

School Board Meetings – Brown Act Compliant

I. Types of Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors of **River Montessori Charter School (“Board”)** shall be held consistent with the calendar for such meetings as established by the Board each year.

When required by law, meetings for which an agenda is posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in accordance with law, shall be considered regular Board meetings.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called on an as-needed basis by the Board President or a majority of the members of the board, consistent with legal requirements.

C. Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings may be called by a Board majority when an emergency situation arises involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities in accordance with law.

II. Notification of Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

Notice of the time and place of regular meetings, along with the agenda and supporting documentation, will be provided to all Board members and those persons or entities who have previously requested notice of such meetings, not later than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. The notice and agenda will also be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public not later than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. It is the President’s responsibility to provide notice and copies of the agenda and supporting documentation for regular meetings.

B. Special Meetings

Notice of the time and place of special meetings, along with the agenda and supporting documentation, will be provided to all Board members and those persons who have previously requested notice of such meetings, not later than 24 hours prior to a regular meeting. Board members and media outlets (local newspapers, radios and/or television stations), that have requested notice in writing, will be provided written notice delivered personally or by any other means to ensure receipt at least 24 hours before the time of the special meeting. The agenda packet will be mailed to all other persons requesting a copy of the agenda, and supporting documents under Government Code section 54954.1 at the time the materials are distributed to all members of the Board if possible or, if not a majority of the Board.

The notice and agenda will be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the

public not later than 24 hours prior to a special meeting.

It is the President's responsibility to provide notice and copies of the agenda and supporting documentation for special meetings.

C. Emergency Meetings

In the case of an emergency situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption of school function, notice to the Board will be provided as soon as is reasonably practicable under the circumstances. All media outlets that have requested notice of special meetings shall be notified one hour prior to the emergency meeting, or in the case of a dire emergency, at or near the time that the Board members are notified of the emergency meeting. The notice shall be given by telephone and all telephone numbers provided by the media outlet in the request for notice shall be exhausted. If telephones are not working, the notice requirement is waived and the media shall be notified of the fact of the holding of the emergency meeting, the purpose of the meeting and any action taken at the meeting as soon after the meeting as possible.

III. Agendas

A. Preparation of Agenda and Process

The Board President shall be responsible for preparing the agendas for all meetings of the Board.

The Director and/or President shall include on the agenda items that relate to school business as are requested for inclusion by Board members, and determined by the Director/ and or President to be appropriate for discussion at that meeting. In addition, a citizen may request that a topic directly related to school business be placed on the agenda. The Director and/or Board President shall determine, in his/her discretion, whether the citizen request is or is not an item directly related to school business. No citizen-requested item shall be placed on the agenda if it is repetitive of a previous item placed on an agenda and considered by the Board.

Requests for items to be included on the agenda by Board members, school employees or citizens shall be in writing and submitted to the Board President no later than seven (7) working days prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

At a Board meeting, Board members or the Director may request that a topic be placed on the agenda, which topic had been recently considered and acted upon by the Board, provided there is new and relevant information on the topic. Discussion at the meeting is limited to determination of whether to reconsider the agenda topic at the next Board meeting.

B. Contents of the Agenda

In preparing the agenda, the Board President shall include the following:

- Time and location of the meeting, including, if applicable, any teleconferencing location(s);
 - A brief general description of all items of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including those items to be discussed in closed session; Closed session items must be described in accordance with Government Code section
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54954.5;

- An opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board in accordance with the Board's public comment policy (addressed below);
- If teleconference locations are being utilized, an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board directly at each teleconference location; and
- Information regarding how, to whom and when a request for disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

IV. Supporting Information Relating to Agenda Items

The Director and/or Board President is responsible for preparing all supporting information that may accompany each agenda topic originating from the administration or the Board.

The purpose of preparing supporting information is to facilitate decision-making on the part of the Board members by having available to them in advance of Board meetings comprehensive data pertaining to each agenda topic. The supporting information shall accompany the agenda and be delivered to the Board members concurrently with the agenda.

If supporting materials are distributed to Board members during a public meeting, such materials will be made available for public inspection at the meeting if prepared by the Director and/or Board President. If such materials are prepared by some other person, they shall be made available after the meeting at which they were distributed. The Board may charge a fee or deposit for a copy of such materials.

These materials will be made available in appropriate alternative formats upon request by a person with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. No surcharge will be imposed on persons with disabilities in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Citizens who request to have a topic placed on the agenda are encouraged to submit, in writing, supporting information detailing their reason for having the topic placed on the agenda and what is being requested of the Board. This is intended to provide background information for Board members to help expedite the Board's handling of the topic at the Board meeting.

V. Board Meetings

A. Open Session

All regular, special and emergency meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and the media, except Closed Sessions as authorized by law.

B. Public Participation at Meetings

Public comment generally: At a regular meeting, any person may address the Board concerning any item on the agenda and any other matters under the Board's jurisdiction. At a special meeting, any person may address the Board only concerning the items on the agenda. The total time devoted to presentations to the Board on all public comment (including agenda

items and non-agenda items at regular meetings) shall not exceed 15 minutes, unless additional time is granted by the Board. At the discretion of the Board President, individuals may be granted 3 minutes to make a presentation to the Board.

Limits on public comment: The Chairperson may curtail individual presentations if repetitive of points raised by others, particularly if it appears the total allotted time may be exceeded. Any person who addresses the Board shall not make impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks to any Board member, staff or general public. Any person who makes such remarks, or who utters loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, or engages in any other disorderly conduct that disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any Board meeting shall, at the discretion of the Board President or a Board majority, be barred from further audience before the Board during that meeting.

