



Rilke Schule
Academic Policy Committee Minutes
Thursday, 21 May 2026

Attendance: Jason Hotch, Cameron Vincent-Lang, Chris Barr, Kim Jochum, Mary Hopkins, Jill Doniere, Tom Honer, Branden Strauch, Mark Truog, Jessica Frey, Susie (virtual partially)

Excused absent: Katie Kelly

- I. Call to Order at 6:00pm. **Motion for Adoption of Agenda and Minutes from 16 April meeting. Motion to adopt: Tom. Second: Mary. Motion passes unanimously.**
- II. Public Comment: *No comments*
- III. Partner Organizations
 - A. RSV
Report was provided by Ally during the Triboard meeting last week.
Teachers and volunteers packing days - Lunch will be delivered.
 - B. RSI – no update.
- IV. Reports
 - A. Schülerrat – no update/no presence.
 - B. Officers
 1. [Treasurer Report](#)
Discussion about activity fee and rate. Activity fee should probably be reviewed as our policies. Over the last 3-4 years activity fees have gone up with enrollment going up.
 - C. [Principal](#)
 1. No additions.
 - D. [Teachers](#)
 1. No additions.
 - E. Committees: No reports.
 1. Facilities/Outdoor
 2. Strategic Planning
 3. Performance
- V. Old Business
 - A. APC Policies - second reading

**Motion to accept the APC policies as revised. Motion made by Mary.
Second: Jessica.**

"The APC reserves the right to enter into executive session as provided for in State Law on any agenda item. Executive sessions may be entered into for the following subjects as permitted by law: (1) matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the District; (2) subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided that the person may request a public discussion; (3) matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential; and, (4) matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. Motions to go into executive session should specify the subject of the proposed executive session without defeating the purpose of addressing the subject in private."

Discussion:

- Dress code enforcement and who at school is responsible for warning students of violations.
- Herr Truog made a friendly amendment to the motion: Move dress code out of discussion for this motion. Friendly amendment not accepted.
- Background information to frame the discussion: As we were redoing the charter, the dress code was pulled out of the charter, and moved into a policy, so that it can be revisited and amended more easily.
- The why is our focus. This policy has not had a meaningful review by the APC in a decade. Some concerns raised are the mandatory collared shirts, athletics wear, and hair color. These are recommendations we've received from Schülerrat.
- Kindermode, Logowear are options for families. Families coming in know they will need additional clothing.
- APC decided to review the dress code to include:
 - Solid-color collared shirts
 - Jeans for Friday for the whole school
 - All pants solid colored but allow both joggers and leggings as pant choices
 - 5-8 grade striped and plaid collared shirts allowed
 - Rilke hoodies, solid color hoodies or zip hoodies
- Discussion about being inclusive. Discussion about makeup. Took out the limitations on hair color. Kept the makeup's natural look bullet point.

Vote: Susie: Yes, Jessica: Yes, Mary: Yes, Jason: No, Mark: No, Tom: Yes, Jill: Yes, Kim: Yes. **Motion passes 6-2: Adopted new dress code.**

B. [Rilke Schule Community Handbook](#) approval

Motion: Jason. Motion to approve the Rilke Schule community handbook inclusive of the approved APC policy updates and inclusive of facility notation updates. Kim: Second.

No discussion. Jason: Yes, Mark: Yes, Tom: Yes, Jill: Yes, Mary: Yes, Jessica: Yes, Susie: Yes, Kim: Yes.

Motion passes unanimously 8-0.

C. Principal Hiring

Motion to approve the principal contract for Herr Barr for 1 year effective for the academic year 2026-2027. Motion: Jason. Second: Kim.

No discussion. Mark: Yes, Jason: Yes, Mary: Yes, Jessica: Yes. Susie: Yes. Kim: Yes.

Motion passes unanimously 6-0. (Teachers were excluded from vote).

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D. Lake Otis Move

Packing day tomorrow. Move expected to occur at the end of June-early July. Looking at traffic patterns if we need signage. Our administration is working with the principal at Lake Otis.

ASD IT told us display technology will be available in every classroom and we are able to take apple TVs and projectors from our current building.

VI. New Business

A. End of year student data

Slides from principals. EOY Math Achievement and Growth. All classes are scoring in high achievement, and half of the classes also score in high growth. We continuously see our achievement scores go up in math from year to year.

Reading: 49th percentile. Proud of our students and staff. 85% of our students are at 40th percentile or higher. We plan to restructure our WIN model to not just lift up the floor but also lift the ceiling. German teachers and for math, for example, are looking at enrichment. They are looking to expand that idea across the whole school. K-2nd grade. A lot of growth. German exams; you have to pass in all 4 areas (speaking, reading, listening, writing). A1 German Assessment: 3rd grade students: 44% passed. A2 German exam: 6th grade students: 51% passed.

Mary: Motion to extend the meeting no longer than 8.45pm. Jessica seconds. No objections, motion passes.

B. Additional teacher position for 2026-2027

Jason: Motion to approve an additional teacher FTE for the 2026-2027 school year. Second Mary.

Explanation from Herr Strauch. We have more students coming in next year as projected. Moving into Lake Otis, we will have the space. If this isn't going to be addressed right now, we will have to do it next year.

Current split of 2-3 grades setup is not ideal. 2nd and 3rd grades are very different. 3-4 grades are much more alike; significantly more efficient and desirable model for teachers. Thanking the teachers of 3rd and 4th grade for their informative detailed email highlighting the benefits of adding a third 4th grade.

Vote: Susie: Yes, Jill: Yes, Tom: Yes, Mark: Yes, Jason: Yes, Mary: Yes, Jessica: Yes, Kim: Yes.

Motion passes unanimously; 8-0.

Susie leaves the meeting. All APC members in the room.

C. Middle school Geometry class

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Frau Oakley's reflection: Positive experience. Issue of progress tracking was addressed; adding her as observer. Next year only 2 students to take geometry class, this year it was 9 students.

D. High school German faculty

Request to formalize advocacy. Partner with service high school to preserve the program. This came out of the Triboard meeting. Directive from the APC to Herr Barr and Herr Vincent-Lang to engage with Service High School, to find out how to encourage collaboration/to partner up with ASD and Service High School to support the Service High School German program, before the fall budget season (thus by September).

Motion: Mary: Write a letter advocating for the Service High School program and the desire to explore partnership opportunities. Jason second: No objection. Motion passes.

E. Internship program logo use

Create a social media site to provide information for interns and to market our internship program.

Jason: makes motion: Motion to approve the internship program to utilize the Rilke Schule logo to advertise. Tom: Second. No objection. Motion passes.

VII. Executive Session

Jason: makes motion: Calling executive session for personnel purposes. Mary: Second. No objection. Motion passes.

Start: 8.30am. Came out of executive session: 8.35.

VIII. Public Comment - *No comments*

IX. Board Member Comments: Comments made

X. Adjournment

Adjourned: 8.41pm.

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