

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting (DRAFT)

November 9, 2020

Notice was provided on our website, truxtonacademy.org on Monday, November 2, 2020.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77315580323?pwd=OXdOSFBGRGVKcDNISnFWYmVGTmpFUT09>

Meeting ID: 773 1558 0323 Passcode: 3uP5sy

A quorum of 8 trustees out of 9 total number of trustees was present as follows:

Members Present: Stuart Young, Cindy Denkenberger, Tom Brown, Sarah Stevens, Krysta Austen

Members Present via Zoom Meeting: Beth Klein, John Tillotson, Korinne L'Hommedieu

Members Absent: David Amberg

Others present in person or via Zoom Meeting: Sara Petit-McClure, Leaf Carmer, Patty Dawson, Kathie Arnold, Lydia Aris-Brown, Kay Reakes

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Community Comments

Visitor: Chris Casler-Goncalves, Director, Migrant Education Tutorial and Support Services, New York State Migrant Education Program SUNY Research Foundation at SUNY Cortland

Chris introduced himself and his desire to explore how the migrant farm family population of students would benefit from us working together. His career has been focused on bilingual education, he has a Doctorate in Education Inclusion at NYU. He helps coordinate the US Dept of Ed mandated migrant ed program for 12 counties in New York which includes 400 migrant student families. They provide instructional services in coordination with schools based on need. They provide holistic advocacy services as well as many of these families lack access to healthcare, food, labor rights, etc. They help connect these families with services available to them knowing this will increase the ability to support academic success. It also supports a more successful societal integration.

The biggest challenges these families face, making them the most at risk student population, are poverty, language barrier, lack of access to healthcare, quality education, transportation, transient nature, which causes a disruption in continuity of education and parent education level. Parent work schedule can interfere with support at home, and often leads to exploitation and abuse. Current public school system is not adequate. Chris feels our school model, with second language support, could really make a difference to this student population. He would like to explore and collaborate to see if we could meet needs of his students and be a good fit. He and his team must consider that IDEA students getting services at a small charter would be a

challenge. He will follow up with Sara to arrange for a visit and tour and to get more information. He gave us his "migrant screener" sheet to add to our registration packet.

Lydia Aris-Brown also mentioned that she and Chris spoke about collaborating on a Pre-K either when our charter renews or a separate program.

Approval of Minutes

Stuart Young moved to accept the minutes for the BOT Regular Meeting October 19, 2020 and the BOT Special Meeting October 27, 2020 as emailed. Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes are approved.

Head of School Report

Sara Petit-McClure reported that the students were able to go on a field lesson to visit a local beaver dam on a fellow student's family land. The students hiked 2+ miles round trip. Students were able to make observations and create drawings, they learned facts about beavers, had a snack on location. They added words to their drawings, older students on site, younger students when they returned to school. Students also participated in a mock election to name our OWL mascot – Ophelia or Sage. Students were able to speak over the loudspeaker to discuss the "candidate names". Older students conducted surveys in all the classrooms. Students all were engaged in the process and celebrated Ophelia as the winner. Professional development day allowed for a program thru Peaceful Schools, negativity bias – hardwired to only see negative – talked brain science behind that. Helped newer teachers with routines and schedules. Helped all with morning meeting and its intended community building. MAPS growth testing has also begun – starts our data collection to analyze student growth in Math and ELA. Making it work with both in person and virtual learners. Ending first marking period at end of this week.

Sara is requesting a change to the school Calendar change for parent teacher conferences from Wednesday to Monday. all conferences will be done virtually. Monday will go back to instructional day and Wednesday would be conference day. Teachers were split on outcome.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen to move Parent/Teacher Conferences to Wednesday 11/18/20 for this first semester of school. None opposed. Motion carried.

Sara stated knowing that the question is on everyone's mind, "Can we start school on Wednesdays again for 5 day in person learning". With the current situation, we should plan for a future discussion.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer's report will be shared later in the week. Korinne L'Hommedieu reported that the 990 Tax Form prepared by auditors after completion of annual audit. Needs to be filed by November 15, 2020 and needs approval by the Board. Once approved, it will be filed by the auditors and uploaded to SUNY thru EpiCenter.

Motion by Krysta Austen, seconded by Sarah Stevens to approve the attached 990 Tax Form. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

Korinne also reported on our current cash position. \$255,000 currently, so we are pretty solid. We do \$20,000 on outstanding loan to Tom Brown as well as \$70,000 on check due for the new school bus.

Tom Brown reported that audit completed and uploaded to google drive for all to review. He feels it went better than expected.

Korinne reported that the \$588 annual fee for the Keela fundraising software is due.

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by Krysta Austen to approved the payment and continue the service. None opposed. Motion carried.

Finance Committee report attached.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Krysta Austen, for reports to be approved. None opposed. Motion carried.

Personnel Committee

No report submitted.

Facilities Committee

No report submitted. Tom Brown reported that the small animal barn and internet trench work are still on hold due to paperwork. Services paid for, not yet completed.

Curriculum Committee

No Report attached. The next meeting is set for Friday, November 13, 2020.

Marketing Committee

No report submitted.

Special Committee Reports

Nutrition Committee.

No report submitted.

Professional Advisory Committee

No report submitted.

Transportation Committee

No report submitted.

Fundraising Committee

No Report attached. The next meeting is Monday, November 16, 2020.

School Events

NOV 11- No School- Veterans Day

NOV 16- School Spirit Week to include: Farmer Day, Favorite Sports Team Day, Crazy Hair Day, Truxton Academy Colors Day, Crazy Sock Day, and Pajama Day

Kay Reakes reported from the Community that a few of the churches are asking if there are student families in need that could be sponsored the for the week of Thanksgiving and the week of Christmas. Sara will send a letter to families so they can "volunteer" themselves if they would like to be included.

Sara also reported that we could use a couple of community volunteers to help cover the office, 2 hours, 2 days a week. We do have a parent volunteer helping with student laps outside.

Motion by Krysta Austen, seconded by Tom Brown to move into executive session at 8:30pm. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Sarah Stevens to exit executive session at 9:35pm. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to offer Heather Boyden a show of appreciation for the role she stepped in as a volunteer position during COVID, helping with the STEAM program, providing planning time for other teachers, she has taken on more of a

teaching role. Because of our financial constraints, we can only offer \$1500 stipend while this role continues during COVID and until the schedule may change. No discussion, none opposed. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Sarah Steven, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:37pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary