

The Genesee Community Charter School at RMSC
Board of Trustees & Education Governance Council Meeting

RIVER CAMPUS: FINAL Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2024 | 5:30pm

Cunningham House Studio, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

GCCS at RMSC Board Members: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Board Members Present: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Board Members Absent:

Board Vacancies: RMSC Representative (1), Community Representative (1)

Educational Governance Council Members: Kemouy Bhalai, Allison Carlson, Elizabeth Mascitti - Miller

Present: Kemouy Bhalai, Elizabeth Mascitti - Miller

Absent: Allison Carlson

Invited Guests:

- *General Counsel:* **Kirsten Barclay**
- *GCCS Operations Coordinator:* **Maureen Milke**
- *GCCS Accounting & Payroll Specialist:* **Robin Blew**
- **Eron Dameracy** (Absent)
- **Betsy Serapilio**

Legal Counsel Present:

Legal Counsel Absent: Kirsten Barclay

NOTE: * indicates that person participated remotely via ZOOM; names in **BOLD** are not eligible to vote

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome, Welcome Guests, Call to Order, Roll Call (Greeting), Review Meeting Logistics, Agenda Review and Approval

- Welcome & Welcome Guests
- Call to Order: Colin Orr called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.
- Roll Call & Greeting - A quorum is present.
- Review Meeting Logistics
- Agenda Review & Approval:

Motion 20241218.1

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Ben Clarke, RESOLVED, that the December 18, 2024 Agenda for the GCCS at RMSC meeting of the Board of Trustees be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Keirsten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20241218.1 Passed: 7 to 0

2. Review & Approve Minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the meetings in the last month.

Motion 20241218.2

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley, RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes from the November 20, 2024 GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees Meeting be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20241218.2 Passed: 7 to 0

OPEN FORUM

3. Future Agenda Topics/and or Public Comment

Colin opened the meeting up to public comment at 5:39pm. No public comments were made.

4. Executive Director Update: Enrollment Policy Update; Facilities Task Force Update; Merger Update

Beth shared updates on the following topics:

- Data Updates:
 - *Enrollment:* Remains steady at 210 enrolled students.
 - *Attendance & Absenteeism:* averaged daily attendance is at 89% (goal is 93%) and that YTD 30% chronic absenteeism (any student based on their own days of enrollment that has been 10% absent)
 - *Suspensions:* only 1 out of school suspension this month!
- Highlights:
 - Merger Application has been completed and submitted to NYSED
 - Recruitment Plan in Progress – Good Schools Roc Application went live on the 2nd; Good Schools Roc shared that their numbers of applications have gone down by 9% over the first 10 days compared to last year. They believe that this is rooted in hesitation from parents about an overall lack of seats in the higher grades. GCCS has been inviting parents to do tours, updating fliers, contacting radio stations to get proposals out to them and are exploring community events to table at for the rest of the year.
- Curriculum & Community Connections from School Leaders - Kemouy Bhalai & Christine Farrell

EL Workplan - Christine Farrel

There are 3 Dimensions of work that EL focuses on: Mastery of Knowledge & Skills, Character & Crew, and High-Quality Work and Christine shared that both schools are focusing on aligning science & math curriculum; focusing on the same Character Trait each month at both schools and more. For each “Zone” they outlined: Faculty Learning Targets, Action Steps Taken and Planned Action Steps. The school leaders and Curriculum Team refer to the work plan with any new project or lesson to help the entire teaching team be on the same page and to build connections and collaborations across the schools.

EL Re-Credentialing - Kemouy Bhalai

Kemouy shared that River has moved onto the second phases of credentialing with EL. Wednesday February 5th will be the date of the GCCS at RMSC 3-hour presentation that will need to be done for the credentialing process and is one of the earliest schools doing so. Phase I was the Eligibility & Application Phase (student performance feeds into ability to apply); Phase II is the presentation and possible Phase III – Celebrate, Reflect & Grow and sharing our story that is fun, interactive that has student & teacher focus (community & family voice is important too) groups and are working with Lisa Zeller (EL Coach) to define the narrative of the presentation. The Board has extended support to Kemouy and the Leadership team during the remainder of the process.

