

Rockford Charter School Organization Board Meeting
June 15, 2023
11:30 a.m.
Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107
In-Person Meeting

1. Call to Order – at 11:36 a.m.
 - a. Present: William Cunningham, Jacob Bradt, Tamir Bell, Ricardo Montoya Picazo, Carla Redd, Executive Director Emily Wallen, Chief Financial Officer Rick Aylward, Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski
 - b. Not Present: Antonio Turner
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 2. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 3. Carla Redd – Aye.
 4. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed.
3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2023.
 - a. A motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2023, was made by Ricardo Montoya Picazo and seconded by Tamir Bell.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 2. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 3. Carla Redd – Aye.
 4. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment
5. New Business
 - a. Discuss/Approve Resolution of the Board of Directors of Rockford Charter School Organization Approving and Authorizing an Amendment to the Third Restatement and Extension of Charter School Agreement Between the Board of Education, Rockford School District No. 205, Winnebago-Boone Counties, Illinois, and Rockford Charter School Organization.
 - i. Executive Director Emily Wallen informed the Board that RPS 205 let the charter offset preliminary data instead because last year there were an anomalous group of 5th graders that were very high achieving, but the charter is still ballparking within that 5% of each area of growth. Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski reminded the Board that the charter has 3 years to reach that 5% growth instead of the two that RPS initially proposed.

- ii. Ricardo Montoya Picazo inquired if this agreement would also solve the issue with the CMOs.
- iii. Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski informed him that this agreement would mean that the CMOs and EMOs would be completely taken out.
 1. A motion to Approve Resolution of the Board of Directors of Rockford Charter School Organization Approving and Authorizing an Amendment to the Third Restatement and Extension of Charter School Agreement Between the Board of Education, Rockford School District No. 205, Winnebago-Boone Counties, Illinois, and Rockford Charter School Organization was made by Ricardo Montoya Picazo and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 - a. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - ii. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - iii. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - iv. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - b. All ayes. Motion passed.
- b. Discuss/Approve FY24 NIA (The Northwestern Illinois Association) Services Agreement and NIA Special Education Baseline and Program Support/Related Services Agreement.
 - i. Executive Director Emily Wallen informed the Board that there wasn't anything different than the prior agreements.
 - ii. Anisha Grimmett entered the meeting at 11:42 a.m.
 1. A motion to Approve FY24 NIA (The Northwestern Illinois Association) Services Agreement and NIA Special Education Baseline and Program Support/Related Services Agreement was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 - a. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - ii. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - iii. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - iv. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - v. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 - b. All ayes. Motion passed.
- c. Discuss/Approve FY23-24 Rockford Charter School Organization Budget.
 - i. Finance Director Rick Aylward informed the Board that the budget is based off of the estimated number of students that would give the charter a comfortable budget without going too low. He informed the Board that 220 students are the estimation that the finance committee was able to use for the budget for the upcoming school year.
 1. A motion to Approve the FY23-24 Rockford Charter School Organization Budget was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Ricardo Montoya Picazo.
 - a. Roll Call Vote:

- i. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - ii. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - iii. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - iv. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - v. Anisha Grimmitt – Aye.
 - b. All ayes. Motion passed.
6. Executive Director’s Report
 - a. Executive Director Emily Wallen informed the Board that one of the paraprofessionals resigned on June 7th, but other than that, there have been no other staffing changes and the building is still fully staffed.
 - b. Director Wallen explained to the Board that in the preliminary assessment data, math stood at 2% and ELA stood at 11%. This is comparable to the previous 3% in math and 15% in ELA.
 - c. Executive Director Wallen informed the Board that 42 students are currently attending summer school. Transportation has been an issue because of how spread out the students are in Rockford.
7. Finance Committee Report
 - a. YTD Budget to Actuals
 - i. Finance Director Rick Aylward informed the Board that expenses were about \$550,000 over budget, the expenditures were about \$200,000 under budget and about \$350,000 in solitude.
 - b. YTD Cashflow Update
 - i. Finance Director Rick Aylward explained that the bank account contains a little over 2.5 million dollars. He stated that the charter is in good shape and is around the amount of money he predicted to be present at the end of the year.
8. Executive Session – (if needed)
 - a. 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.
 - i. A motion was made to enter executive session by Carla Redd and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - b. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - c. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - d. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - e. Anisha Grimmitt – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed. Entered executive session at 12:12 p.m.

- ii. A motion to exit executive session was made by Carla Redd and seconded by Tamir Bell.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - b. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - c. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - d. Ricardo Montoya Picazo – Aye.
 - e. Anisha Grimmnett – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed. Exited executive session at 12:36 p.m.
 - iii. Ricardo Montoya Picazo left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.
9. Discuss/Approve the following Employment Agreements:
- a. Executive Director Emily Wallen
 - i. A motion to approve the employment agreement for Executive Director Emily Wallen was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Anisha Grimmnett.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - b. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - c. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - d. Anisha Grimmnett – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed.
 - b. Director of Climate and Culture Starla Copeland
 - i. A motion to approve the employment agreement for Director of Climate and Culture Starla Copeland was made by Anisha Grimmnett and seconded by Tamir Bell.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - b. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - c. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - d. Anisha Grimmnett – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed.
 - c. Director of Data and Instruction Angie Smeltzer
 - i. A motion to approve the employment agreement for Director of Data and Instruction Angie Smeltzer was made by Jacob Bradt and seconded by Anisha Grimmnett.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - b. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - c. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - d. Anisha Grimmnett – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed.

- d. Finance Director Rick Aylward
 - i. A motion to approve the employment agreement for Finance Director Rick Alward was made by Jacob Bradt and seconded by Tamir Bell.
 1. Roll Call Vote:
 - a. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - b. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 - c. Carla Redd – Aye.
 - d. Anisha Grimmnett – Aye.
 2. All ayes. Motion passed.
10. Adjournment
- a. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tamir Bell and seconded by Jacob Bradt.
 - i. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 2. Tamir Bell – Aye.
 3. Carla Redd – Aye.
 4. Anisha Grimmnett – Aye.
 - ii. All ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: August 24, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. (Meeting will be held in-person at Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107)