



MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTING MEETING

September 23, 2021, 6:30 PM

Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/dqs-baqp-mwz>

1. **Call to order - 6:30 p.m.**
2. **Opening Matters**
 - Pledge of Allegiance - [Flag](#)
 - **Attendance:**
 - **Board Trustees:** D.Rufo (President – Presiding), M.Reynolds, A.Bragoli, E.Falcone, G.Queen, S.Glick, Y.Francois; M.Grenier; S.Nararahi; G.Scott
 - **Administration:** G.Guarino-Buli, C.Schaeffer; K.Gruber; H.Rinker; M.Boyd; D.Cosme; H.Smith
 - Opening statements – D.Rufo
 - Process for New Business - please submit public comment to email - publiccomment@rak12.org
3. **Waskiewicz Appointment of new board trustees**
 - **Seat 1 - Seyi Akinfenwa** - Motion to appoint Seyi Akinfenwa to serve as a two-year terms as Trustee in Seat #1 made by D.Rufo; Seconded:E.Falcone. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. **Seyi Akinfenwa is appointed to serve as a two-year terms as Trustee in Seat #1.**
 - **Seat 4 - Anne** - Motion to appoint Anne Waskiewicz to serve as a two-year terms as Trustee in Seat #4 made by D.Rufo; Seconded: S.Glick. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. **Anne Waskiewicz is appointed to serve as a two-year terms as Trustee in Seat #4.**
 - **Seat 8 - Gwen Supplee** - Motion to appoint Gwen Supplee to serve as a two-year terms as Trustee in Seat #8 made by D.Rufo; Seconded: M.Greiner. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. **Gwen Supplee is appointed to serve as a two-year terms as Trustee in Seat #8.**
 - **Seyi Akinfenwa, Anne Waskiewicz and Gwen Supplee each sworn in as Trustees of the Board.**
4. **Review & accept minutes from past meetings**
 - August 11, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. [Minutes](#) Motion to approve the August 11, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes made by G.Scott; Seconded: M.Greiner. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. **Minutes from August 11, 2021 special voting meeting are ACCEPTED.**

- August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes [Minutes](#). Motion to approve the August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by E.Falcone; Seconded: S.Narahari. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. **Minutes from August 19, 2021 voting meeting are ACCEPTED.**

5. Policy Reviews/Resolutions

- **Board procedures - [First Reading](#)**. Discussions held regarding required notices, voting procedures and new procedural requirements regarding changes to agendas and minutes.
- **Board agenda preparation - [First Reading](#)** Discussions held regarding procedures, consent agendas.
- **RA Staff Vaccination policy - [Emergency policy](#)** - Because of emergency nature, vote will be held tonight, without 3 prior readings. Policy is proposed by the HR Committee. E.Falcone summarized policy: Purpose to protect safety and health of all in RA community and to further in person learning. Policy requires mandatory vaccination of all staff, with applicable accommodations for religious and health exemptions. Discussion held. Motion to approve the Emergency RA Staff Vaccination Policy made by M.Reynolds; Seconded: S.Narahari. G.Queen and G.Scott Opposed. G.Supplee & A. Waskiewicz Abstain. Motion carries. **The Emergency RA Staff Vaccination Policy is ADOPTED.**

6. Committees Meeting updates – Committee Chairs

- Development Committee – M.Grenier provided summary. Believe kids fundraising started on September will conclude on October 4th of this year. Operation Raincoat has raised over \$2,400 dollars, so far. Gertrude Hot Chocolate Sale begins on October 5th. Holiday food sale will begin in late October and run through the beginning of December. Giving Tuesday is on November 30th 2021. Continuing updates will be available on the website.
- Curriculum & Achievement – D.Rufo provided summary. Two major points: (i) finalized essence of goals to comport with strategic plan including a schedule to review all circular areas; (ii) school to launch a pilot for a senior internship program
- HR Committee – E.Falcone provided summary. Met last week. Discussed employment challenges. Marketing coordinator is retiring. Athletic Director resigned for collegiate level opportunity. Looking to fill a math position as well as for building subs, nurse & non-instructional support on site.
- Finance Committee – S.Glick provided summary. Met on Tuesday. Tuition receivables remaining collection of \$37,000 of \$19 million, new billing will start in October. In terms of budget we are tracking more closely the PDE363 rates this year. The conservative approved PDE363 budget estimate was for a tuition decrease, however, relative to actual tuition received we are tracking a positive increase in tuition rates reported from 11 School Districts and we are waiting for the other 10 school districts to report their actual rates. One budget item that that may materially impact the budget is a potential audit related to receipt of federal grants and the costs to pay for the audit, which was not budgeted for and could cost \$19,000, but it may not need to be performed. We will report back. The June 30th 2021, audit is underway. The Committee's strategic goals are being formulated, but we have determined that we want to develop a five year, budgetary model, to identify and align the financial resources that we have to support the schools' vision. The Committee also wants to develop some key performance indicators, such as a dashboard to distill all the financial information because there's a lot of different reports. The Committee hopes to offer

recommendations on any improvements that are necessary for those and have those policies and procedures approved by the Board by the end of the year. The Committee also wants to make sure that the annual budget is balanced with respect to RA's ability to operate with a neutral or financial surplus, to reinvest back into the school with capital expenditures, make acquisitions, etc.

