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## Mission

RFK Charter School prepares, motivates, and supports students to achieve their college and career goals.

in partnership with their families and the community.

**Governance Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, June 26, 2025**

**4:30 p.m.**

RFK Governance Council President Mark Walch called a Regular Meeting on June 26, 2025. The time was 4:35 p.m.

**ALL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mark Walch, President

April Gallegos, Secretary

Lawrence Barela, Treasurer

Bob Edgar, Member

LaNika Bullington, Member

**ZOOM:**

None

**ABSENT:**

Carlos Cabarellos, Vice President

**QUORUM:**

Yes

**STAFF:**

Holly Gurule

Robert Baade

Irene Sanchez

Aaron Arellano

**GUESTS:**

Kristy Bechdol

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

RFK GC Secretary April Gallegos made a motion to approve the Agenda for June 26, 2025.

RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. The Agenda for June 26, 2025, is approved.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 29, 2025 & SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 12, 2025**

RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2025. RFK Treasurer Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a,” Yes” vote and no one opposing. Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes for June 12. 2025 are approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**:

RFK GC President Mark Walch did not have anyone for “Public Comment.”

**VOTE IN A BOARD MEMBER – KRISTI**

RFK GC President Mark Walch made a motion to approve Kristi Bechdol as a new RFK GC Member. RFK GC Member LaNika Bullington seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote “Yes” and no one opposing. RFK GC Members approved new member Kristi Bechdol. Welcome, Kristi!

**RFK MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE**:

RFK MS Principal, Aaron Arellano submitted his written report. It is attached to these Minutes.

**STAFFING UPDATES:**

RFK ED Holly Gurule and RFK Principal Aaron Arellano explained they are really looking into the 90-Day Plan and feel that they are focused on three strategy tactics. Data-driven, instructional leadership, and systems to align with the work done at RFK. They are looking for high quality instruction and with that, Ms. Gurule, Mr. Arellano and Mr. Prieto have dedicated some time voluntarily to assure a successful start to the 2025-2026 school year starts successfully. RFK is still in need of teachers for the following subjects: High School English Language Arts Teacher, High School Math, and High School Electives. They will keep GC members updated as time progresses and as applicants are being interviewed and offered positions.

As far as current staff members, some will be transitioning to High School, and some were not offered a contract for the upcoming school year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MAY 2025**

RFK GC Treasurer, Lawrence Barela submitted the Finance Committee Report for May 2025. It is attached to these minutes.

RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela made a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report for May 2025.

RFK GC Member Bob Edgar seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes,” and no one opposing. The Finance Committee Report for May 2025 was approved.

**CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR MAY 2025:**

RFK GC Secretary April Gallegos makes a motion to approve Cash Disbursements for May 2025 for $658,943.49. RFK GC Treasurer Lawrence Barela seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes,” and no one opposing. Cash Disbursements for May 2025 were approved.

**BARS:**

No Bars to report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

RFK Charter School Executive Director, Robert Baade submitted a report, and it is attached to these minutes.

**HOUSE KEEPING**, **TRAINING HOURS, COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

RFK GC President Mark Walch reminded GC Members to get registered for training hours and that Strategic Planning will have to be scheduled as RFK is up for renewal as well.

**ADJOURN:**

RFK President Mark Walch makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. RFK GC Member Bob Edgar seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, “Yes” and no one opposing. RFK GC President Mark Walch adjourns the RFK GC Regular Meeting at 6:22 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

July 24, 2024

**Minutes by:**

RFK GC Board Secretary, April Gallegos

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***Governance Council Secretary Signature***

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**May 29, 2025**

**June 26, 2025**

**RFK Governance Council Meeting**

**High School and Middle School Report**

**What’s going on at Middle School?**

\*I shared last month that we were offering a summer transition program focusing on 8th graders transitioning to HS. It was a 3-week program that ran from June 2nd until June 20th, Monday through Friday for 4 hours each day. For the students who continue at RFK HS, they will earn a ½ credit (elective) for participating. I am happy to report that we ended up with 6 – 8th graders (8 in total started, but only 6 completed), 1 – 7th grader. Not to mention, my own 4th and 6th grader also attended and participated. I know we are planning on having our teachers and students come in and share their experiences at a future GC meeting, so I won’t steal their thunder. But I must share that I thoroughly enjoyed seeing our students learning and having fun! I am always impressed when I walk into a classroom and hear/see students not wanting to stop or take a break because they are so engaged in their learning. Every day, **ALL** of the students who participated talked about their projects and learning before programming started, during their breaks, and while walking out to their rides at the conclusion of each class! It was definitely a sight to see!