In the event that any meeting is willfully interrupted by a group(s) of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the Board may order the meeting room cleared and continue the session. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session. Representatives of the press or other media, if not participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any such session

Citizens desiring Board action on an item are required to seek placement of the issue on the Board agenda in accordance with policy rather than presenting the matter during general public comment. This will facilitate discussion and expedite resolution.

Time for public comment: All public comment concerning all matters shall be heard immediately after the meeting is called to order and prior to the formal discussion of the agenda topic by the Board and consideration of action. Public comment is set aside for members of the community to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. Per public meeting laws (Brown Act), the Board can only listen to issues, not respond or take-action. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to public concerns or offer the option of returning with a citizen requested agenda item.

Recording and/or broadcasting of meeting: Persons attending an open meeting have the right to record or broadcast the proceedings with an audio or video tape recorder or a still or motion picture camera unless the Board reasonably finds that the recording or broadcast cannot continue without noise, illumination or obstruction of view that constitutes, or would constitute, a persistent disruption of the proceedings.

Requests to address the Board: Prior to the beginning of the meeting, citizens seeking to address the Board on an item on the agenda or during time allocated for public comment shall complete the card, "Request to Address the Board" (located in the Board Meeting Room), and give it to the Board President or Board Secretary, or their designee.

C. Board Members at Meetings

Board discussion and action: For regular and special meetings, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. At a regular meeting, however, Board

members or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons during public comment. At regular meetings, a Board member may, on his/her own initiative or in response to a question posed by the public, ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement or make a brief report on his/her own activities. Additionally, a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

Exceptions in regular meetings: In regular meetings, the Board may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda if any of the following conditions apply: 1) A majority of the Board determines that an emergency situation exists; 2) A determination by a two-thirds vote of the Board members present at the meeting, or if less than two-thirds are present, a unanimous vote of those Board members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the Board after the agenda was posted; or 3) The item was properly posted for a prior meeting occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting, the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken. If items are discussed under these conditions, the Board President shall publicly identify the item(s).

Closed session: Prior to holding any closed session, the Board shall disclose, in an open meeting, the item(s) to be discussed in the closed session. The disclosure may take the form of a reference to the item(s) as they are listed by number or letter on the agenda. In the closed session, the Board may consider only those matters covered in its statement.

After any closed session, the Board shall reconvene into open session prior to adjournment and make a report of any action taken in closed session and the vote or abstention of every Board member present thereon in accordance with Government Code section 54957.1.

D. Minutes of Board Meetings

Open session meetings: The minutes of open session meetings of the Board shall record all motions, show the names of Board members making and seconding motions and state the vote upon the motion. In the event that Board members are participating via teleconferencing, all votes during the meeting shall be by roll call and will be reflected in the minutes. The open session minutes shall also record all resolutions, the recommendations of the administration and the substance of the Board's discussion or the substance of statements pertinent to Board's business made by members of the staff or public. The minutes shall follow the generally accepted pattern in form.

The original copy of the open session minutes shall be approved by the Board. Original minutes shall be bound in chronological order, volumed by fiscal year and paged consecutively.

Closed session meetings: The Board designates a board representative to attend each closed session of the Board and keep and enter in a minute book a record of topics discussed and decisions made at the meeting. The minute book for closed session is not a public record subject to inspection and shall be kept confidential. The minute book shall be available only to Board members, or when otherwise required by law. The minute book may, but need not, consist of a recording of the closed session.

Minutes for Emergency Meetings: Any time an emergency meeting is held, the minutes must provide a list of persons who were notified or attempted to be notified, a copy of the roll call vote, and any actions taken at the meeting. The draft of the minutes will be posted for a minimum of 10 days in a public place as soon after the meeting as possible.

Storing the minutes: The official minutes of the Board (for open and closed sessions) shall be kept in a binder with an electronic backup.

- Original copies of all resolutions unless required by other agencies, in which case photocopies of the originals may be substituted;
- Original copy of all budget transfers;
- Copies of any document determined by the Board to be attached to the official minutes; and
- Other documents which, in the opinion of the Secretary, are necessary to fully substantiate or record Board action.

VI. Quorum Requirements

A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum of the Board, which is necessary for the Board to transact business. All motions, in order to pass, need positive action by at least a majority of the Board. Should there be fewer than a majority of the Board present at any meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned.

VII. Continuances and Adjournment

A. Continuances

Items appearing on agendas for regular meeting may be continued to another meeting, to be held within 5 calendar days from the date of the originally posted meeting, without triggering the requirement that the agenda item be re-posted with the requisite notice.

If the Board is holding, has noticed or ordered a hearing, at any meeting, the Board may, by order or notice, continue or recontinue to any subsequent meeting of the Board in the same manner and to the same extent that a meeting may be adjourned (see below). If the hearing is continued to a time less than 24 hours after the time specified in the order or notice of hearing, a copy of the order or notice of continuance of hearing shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door immediately following the meeting at which the continuation was adopted or made.

B. Adjournment

The Board may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a time and place specified in an order of adjournment. Less than a quorum may so adjourn from time to time. If all members are absent from any regular meeting, the Board Secretary may declare the meeting adjourned to a stated time and place and he/she shall cause a written notice of adjournment to be given in the same manner as provided for special meetings, unless such notice is waived for special meetings. A copy of the notice of adjournment shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door of the place where the regular or special meeting was held within 24 hours after the time of adjournment. When a regular meeting is adjourned, the resulting adjourned regular meeting is a regular meeting for all purposes. When an order of adjournment fails to state the hour at which

the adjourned meeting is to be held, it shall be held at the hour specified for regular meetings.

Adopted:

Amended:
