

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting

April 12, 2021

Notice was provided on our website, truxtonacademy.org on Monday, April 5, 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98161711210?pwd=THlYdW5wOGttWnliWE9VU1MvVWxmZz09>

Meeting ID: 981 6171 1210

Passcode: SSN9b7

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

Members Present via Zoom Meeting: Stuart Young, Cindy Denkenberger, Tom Brown, Sarah Steven, Krysta Austen and David Amberg.

Members Absent: Korinne L'Hommedieu, Beth Klein, John Tillotson

Others present in person or via Zoom Meeting: Sara Petit-McClure, Leaf Carmer, Victor Siegel, Kathie Arnold, and Marci Francis.

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

No community comments

Approval of Minutes

Stuart Young moved to review and accept the minutes for the BOT Regular Meeting March 2021 at the next meeting.

School Report

Kindergarten teacher Marci Francis reported as follows; ELA - students have been working on and getting good at their CVC words using a "read, write and draw" program. They love using the new Smart Board technology in their classroom. Students get to "be the teacher" by picking our words they know on their "Word Wall" then sharing how to spell the word with their classmates. Math - they are moving into teen numbers and understanding a group of ten. They are working towards addition with words and the understanding the idea of addition. Science - they have been learning about bearded dragons to prepare a habitat and know how to care for their new class pet. They have been discussing weather and took a Wind sock outside on windy day to understand direction. They are also working on a Wood/Paper project building rafts with craft sticks and adding "paperclip passengers." They will be exploring paper mâché next.

Tom Brown asked about assessment level of students entering Kindergarten. Sara Petit-McClure explained that we do not have data to compare to local districts, but with testing we started this year, we can begin comparing to national levels. She suggested that implementing this testing earlier might help to

give a better comparison for incoming students. Marci also mentioned that teachers are collaborating on materials to provide over that summer that will better indicate those students' assessment levels.

Sara Petit-McClure reported that the third marking period is ending. Math assessments are being used to measure growth. 3rd graders are doing NYS mandated assessments now. She clarified that the state mandates assessments be given, but cannot mandate students to attend and take the assessments. SUNY Cortland students have begun working remotely with our students. Remote interaction is not ideal, but she feels it is a good start to our relationship with the program. Proud third grade students presented their published pieces from the Cortland Voice out in the pavilion. Sara reported that April will be a busy month. Events include releasing trout, baby goats visiting from Frost farm, music enrichment will be included in goat visit, field lesson for Earth day will include a local walk and trash pickup, another in house field lesson will include a visit from llamas, lambs and possibly a Yak! Staff is still working out details. Kathie Arnold reminded that we now have coral gates available and she can set them up if needed. The Pergola and Pavillion outdoor classrooms are getting more use. Spanish class often takes place outside on the front steps.

Cindy Denkenberger mentioned Mrs. Boyden's newest arrival and wanted to acknowledge Emmy's birth. Sara reported that she already had a visit with Mrs. Boyden's students.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report – Tom Brown reported on Korinne's behalf, that the bank balance is at \$169K and we are holding stable in our financial position. The Cortland Enlarged School District is behind approximately \$164k in invoicing. We are actively pursuing collection. Tom noted that New Roots has been owed \$500k from Ithaca School District for some time and the intercept procedure has not been helping with resolution. He wanted us to be aware in case a similar situation arises between us and Cortland.

The Finance Committee is working on our budget for next year, focusing on staffing needs. The P&L predicts that we will be in a better position than expected at year's end. Working on conservative budget number with 85 students. Potentially we will have 91 students. Tom noted that e-rate will not be available for next year and the committee is looking for Marketing and Transportation input. The draft budget is currently at Net -\$7000 but they are committed to making it a workable budget, including the recommended staffing needs. The budget will be ready to be presented at next board meeting for vote. The committee feels they will receive a positive reaction from Board on the final budget.

