

**Rockford Charter School Organization Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023
11:30a.m.
Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107
In-Person Meeting**

1. Call to Order – at 11:35a.m.
 - a. Present: William Cunningham, Anisha Grimmett, Tamir Bell, Antonio Turner, Ricardo Montoya Picazo, Jacob Bradt, Executive Director Emily Wallen, Chief Financial Officer Rick Aylward, Angie Smelter, Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski
 - b. Not Present: Carla Redd
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Anisha Grimmett and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 2. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 3. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 4. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. Motion passed.
3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023, and Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2023.
 - a. A motion was made to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2023, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2023, by Ricardo Montoya Picazo and seconded by Tamir Bell.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 2. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 3. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 4. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment
 - a. Catalina Bumphrey read a letter detailing the leadership skills of Executive Director Emily Wallen. In the letter, she explained to the Board that they need to think of what is best for Jackson Charter as a whole.
 - b. Emily Tran read a letter detailing the success of Jackson Charter despite staff leaving the profession and increased demands nationwide. She explained that what sets this current year apart is Executive Director Wallen. Tran explained that Director Wallen has a history of proven success. She discussed the clear

improvement within the special education system at Jackson. Tran stated that the achievement gap between students receiving special education services and general education students at Jackson is already smaller when you look comparatively at the state. She expressed that Executive Director Wallen not only is capable of working on a larger scale but has also created an environment that nurtures and grows teachers. Emily Tran advised the Board that before they make a decision for the staff at Jackson, they should explore the research as they would at their own jobs.

- c. Beverly Snider explained to the Board that in her 12 years, there has been very little that has followed from when she started to working for the charter to present day. She explained that the school has been reimagined, renamed, and moved. She stated that the only thing that has been consistent has been Executive Director Wallen. Snider explained that Director Wallen has worked with the school from the beginning and has been committed to the institution. She explained that Director Wallen knows every position and understands more about education than she could ever hope to.
5. New Business
- a. Discuss/Approve Settlement Agreement and General Release Between Rockford Charter School Organization and a Former Employee.
 - i. A motion was made to Approve Settlement Agreement and General Release Between Rockford Charter School Organization and a Former Employee by Ricardo Montoya Picazo and seconded by seconded by Antonio Turner.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 - b. William Cunningham – Aye.
 - c. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - d. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - e. Antonio Turner – Aye.
 - f. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed.
 - b. Discuss/Approve revisions to Third Restatement and Extension of Charter School Agreement Between the Board of Education of the Rockford Public Schools, District No. 205, Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois, and Rockford Charter School Organization Charter School.
 - i. Attorney Sosnowski explained that there seems to be some confusion as to the second extension, which was entered into on May 14th to initially end on June 30, 2022, which was then amended to 2023.
 - ii. Attorney Sosnowski explained that the key is that the amendment for 2021 that set the extension to 2023 was to set the achievement percentages for English and Math on the IAR Test. The English percentage for proficient was 10% and the Math percentage for proficient was 5%. She explained that