\*We also had a group of High School students participate in earning credits missed over the course of the school year, trying to remain in their cohort. We also had a group of High School students participate in summer programming to accelerate their earning of credits to advance and not be so stressed out over the course of the coming school year. [Note: I will have more specific information to share during the GC meeting regarding this piece.]

\*The RFK Administrative team has been working to finalize our plans that we will be submitting to the state (90 Day Plan, etc.). These plans will ultimately lay out our framework or roadmap for PD throughout the 2025-2026 school year. We are working to maintain the momentum gained during the previous school year, and double down on many of the areas that we know will be fruitful moving forward, but still present opportunities for growth. We are in the process of streamlining our goals across contents to better support our school systems already in place. More importantly, we are hoping that this will support our continued staff collaboration. We are also working to streamline our meetings to be more conducive to support the work of meeting our school goals to address our 90-day plan, etc. The meetings we’ve been having to plan and prepare for the work that lies ahead continue to be a very delicate process as we are a school who has a student demographic who bring very complex needs. Maintaining the lens of equity is crucial! Making sure we have the right people in the right positions is also just as crucial.

**Staffing**

\*As all of you are aware, we have a new Executive Director, Dr. Holly Gurule. Holly will assuming the responsibilities as RFK’s next Executive Director. Over the course of the next 90 days, Robert will be transitioning into retirement. Robert has been working to get Holly up to speed regarding all aspects of RFK and prepare for the coming school year.

\*Mr. Dennis Montoya will be leaving RFK MS and RFK as a whole. At the conclusion of the school year, Mr. Montoya was reassigned to RFK HS. However, I believe he has accepted a position at SVA. We thank him for his service and wish him all the best with his future endeavors! We are currently completing interviews for a new MS Math teacher.

\*Ms. Francine Behncke, our HS Office Manager and Sp. Ed. Secretary has accepted a position at another school. We thank her for her service, and we wish her all the best with her future endeavors.

\*Ms. Deli Ibarra has been reassigned to the HS and will be taking over the HS Office Manager and Sp. Ed. Secretary position. We are actively looking for her replacement at the MS.

\*Personally, I will be shifting my office to the HS and will now support and oversee both campuses. Although I will be overseeing both campuses, my focus will ultimately be the instructional aspect at both schools. I am hoping to be able to support our teachers on both campuses to meet our goals (inspect, what we expect).

\*Mr. Allen Prieto will be leaving his HS Social Studies teacher position and will be supporting RFK Administration and assuming admin responsibilities at the MS, as he completes his administrative internship.

-We interviewed for Mr. Prieto’s position, and we have offered a letter of intent to hire for the HS Social Studies position. The applicant did sign the letter of intent to hire.

\*We had an HS English/Language Arts position available. We interviewed and offered a letter of intent to hire for this position. The applicant did sign the letter of intent to hire.

\*We still have the following vacancies (interviews are ongoing, and we are hoping to move with some applicants):

 -HS Science (Chemistry)

 -HS ELA/ELD (applicant must have their TESOL endorsement)

 -HS Math

 -MS Math

 -MS Office Manager (Bilingual preferred)

\*Additionally, some of the EA’s have also been shuffled between the MS and HS.

**Students/Recruitment**

\*We have offered two registration events for our returning students that took place in May. We are offering two additional dates for our new students during June. No students were turned away during registration (meaning if a returning came to a new student registration, they were allowed to register and vice versa).

\*Mr. Prieto and I have begun going around to local community centers and libraries (primarily in the South Valley) to place RFK postcards to hopefully support our recruitment.

\*We are in the process of mailing postcards to local students. We will use the list shared with us from SVA earlier this year. Additionally, we are compiling a list of those students who withdrew from RFK during the 2024-2025 school year to also mail a postcard as well.

\*We are scheduled to participate in a back-to-school event on the Isleta Pueblo next month.

**Attendance**

\*RFK Attendance Coach Crystal Mora continues to sift through the lists of both new and returning students, paying close attention to their previous attendance records. She has already flagged certain students and began having meetings. Students who are flagged for attendance will be starting the school year on an attendance contract. Additionally, if a student has been flagged, they will not be able to attain their schedule until they complete/attend a meeting.

**Facility/Campus**

\*Nothing new to report.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Lawrence Barela

The finances were reviewed by the finance committee and we do not note any issues. The Wells Fargo account summary is correct. No BARS to review and the key finance indicators for liquidity are on track.  Student enrollment needs monitoring. Committee recommends that the Governance council approve the finance package.