

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

RIVER CAMPUS: FINAL Meeting Minutes

January 30, 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: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Board Members Absent: Ben Clarke

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**
- **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 5:31pm.
- Roll Call & Greeting - A quorum is present.
- Review Meeting Logistics
- Agenda Review & Approval:

Motion 20250130.1

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Adam Koneman, RESOLVED, that the January 30, 2025 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, Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20250130.1 Passed: 6 to 0

2. Review & Approve Minutes

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

Motion 20250130.2

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Maria Oliver, RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes from the December 18, 2024 GCCS at RMSC Trustees Meeting be approved.

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

Voting in the negative: none
Abstaining: none
Motion 20250130.2 Passed: 6 to 0

Motion 20250130.3

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Maria Oliver, RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes from the December 16, 2024 Special Meeting of the GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees Meeting be approved.

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

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20250130.3 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. Charter Funding Inequities & Advocacy Work Discussion - Anna Hall (Northeast Charter Schools Network) & Fatima Barker (NY Charter Schools Associations)

Anna & Fatima shared information with the Board about the ongoing and current challenges facing charter schools in New York State, her in ROchester and what we as a Board can do to be advocates for our schools and students. They shared some historical background on how all public and charter schools are funded and the systemic challenges and inequities with the Foundation Aid Formula that was implemented in the early 2000's in New York. While this funding was implemented to create equities in supporting public school funding, the formula developed to fund charter schools was implemented before the Foundation Aid was, which has led to inequities in funding levels. Charter schools work to remedy these inequities through specific "bullet aid" line items in the State Legislative Budget. Last year in Rochester, Rochester Charter Schools saw a decrease of \$221.76 per pupil (\$2.1 million total) which directly impacted our schools and students (and was the only city to be impacted so negatively). Anna and Fatima shared that they started having conversations with legislators since this past summer when the decrease was announced and are cautiously optimistic that their early and frequent have helped set charters up to get that \$2.1 million back, the 3% increase that RCSD/public schools got, and a little more for the increase for more students this year. They are coordinating a lobby day/thank you day on March 3 in Albany with school leaders, teachers and board members to do a final pull at the heartstrings stories for politicians who don't remember that there are kids at the end of their decisions.

5. Executive Director Updates:

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

- Data Updates:
 - *Enrollment:* January enrollment is 214 students
 - *Attendance & Absenteeism:* 28% chronic absenteeism
 - *Suspensions:* none
 - *Applications:* 168 applications for next year out of a ~36 seats
- Highlights & Updates:
 - *Merger Application:* Application for merger was submitted on time.
 - *EL Credentialing:* Virtual meeting on February 5, 2025—the Education Committee has been invited to attend.

6. Committee Updates

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

December 2024 Financial Review - 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 but River is moving forward and remains on budget.

Form 990 for Review - Beth Mascitti-Miller

- b. **Governance:** Updates - *Adam Koneman*
No major updates and while the Board still has 2 vacancies (1 RMSC Rep and 1 Community Rep) the Board is now able to reach quorum more easily at both schools; Betsy Serapilio is now a voting Board Member for the GCCS at RMSC Board. The committee continues to build community connections and networks to seek out potential members that fill gaps in skill sets across the Board.
- c. **Personnel:** Updates - *Colin Orr*
The Personnel Committee did not meet this month as they are actively working through interviews with finalists for the Executive Director position.
- d. **Education:** Updates - *Adam Koneman*
The Committee reviewed the data available and will review i-Ready data after it is released next month and will present it to the Board next meeting. They will debrief the EL Credentialing after it occurs on February 5.
- e. **Community Development & Engagement:** Meeting Updates - *Teresa Zappia-Sinicropi*
The CEC focused their last meeting on how they can support Maureen and both schools in recruitment and working with “ambassador families” to attend recruitment and community events and “table” and share about their experience at GCCS. This model is empowering families in their communities (churches, preschools, etc.) to share and make connections and get the word of GCCS out there. A representative from the Family Association is now on the Committee as well.
- f. **Diversity & Racial Equity:** The Board discussed the next steps in supporting the School in getting this Committee activated. Beth is exploring it with both School Leaders and will get a meeting scheduled for February.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

7. Enrollment & Admissions Policy Updates - Beth Mascitti-Miller

Motion 20250130.4

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Kiersten Shinrock - Blankley, RESOLVED, that the updated Enrollment & Admissions Policy for GCCS at RMSC be approved as presented.

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

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20250130.4 Passed: 6 to 0

NEW BUSINESS

8. Review & Discussion of ACCESS TO EDUCATION, STUDENT PRIVACY, LAW AND IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES Document

The Board reviewed the document regarding Access to Education, Student Privacy, Law & Immigration Procedures and what the policies are regarding current events and how GCCS is responding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. Executive Session was not called at this meeting.

MEETING WRAP-UP

10. Review Actions & Agreements, Confirm Meeting Dates

Action Items/Reminders

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

Adjournment:

Motion 20250130.5

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by, Kiersten Shinrock-Blankley, RESOLVED that this meeting of the GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees be adjourned at 7:42 pm.

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

Abstaining: None

Motion 20250130.5 Passed: 6 to 0

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