- Strategic Planning Committee – Y.Francois provided summary. [Minutes](#) The Committee met last week as well. The Committee has decided to first focus on the communication, to assess what are all the channels that RA has, what are the audiences that we target and what is the frequency of communications. The goal is to streamline as much as possible and if there are tools or templates that need to be enhanced, we can do that. The Committee also began discussing the logos and the visual for the school and seeing if anything should be refreshed.
- Legislative Committee – G.Queen provided summary. Met this month. The committee talked about some future events to engage with legislators to push back on some of legislation out there and potential legislation. The Committee also talked about the strategic plan and revisited our charter scope and purpose and community goals, however nothing really changed.
- Equality & Equity – S.Narahari provided summary. Met last week, Consensus was that book study would not be as successful if done virtually, so that is being delayed. Summary of potential focuses for Committee including more clear signage for restrooms and sensitivity for issues that come up relating to gender. The Committee is also working on developing the coexist program for seventh and eighth grade, and likewise for the fifth and sixth grades. The elementary students have been continuing with the readings and discussion on kindness and inclusion and Andrea Blanton had provided us with a list of books on diversity to the teachers who are using that list in various ways such as role-playing messaging.
- Business Manager's Report – C.Schaeffer - In Board Drive
 - Staff roster by Business Manager - Motion to Approve Staff Roster made by S.Glick; Seconded: G.Queen. All in favor, none opposed, S.Narahari abstains. Motion carries. **Staff Roster is APPROVED.**

7. Administration Reports

- Elementary School Principal Report – K.Gruber provided summary. Grades 1st - 4th receiving presentations from the crime victims unit. Have had PBIS awards for students going above and beyond and demonstrating core values. Camp tinder program in place to support social emotional needs. Google Classroom being maintained for continuity of instruction. Upcoming visit from fire department. Tomorrow is Disney day for PBIS rewards. Planning pumpkin painting and Halloween parade. Science explorer club starting and in the process of starting virtual kinder-buddies. Teachers have been working hard and going above and beyond to support each other and the staff.
- Middle School Principal Report – H.Rinker provided summary. Guidance counselor starting in the Middle School. All Google Classrooms are being maintained so if there is a need to move to virtual, the transition will be smooth. Focus on getting clubs up and running. Also getting visit & presentations from crime victims unit. Some student assistance periods will be used for mindfulness activities. Recently had first grade-level meeting where a positive school climate was discussed. PBIS school store is open. Getting clubs up and running. Noted team atmosphere and teacher appreciation.

- High School Principal Report – M.Boyd provided summary. Like the middle school, all Google Classrooms are being maintained so if there is a need to move to virtual, the transition will be smooth. Senior Project Presentations will be tomorrow. Had 1st football game which was very exciting. Academy counsel is planning activities. Will have homecoming game at Phoenixville and dance. Hispanic heritage month is in full swing and activities are ongoing. New pilot program called “Knights to Work” will start for seniors in furtherance of work-based learning. Staff has been true team players to step in to assist through staff vacancies.
 - CEO Report – G.Guarino-Buli provided summary. [CEO Report](#) September. First PDE day is tomorrow afternoon. Provided summary of what has been happening with COVID protocols, numbers of cases, close contacts. Discussion of how the determination is made to take whole grade virtual: driven by both number of close contacts and time frame for testing, as well as consideration of when it is preferable to have all live learning, but including siblings and contact on transportation. Discussion of testing protocols used, including surveillance testing and potential use of pool testing. Also provided summary of interaction with Health Department,
 - Request for addendums to the Student Handbook:
 1. [Attendance](#) - Summary provided by G.Buli. Motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Student Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook to allow for COVID and COVID quarantine absences made by E.Falcone; Seconded: S.Narahari, none opposed. Motion carries. **The Amendment to the Student Absence Policy to allow for COVID and quarantine-related absences in the Student Handbook is ADOPTED.**
 2. [Student Injury](#) – Summary provided by G.Buli. Motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Student Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook with respect to returns from injury made by E.Falcone; Seconded: M.Greiner. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. **The Amendment to the Student Absence Policy in the Student Handbook with respect to returns from injury is ADOPTED.**

8. New Business

9. Public comment - If not submitted as an email, please use the “Raise Hand” feature and you will be called upon - publiccomment@rak12.org.

- J.Work - Email read detailing concerns relating to specific COVID protocols.
- D.Kronmueller - her perceived inability to get to breakfast and to home-base on a time given delays in carline.
- S.Maddox - express thanks to teachers and staff to keep in-person instruction possible. Support mitigation plan, but concern over grades sent home - Requesting virtual option.
- M. Zaragosa - expressed concerns regarding contact tracing on busses.
- K.Wheelles - request reconsideration of who close contacts are for teachers and to look into a policy for staff if they have to go home, rather than having to use up sick time.

- D.Logan - expressed concern over having kids spread out more and potentially having own desks.

10. Adjournment Motion to adjourn made by G.Queen; Seconded by S.Narahari. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes. **The meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:22 p.m.**

11. Executive Session - 2 Legal Matters



Monica Mathews Reynolds, Trustee and Recording Secretary