

APPROVED



The Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School

Minutes

ROLES Governance Council Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday July 22, 2020 at 7:00 AM

Location

Virtual

<https://meet.google.com/pvo-vzxt-pfn>

Directors Present

Ami Rosengren (remote), Amy Levash (remote), Becky Wollner (remote), Cecilia Guajardo (remote), Dan Davis (remote), Mary Ann Christopher (remote), Mike Mullen (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Amy Pollard, Andrea Rainka, Angela Berend, Christina Knoske, Courtney Finn, Darren Baalke, Greta Malek, Laura Jach Smith, Laura Wollershiem, Mia Arter, Moriah Butler, Sara Christy, Sara Harbison, Sarah Fisk, Sarah Fortney, Sarah Neumann, Sunny Knutson (remote), Taylor Hoge, Tera Rogers

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Dan Davis called a meeting of the board of directors of The Riveredge Outdoor Learning Elementary School to order on Wednesday Jul 22, 2020 @ 7:02 AM at Virtual

C. Confirm Proper Posting

D. Approval of July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

7:03 Amy Levash Makes a motion to approve the July 13th minutes
Mike Mullen 2nds the motion
Motion passed unanimously

E. President's Report

7:05 Dan Davis gives the President's Report:

1. Work started Monday on the expansion of the Outdoor Classroom.
2. A Survey will be going out to families at the end of the week, by a company called School Perceptions to gather input to draft a reopening plan with the staff, and it will be brought back to the Governance Council.
3. We are working on Grant funding adjustments to be submitted to the DPI to align our budget.
4. The Governance Council Meetings will be scheduled on a more regular basis in the future.
5. There are 3 candidates that will be interviewed for the Administrator position tonight.
6. The Administrative Assistant position is posted and there is hope to have it filled soon after Administrator is hired.
7. The Lease agreement with Riveredge Nature Center will be revised and reviewed
8. Met with Staff & Nature Center to review cleaning procedures. Both experience from last year and Covid-19 is taken into consideration. Many details were discussed including cleaning supplies, UV lights, possibly hiring out a cleaning firm.
9. We are looking into adding more Governance Council members. We have 7, can have up to 9. This could include parents and community members and could happen before the end of the term.
10. We need to review the potential waiting list. 4 new applications came in this week, 2 families with 4 students total.
11. Implement new communication protocols, including communication with families
12. Looking at the alignment of our obligations with Northern Ozaukee School District and the contract regarding the proposed teacher model.

Dan thanks the Governance Council & families for all their work.

II. Student Fee Increase

A. Review and Approval of Increased Student Fee

7:15 Sunny Knuston explains the proposal for school fees to be raised from \$75 to \$85. ROLES supplies all the classroom school supplies that typically parents would purchase on their own. The school fee increase is partly due to students each needing their own sets of supplies this year, instead of sharing.

Ami Rosengren makes a motion to approve raising the school fee to \$85
Mike Mullen seconds the motion.

Discuss:

Cecilia asks about families who are unable to afford.

Sunny responds that there is an option for families in need and this would be handled by the staff.

Passed Unanimously

III. Class Configuration Plan

A. Discuss and Act on Grade Configuration

7:20 Dan gives a review of the Class Configuration proposal.

This should be discussed and voted on today. This is the third time on the agenda. A decision needs to be made so energy can be focused on the reopening plan.

There was a misinterpretation of what we can change and what we can't change.

Thank you to the Ashley and the staff for all the hard work on this proposal.

Dan gives an explanation of ROLES as a non-instrumentality. ROLES has their own school leaders and school board, but still needs to adhere to the NOSD contract and adhere to the DPI grant.

Within the Class configuration proposal there is only one option that could be used without having permission from NOSD to approve the structure. If a new class configuration was decided on, there would need to be a new agreement with NOSD.

By reading and talking to teachers, alternative school leaders, and many other professionals, the feedback Dan gathered was that they did not feel there was enough time to implement this by fall.

Ami Rosengren states that, in the end, it's important to align our class structure with our agreement with NOSD

Amy Levash is concerned with the uncertainty of the upcoming year, to change a class structure is not the best idea right now.

Mike Mullen thanks Dan for his work, and agrees that after looking at all the factors for this year, following the straight grade configuration is the best route. He also thinks using the mixed grade configuration as a 8 week pilot program could be a good way to implement this idea.

Becky Wollner agrees that it is important to follow the contract with NOSD. This year the timing is off, but is open to it in the future

Cecilia thinks that when teaching children during the Covid-19 pandemic, it would be easier to keep the children within cohorts using a straight grade structure.

Mary Ann likes the idea of piloting a new program once the school year gets under way.

There is not enough time to get the new mixed grade structure under way this year. Option 3 (straight grades) is the best option for this year

Dan Davis also agrees that this could be a good option moving forward. We need to make sure that the original school mission and vision is the focus.

Amy Levash makes a motion to approve option 3 - straight grades with a combined 4/5

Becky Wollner seconds the motion

Discussion: Dan wants to thank the staff again for all their work, and would like to work with them and the new administrator to see how reallocation of resources could help to meet our goals, including piloting a combined class for the future.

Cecilia asks about the numbers of students for classes. Some classes will have more openings.

Dan responds that this is something the Administrator should weigh in on, once they are hired. Some classes will have more, some less. We still don't have final numbers.

Motion passed unanimously

IV. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

7:40 Mia Arter would like the dates for when returning families need to make enrollment decisions. Returning families are not receiving the same communication as newly enrolled families, and do not have these dates.

Dan agrees this is something that needs to be communicated.

Cecilia suggests that a formal communication should be sent to families regarding the class structure decision

The following is the text typed into the Chat feature:

Laura Wollersheim

6:56 AM

Good Morning-Laura Wollersheim

Sara Christy

6:56 AM

Good Morning - Sara is here

Mike Mullen

6:57 AM

Good morning!

Sarah Fortney

6:59 AM

Sarah Fortney

Greta Malek

6:59 AM

Greta Malek -- Good morning everyone.

Sarah Neumann

7:06 AM

Sarah Neumann

Courtney Finn

7:07 AM

Courtney Finn

Amy Pollard

7:07 AM

Amy Pollard

Taylor Hoge

7:09 AM

Taylor Hoge

Christina Knoske

7:11 AM

christina knoske

Laura C Smith

7:11 AM

Laura Jach Smith

Sarah Fisk

7:12 AM

Sarah Fisk

Mia Arter

7:13 AM

Mia Arter

Greta Malek

7:14 AM

Thank you, Dan.

Amy Pollard

7:15 AM

Thank you Dan for continuing to work on communication!

Tera Rogers

7:15 AM

Tera Rogera

Laura Wollersheim

7:15 AM

Thank you ALL for your volunteered time!

Tera Rogers

7:15 AM

*Rogers

Laura Wollersheim

7:38 AM

Please let parents know if you've exhausted waitlist and need more kids for a certain grade.

We can recruit.

Mia Arter

7:40 AM

I have a quick comment.

Amy Pollard

7:42 AM

I just want to say thank you Dan, for all your research into class configurations. It's extremely appreciated.

Christina Knoske

7:43 AM

Thank you Dan!

Sarah Neumann

7:43 AM

Thank you Dan, and everyone for volunteering their time!

Greta Malek

7:43 AM

Have a good day, Thank you.

Sarah Fortney

7:44 AM

thank you

Taylor Hoge

7:44 AM

Thank you!

Amy Pollard

7:44 AM

Thank you!

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Amy Levash makes a motion to adjourn

Mary Ann Christopher 2nds the motion

Passed unanimously

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Davis