5. Committee Updates: Committee Updates

- a. **Finance Committee** - November 2024 Financial Review

November 2024 Financial Review - Maria Oliver

Cash flow concerns and are optimistic that in January things will even out; will dip into the line of credit until we get payments from districts. Spending is way down from last year; sweep account is making ~\$500/month.

b. **Governance:** Updates - *Adam Koneman*

The Governance Committee met and shared the following updates around the process of getting new board members onboarded; focusing on Community Representatives to balance with our strong Parent Representatives; looking for diversified skill sets in Finance, Facilities, etc. Board Strong account was updated and reactivated and found it to be a pretty unhelpful resource as there was very little information on it (it is free for us but will still stay active) and will keep an eye out for other community events for recruitment. The committee members (and greater board members) are also connecting with their own networks to help drum up some names for folks.

c. **Personnel:** Updates - *Colin Orr*

The Personnel Committee did not have a meeting this week as the committee had been in the midst of ~2 weeks of interviews for the ED.

d. **Education:** No Report.

e. **Community Development & Engagement:** Meeting Updates & ROC the Day Update - *Teresa Zappia-Sinicropi*

GCCS does have an instagram account! Melissa has been updating that more regularly. Maureen was able to pull a list of alumni names and a capital campaign list and the committee is working on combining the list into a "Friends of GCCS" list; is exploring an annual spring event that will start the celebration of having a new ED and GCCS's 25th year which is next year! The January meeting will be focused on supporting student recruitment efforts. Both campuses participated in Roc the Day on December 3rd and \$1600 for River and \$400 for Flour was raised.

f. **Diversity & Racial Equity:** No report.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

7. Merger & Special Meeting Update - *Colin Orr*

The merger has been applied for and submitted on time; not sure when we will hear back about it but remain hopeful that it will happen and it will help our organization succeed.

8. Facilities Update - *Colin Orr*

The taskforce will be meeting tomorrow and is working towards a February goal to have an idea of feasibility for how that would work to stay at the Museum on a long term basis.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Charter Champions & Advocacy Work - *Colin Orr*

Colin has been in contact with Charter Champions to get more information on and to support the collective advocacy work of all Rochester charters to push back against the squeeze from Albany. The Board has invited representatives from the NYS Charter Schools group to help us better understand how we can be advocates for our school.

10. January BOT Meeting Date Change

Due to the Lunar New Year falling on Wednesday, January 29, 2024, the same date of our Board Meeting, the meeting must be rescheduled as there is no school or school matters that day. School Leaders will post the change publicly.

Motion 20241218.3

Upon the motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley, RESOLVED that the January Meeting of the GCCS at RMSC Board will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 30, 2024 from 5:30 - 7:30pm, to be held in the same location at the RMSC Cunningham House Studio.

Voting in the affirmative: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Keirsten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20241218.3 Passed: 7 to 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Executive Session was called to discuss a Personnel Matter.

Motion 20241218.4

Upon Motion Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Ben Clarke, RESOLVED that this meeting of the GCCS Flour City Board of Trustees enter into exit session at 6:52 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Voting in the affirmative: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20241218.4 Passed: 7 to 0

Motion 20241218.5

Upon Motion Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Keirsten Shinrock - Blankley, RESOLVED that this meeting of the GCCS Flour City Board of Trustees exit Executive Session at pm to discuss a personnel matter.

Voting in the affirmative: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative:

Abstaining: None

Motion 20241218.5 Passed: 7 to 0

MEETING WRAP-UP

12. Review Actions & Agreements, Confirm Meeting Dates

Action Items/Reminders:

- Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 | 5:30 - 7:30pm

Adjournment:

Motion 20241218.6

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Ben Clarke, RESOLVED, that this meeting of the GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees be adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Voting in the affirmative: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative:

Abstaining:

Motion 20241218.6 Passed: 7 to 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Shultes
Secretary of GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees