

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

RIVER CAMPUS: FINAL Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 | 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: Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Board Members Absent: Adam Koneman

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

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

Present: Kemouy Bhalai, Allison Carlson*, Elizabeth Mascitti - Miller

Absent:

Invited Guests:

- *General Counsel:* **Kirsten Barclay**
- *GCCS Operations Coordinator:* **Maureen Milke**
- *GCCS Director of Curriculum & Instruction:* **Chris Dolgos**
- **Brian Hathaway** (Summer Camp Director at RMSC; subbing for Eron Damercy)

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 & Approval

- Welcome & Welcome Guests
- Call to Order: Colin Orr called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
- Roll Call & Greeting - A quorum is present.
- Review Meeting Logistics
- Agenda Review & Approval:

Motion 20250226.1

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley, RESOLVED, that the February 26, 2025 Agenda for the GCCS at RMSC meeting of the Board of Trustees be approved.

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

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20250226.1 Passed: 6 to 0

2. Review & Approve Minutes

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

Motion 20250226.2

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley, RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes from the January 30, 2025 GCCS at RMSC Trustees Meeting be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Ben Clarke, Kiersten Shinrock- Blankley
Voting in the negative: none
Abstaining: none
Motion 20250226.2 Passed: 6 to 0

OPEN FORUM

3. Future Agenda Topics/and or Public Comment

Colin opened the meeting up to public comment at 5:35pm. No public comments were made.

4. Executive Director Updates:

Beth shared updates on the following topics: *Attendance, Enrollment & Discipline Stats Updates; EL Credentialing Updates*

- *Attendance, Enrollment & Discipline Stats Updates:*
 - *Enrollment:* Enrollment is stabilizing–January enrollment is at 215 students
 - *Attendance & Absenteeism:* Attendance stays consist ~93%; 30% chronic absenteeism (defined as 10% of total days)
 - *Suspensions:* none
 - *Applications:* 227 applications for next year out of a ~36 seats; the team continues recruitment efforts through radio ads (WXXI, PBS Kids), holding open houses, Good Schools ROC mailer, will be attending Recruitment Fair on 3/1
- *Highlights & Updates:*
 - Health and Nutrition Review: Thank you to Michelle Henry for her work on this. DURING this review, the Child Nutrition program comes in for a visit at River Campus to review food safety around serving breakfast and lunch, operations, policies & procedures, paperwork review for reimbursement
- *EL Credentialing Review:*
 - Kemouy & Chris gave updates on the EL credentialing process that happened earlier this month. Credentialing gives us the opportunity to have our name out there (GCCS was one of the first EL school so we are well recognized in that community and hold ourselves to high standards), have site seminars for other EL staff and schools to observe/learn from us; being credentialed is a “notch” in the belt and we are in the top 5% (for performance) of EL Network schools. Review is a 3 hour zoom session 3D of EL (Mastery of knowledge and skills, Character, high Quality Work) to share the gains we have made in these 3 core areas and the team presenting gives clear examples of that progress–gains in crew, sense of belonging in BIPOC community, hiring a SPED coordinator, diversifying staff, community partners, work in math at the staff level, etc. Were able to talk to students, staff and family members and view pieces of student work–showcase high quality work. It was shared that this process and conversation with the EL partners is a great opportunity to get peer feedback and to reflect on a high level of what’s working, what’s not and steps for growth.
 - Through our review process, the Genesee Community Charter School - River Campus has earned a full credential. This credential is valid for 5 years, beginning in 2025 up for renewal by Summer 2030.

6. Committee Updates

a. Finance Committee: *Financial Review & Updates - Maria Oliver*

Both schools are staying on budget this year thanks to great efforts to reduce expenses by both School Leaders. The Finance Committee and Executive Director are monitoring accounts closely as January was a three pay period month and will inform the board if any actions (i.e. dipping into a line of credit or other accounts) is needed. The financial committee is also working on multiple drafts of the budget for next year with different scenarios that will come to the Board so we’re prepared to explore options going into budgets next year.

b. **Governance:** None

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

The Personnel Committee had a meeting a couple weeks ago to walk the Executive Director (Beth) through the Evaluation Process and what that looks like at GCCS. Beth is working on her self evaluation and it will come to the Board at the March meeting. The Board will complete their evaluation after that. Updates were also shared about the next step in the ED search – there will be a site visit for the final candidate on Friday afternoon and will give a presentation to the Board and there will be an opportunity for Board Q&A as well.

d. **Education:** *Updates - Betsy Serapilio*

The Committee looked at data that came in from a survey that was conducted for both families and staff to gather insights into needs/what the priorities for the budget should be next year, especially as it relates to staffing for classrooms (TA levels, etc.) based on instruction priorities. Admin is thinking carefully about where to best place teaching aides (considering class size, looping, academic/social needs for a cohort). There was also discussion on how to eventually move away from shared staff across the two campuses as it's hard on the individual and can be complicated with regards to benefits.

The Committee also discussed i-Ready data for winter. Results were slightly lower for reading and math was lower for both campuses. Leaders and coaches want to work with teachers to better use AI features for assigning lessons to target needs and to be strategic with some of the ready made activities and plans. Also looked at growth rates for math and reading. 3rd grade cohort - some are now receiving services, others have been referred to CSE, some are new students to GCCS. Plan to offer Math and ELA clubs before/after school for additional targeted support before state exams.

e. **Community Development & Engagement:** *Meeting Updates - Teresa Zappia-Sinicropi*

The CEC focused their last meeting on Recruiting efforts for 25-26 enrollment (GCCS Ambassador Families, Parents at info sessions!); the feasibility of a 25th anniversary year kick-off celebration discussion & the new ED and piggybacking this with the FA June Picnic; and debriefed the information shared with us in our conversation with Causewave earlier this year. The CEC shared the folder with recruitment materials (facebook, instagram, flier links) that the Board can use to promote GCCS.

f. **Diversity & Racial Equity:** *Meeting Updates - Beth Mascitti-Miller*

Beth, Kendra & Kiersten met to bring the group back together and will hold a larger meeting in March (third Wednesday) to identify the short term goals for the Committee between March and the end of the year and identify long term goals for when the new Executive Director begins. The group wants to use data to help drive decisions, and will focus on SEL, trauma, culturally relevant practices, support for staff, etc. to be able to support the community and our work in this area.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

7. Executive Session was called at this meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion 20250226.3

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Ben Clarke, RESOLVED to enter into Executive Session at 6:29pm.

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

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: None

Motion 20250226.3 Passed: 6 to 0

Motion 20250226.4

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Ben Clarke, RESOLVED to exit Executive Session at 6:45pm.

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

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: None

Motion 20250226.4 Passed: 6 to 0

MEETING WRAP-UP

8. Review Actions & Agreements, Confirm Meeting Dates

Action Items/Reminders

- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 5:30 - 7:30pm

Adjournment:

Motion 20250226.3

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Kendra Cadogan, RESOLVED that this meeting of the GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees be adjourned at 6:53pm.

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

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: None

Motion 20250226.3 Passed: 6 to 0

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