- her reading of that is that it applies to the amendment period, which goes through June 30, 2023, however, the draft that the Board received from RPS 205 indicates that testing for the 22-23 school year was supposed to yield a 17% increase in English and 6% increase in Math.
- iii. Attorney Sosnowski explained that if the agreement is signed as it currently exists, the charter will not have any control over the testing that has already been given. She explained that one of the issues with the draft that was received is, in opting for the two-year agreement rather than the 5-year renewal, the Board was led to believe that the CMO issue was being avoided. Attorney Sosnowski stated that the agreement that has been sent says that if the charter violates any paragraph in the agreement, they will be forced to take a CMO.
 - iv. Antonio Turned inquired if the district's expectations they are setting for the charters are even comparable to their own schools.
 - v. Antonio Turner suggested that the Board goes to the RPS 205 Board meeting and lay the data completely out regarding what is being asked from the charters in comparison to what is asked of other schools, versus what the actual current performance is.
 - vi. William Cunningham stated that if they're going to propose different numbers, he would look to Director Wallen to talk about what numbers are reasonable to present to the district. Director Wallen stated that she would want to pull an evidence-based decision. She stated that she could put something together to present the district with a reasonable number. William Cunningham stated that the 2024 numbers should be thought about as well since that year is also included in the language.
 - vii. Attorney Sosnowski brought the Board's attention to another change in the language in which the district wants to change the PCTC from 100% to 97%. She highlighted the fact that 97% is what the charter has been receiving all along although the district was contractually supposed to provide 100% before this new language had been proposed. Attorney Sosnowski explained that letters have been sent to try to get the 100%, but the letters have been rejected.
 - viii. Antonio Turner exited the meeting at 12:48 p.m.
- c. Discuss/Approve NIA 2023-2024 Recommended District Services and Fees.
- i. A motion was made to Approve NIA 2023-2024 Recommended District Services and Fees by William Cunningham and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 - b. William Cunningham – Aye.
 - c. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - d. Jacob Bradt – Aye.

- e. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
2. All ayes. Motion passed.
- d. Discuss Correspondence from RPS 205 regarding Compliance and Response.
- e. Jacob Bradt exited the meeting at 12:50 p.m.
6. Old Business
 - a. Discuss/Approve Selection of a Contractor to Provide Marketing/Website Support Services for Jackson Charter School.
 - i. A selection was made to have Rockford Buzz as the marketing website for Jackson Charter Schools.
 1. A motion was made to Approve Selection of a Contractor to Provide Marketing/Website Support Services for Jackson Charter School by Ricardo Montoya Picazo and seconded by Tamir Bell.
 - a. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 - ii. William Cunningham – Aye.
 - iii. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - iv. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - b. All ayes. Motion passed.
7. Executive Director’s Report
 - a. Executive Director Wallen reported that enrollment remains at 227 and there have been zero changes reported since the last meeting. Regarding enrollment for the 23-24 there have been approximately 100 packets returned to reserve spots for students and only 2 families have indicated that they do not intend to return to the school.
 - b. For personnel and staff, there has been one staff resignation.
 - c. Regarding safety and security, the charter has been in talks with the Rockford Police Department to come in during the summer just in order to train the staff on security, lockdowns, and other safety precautions.
8. Executive Session – Personnel - Go into Closed Session to Review Closed Session Minutes and to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.
 - a. A motion was made to enter executive session by Tamir Bell and seconded by Antonio Turner.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.

2. William Cunningham – Aye.
 3. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 4. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 5. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed. Entered executive session at 11:52 a.m.
 - b. A motion to exit executive session was made by Jacob Bradt and seconded by Ricardo Montoya Picazo.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Anisha Grimmiett – Aye.
 2. William Cunningham – Aye.
 3. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 4. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 5. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed. Exited executive session at 12:25 p.m.
9. Finance Committee Report
 - a. YTD Budget to Actuals
 - i. Rick Aylward stated that with total revenue through March, the charter is about \$560,000 ahead. When it comes to expenses, the charter is about \$77,000 over.
10. Motion to Approve the Release of Certain Executive Session Minutes for February 19, 2020, June 18, 2020, July 30, 2020, September 10, 2020, June 17, 2021, August 19, 2021, January 31, 2022, April 6, 2022, April 21, 2022, May 3, 2022, May 17, 2022, December 15, 2022, January 19, 2023, February 23, 2023, and March 16, 2023.
 - a. A motion to keep the above-referenced executive session minutes confidential was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Anisha Grimmiett.
 1. Anisha Grimmiett – Aye.
 2. William Cunningham – Aye.
 3. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 4. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 5. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed.
11. Adjournment
 - a. A motion to adjourn was made by Jacob Bradt and seconded by Ricardo Montoya Picazo.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Anisha Grimmiett – Aye.
 2. William Cunningham – Aye.
 3. Tamir Bell – Aye.

4. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
5. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: June 15, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. (Meeting will be held in-person at Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107)