Personnel Committee

Minutes 3/22 4/6

Reports are attached. Cindy Denkenberger reported that the committee met on March 22, 2021 and April 6, 2021. They have been working on contracts and salary offers. They are looking forward to having Student teachers from SUNY Cortland next year. She has created the presentation required by SUNY for evaluating our HOS. She is looking for feedback and collaboration on the shared Google Doc, including Sara's successes, challenges and our future goals for her. The document is due Friday at noon. Sara clarified that she believes it is only the evaluation template that is due Friday, not the actual evaluation. That would be due at the visit in May.

Facilities Committee

No report was submitted. Tom Brown reported that one additional classroom will be needed upstairs. This may also require an upstairs bathroom renovation. Stuart mentioned that he spoke with Steve and could report that the heat in art room was now working and necessary plumbing repairs had been completed.

Curriculum Committee

No report was submitted.

Marketing Committee

No Report submitted.

Special Committee Reports

Nutrition Committee.

Report attached. Tom Brown reported that the committee submitted for a grant that would provide for a small cold serving line and vegetable processing equipment.

Professional Advisory Committee

No report submitted.

Transportation Committee

No report submitted.

Fundraising Committee

Report attached. Cindy Denkenberger reported that the committee met on March 15, 2021. They are still waiting on response for pending grants. Kathie Arnold will follow up on DEC program that would provide bushes and shrubs. David Amberg reported that some grants the committee was looking into require large, burdensome reporting requirements for a rather small amount of money and would not be worth our already limited time. He will circle back with Victor and prioritize the list. Tom asked if he could some specific grants to David's spread sheet. David agreed and will continue to monitor and prioritize the list. He will try to add to shared drive.

With no objection to reports as submitted, reports are all approved.

Old Business

Cindy, Stuart, Sara and Ellen Eagen held an optional meeting with teachers to discuss the Head of School evaluation. Feedback was positive. Sara and Ellen are continuing to work on adding financial component to evaluation criteria. They would like input from the Financial committee on specific documents to use to support the evaluation.

SUNY First Year visit is scheduled via Zoom on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30pm. Documents are due this Friday, April 16, 2021 at noon. Sara has been working on and submitting documents already. There are still documents that need more review. The Board submissions need to be tasked. Again, Cindy is looking for collaboration with the HOS evaluation document. Board materials, organizational chart, virtual access template; these items need further review and understanding. Stuart will contact Patty regarding Board materials due.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Sarah Stevens, to retroactively approve agreement to provide 50 student desks on loan to Marathon Central School District. None opposed, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve proposed resolution to revise student schedule as follows: Full-day, five-day program holding regular classroom educational programming until 12:00pm. Parents can pick up their children or students can attend an enrichment program on site from 12:00pm to 3:30pm. None oppose, motion carried.

Board terms need review and updating by nomination committee. Tom Brown suggested publishing any available board positions and how to apply. Stuart suggested this be done on our website. Cindy Denkenberger will review with the committee.

Tom Brown provided the Finance Committee's proposed teacher pay scale that will be included in the employee handbook as requested by our teachers. Numbers were compared with local district and charter school data. Sara Petit-McClure questioned if it was determined when this information would be

revisited. Tom reported we will have to determine that time frame as needed. Krysta Austen questioned if this would apply to non-certified teachers that might be hired as well. Stuart noted that if that issue arose, it would be dealt with in Personnel Committee during the hiring process.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to accept the teacher pay scale as presented. Having no further discussion or objection, motion carried.

Cindy Denkenberger mentioned that East Homer Plow Days was this coming weekend and would we be participating. Stuart reported that COVID is not allowing the event to take place in the usual manner. Kay noted child craft bags will be handed out and we could provide a brochure or handout for child craft bags.

Kathie Arnold reported upcoming TCC events; fitness center is once again being used, planning to re-open library, and a self-serve library book exchange is underway.

Motion by Tom Brown, Sarah Stevens seconded, to enter Executive Session at 8:26pm.

Motion by Tom Brown, Cindy Denkenberger seconded, to exit Executive session at 9:04pm.

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:06 pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary