

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

RIVER CAMPUS: FINAL Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2024 | 5:30pm

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

GCCS at RMSC Board Members: Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Annemarie Wess, Allison Shultes, Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver

Board Members Present: Kendra Cadogan*, Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Maria Oliver

Board Members Absent: Annemarie Wess

Board Vacancies: RMSC Representative (2), Community Representative (1), Parent 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 Corporation:* **Maureen Milke**
- **Eron Dameracy***
- **Ben Clarke**
- **Betsy Serapilio**
- **Lindsay Tarnoff**
- **Teresa Zappia-Sinicropi**

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 5:33pm. Colin, Maria ALL
- Roll Call & Greeting - A quorum is present.
- Review Meeting Logistics
- Agenda Review & Approval:

Motion 20240925.1

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Adam Koneman, RESOLVED, that the September 25, 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, Maria Oliver

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20240925.1 Passed: 4 to 0

2. Review & Approve Minutes

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

Motion 20240925.2

Upon motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Maria Oliver, RESOLVED, that the Meeting Minutes from the August 21, 2024 GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees Meeting be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Kendra Cadogan*, Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Maria Oliver

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20240925.2 Passed: 5 to 0

OPEN FORUM

3. Future Agenda Topics/and or Public Comment

Colin opened the meeting up to public comment at 5:37 pm. No public comments were made.

Future Agenda Topic: School Leadership Goal Setting

4. Executive Director Update: Facilities & Enrollment Updates, Campus Updates

Beth shared updates on the following topics:

- **Facilities Updates:**
 - Grounds - mulching & playground repairs continue
- **Data Updates:**
 - **Enrollment Updates:** As of 9/20/24 things continue to be in flux—we are not at our target enrollment yet (225) but the team has ideas on how to increase that. Beth shared notes on increased enrollment in the areas of Students with Disabilities and ELL.
 - Updates on River Campus attendance is at 94% (goal was 93%). Teams are tracking chronic absenteeism rate (more than 10%) and at this point in the year that number isn't as true as it will be but there are lots of elements that impact this.
 - Suspensions- no suspensions yet at this point in the year.
- **Campus Updates:**
 - Primary project - Coming to GCCS at RMSC and Flour City Campus
 - EL National Conference; Accepted for National Presentation
 - RMSC Partnering: 5th grade class to field test an exhibition for the Museum
 - 6th Grade Retreat: They're off!
 - Kemouy shared that a big push at River is cohesion and connection around teachers & staff at the campus due to staff turnover and changes. A student facing video explaining the norms/expectations about what Community Circle is, and introduces Kemouy, other staff and features students singing some of the songs as a way to stay connected and share what it's all about!
 - ROC Crews: at River rolled out on the first day of school; multi-grade crews with 8-9 students in each one with one adult as a way to create intentional engagement opportunities for students across grade levels. The same lesson on responsibility was shared. ROC Crews meet once a month.

5. Committee Updates: Committee Updates - Colin Orr

a. Finance Committee - Maria Oliver

Maria will now be sharing the monthly Finance Committee report. The committee met and there is concern about how low enrollment is impacting the budget for the year and the committee is reviewing the budget in detail and is assessing the need for a budget amendment based on how enrollment numbers are shaping up. The Committee is keeping an eye on spending and cash flow for both campuses.

b. Governance: No report.

c. Personnel: Focus Group Update; ED Search Update, Harper Hewes Contract - Colin Orr

The search committee met for the first time last week and it was a productive meeting that included reviewing the job description, norms for their work, making their charter, establishing the calendar for their meeting and is still working on their Statement on Diversity and updating the organization chart for both schools. The Committee approved and discussed the next steps in the contract for the Talent Consultant to help with the Executive Director Search and the committee has presented a

proposal from Debra Harper with Harper Hewes. Colin had reached out to Debbie (as a family friend and knowing she does this kind of work) and she expressed interest in supporting our search with her work. She is a local consultant and has a more flexible fee structure that includes a baseline of hours, and any extra work that we determine the search needs will be charged hourly and billed bi-weekly.

Motion 20240925.3

Upon motion of Adam Koneman, and duly seconded by Maria Oliver, RESOLVED, to approve the contract with Harper Hewes as presented, and to be amended, but not to exceed \$5,000.

Voting in the affirmative: Kendra Cadogan*, Adam Koneman, Allison Shultes, Maria Oliver

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: Colin Orr

Motion 20240925.3 Passed: 4 to 0

d. Education - Adam Koneman

First meeting will happen in October and will be meeting regularly on the first Monday of the month from 8-9am on Zoom. The new Committee will include both Board and Staff representation and will first focus on how the board will operate (not managing but oversight) and what data will be reviewed and discussed with the group.

e. Community Development & Engagement: First Meeting Update - Teresa Zappia-Sinicropi

The Committee met and has picked a standing day and time to meet on the first Mondays of the month, review the current description of the committee and while not done, did decide that we need to focus on all GCCS stakeholders and making that community feel valued. Marketing, branding and communication efforts were discussed and is still working on the statement on DEAI.

f. Diversity & Racial Equity: No report.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

7. None.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

8. Organizational Goals Draft from Executive Director

Beth shared the first draft of her document outlining her goals for the school year and how they align with the NYSED Benchmarks and proficiency/student performance on assessments. The document is a tool to explore and help organize what data we can collect and use to demonstrate success in key areas being looked at by both authorizers.

9. Merger Application

It has been recommended by General Counsel to submit another application for merger in order to keep it top of mind for authorizers and keep the option on the table for the Board and that not re-submitting sends the message that it takes it off the table.

Motion 20240925.5

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Maria Oliver, presented the following resolution that:

WHEREAS, the Genesee Community Charter School Board of Trustees has discussed and determined that a merger with Genesee Community Charter School – Flour City is in the best programmatic, operational and fiscal interests of its students, families and the Rochester community; and

WHEREAS, the Genesee Community Charter School Board of Trustees has discussed and determined that merging this corporation into Genesee Community Charter School – Flour City, with the surviving education corporation named *Genesee Community Charter Schools* and authorized by the Trustees of the State

University of New York ("SUNY") is in the best interest of the school, its students, families and Rochester Community; and

WHEREAS, the Genesee Community Charter School Board of Trustees has reviewed and discussed the Merger Agreement/Plan of Merger.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby approves the Plan of Merger by three-quarters majority vote of attendees at this meeting; and

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes and directs Board Chair to execute the Plan of Merger, Certificate of Merger, Verification, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the merger; and authorizes and directs the Board Secretary to execute the Verification.

Voting in the affirmative: Kendra Cadogan*, Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Maria Oliver

Voting in the negative: none

Abstaining: none

Motion 20240925.4 Passed: 5 to 0

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, October 30, 2024 | 5:30 - 7:30pm
- Board members will review the Goals Document presented by Beth for further discussion at the October Meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion 20240925.6

Upon Motion of Colin Orr, and duly seconded by Maria Oliver, **RESOLVED**, that this meeting of the GCCS at RMSC Board of Trustees be adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Voting in the affirmative: Kendra Cadogan*, Adam Koneman, Colin Orr, Allison Shultes, Maria Oliver

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20240925.6 Passed: 5 to 0

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