mr. Tillman said with lots of names, he would want to meet.

Mrs. Chaparro mentioned that party websites have them.

Mr. Tillman wanted to reiterate that the pamphlet has poor statements about budgets/taxes/and other items. He did not state which pamphlet.

- Mike Loughren – 126 Oak glen – recognize some people who have supported his family, he is the Father of Jack/Carter/Elizabeth. Musical is one thing is bringing a bond with these kids, we strive to do in a school district, to support each other. Want you to be aware of how employees have supported family from the bottom of heart and he and Lindsay want to express gratitude to entire staff and RHS family. It is a special place. Appreciate comments by Brigitte, families bring up the questions, but I don’t want it to be overlooked how your team has cared for our family has been tremendous (Elizabeth will be home Wednesday)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Paris moved that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.