

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting

May 10, 2021

Notice was provided on our website, truxtonacademy.org on Monday, May 3, 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98161711210?pwd=THlYdW5wOGttWnllWE9VU1MvVWxmZz09>

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, David Amberg, Korinne L'Hommedieu, Beth Klein, Krysta Austen

Members Absent: Sarah Steven, John Tillotson

Others present in person or via Zoom Meeting: Sara Petit-McClure, Leaf Carmer, Victor Siegle, Kathie Arnold, Carol Woodhouse

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 accept the minutes for the BOT Regular Meeting March 8, 2021 and April 12, 2021 as emailed. Hearing no corrections or additions, minutes are approved.

School Report

K/1 Teacher Jessica Fallon shared photo of students on playground. A student lost her ring and every other student on the playground stopped playing to help look for the ring. She liked how this reflected the school community we are building. Shared additional photos from reading group using Geode curriculum which teach story elements. After report cards and assessment results, she was able to focus on individual student needs. Group worked showed how some students that were struggling, have improved and even took initiative to move forward on their own. Shared story board showed children's knowledge of story elements and they were able to share that with Mrs. Smith's class as the "teachers." Smartboard works well with online math curriculum, especially for both in class and online students. Students were able to go outside to find items in nature to make a "number story" out of. The next day they had to write the story and online students had to solve the number stories created. Writing workshop model - students must produce an idea, write about it, edit work, then share their work – she has previously only used with 4-5-6 graders, but felt this group was ready to try. Students proved to be focused and eager to work. They did a great job. Science – students began working on Chromebooks, including learning about care of Chromebooks. They were able to use them to research how the Mars Rover was built. Students visited the NASA website that allowed interactive learning. They used shapes they learned online to build their

own rovers. Students learned about roots with a celery project and colored water. Weather unit – explored “cloud in jar” to learn how rain moves through a cloud. After reading Miss Maple’s Seeds, students learned about Maple seeds and leaves. Next unit – Boom Boom Flash – teaches light and sound “how can we communicate feelings using light and sound” connecting with mindfulness that has been taught throughout the year. Third graders have been visiting classroom to “teach.” One particular student comes every morning to help another student with letter sounds and now the two read books together. Great leadership. Group project came out of a grant for shrubs – third graders were teaching K/1 students how to plant. Students are also working on a quilt. Squares from each group will be put together and the finished quilt will hang in the hallway. Enjoyed working with SUNY Cortland students.

Sara Petit-McClure reported that permission slips have been shared for both sun and bug protection and many students are now able to have provided

Testing is almost complete. Chose to do only Part I for both Math and ELA. Data will not “count” but SUNY would like to review Math data. They will use iReady for accountability and use for a baseline for us. Jess, Marci, Sara Kathie Arnold – K/1 students are going to learn about planting onions and then they will teach the 2/3 graders for a change and then all will plant the garden.

Tom asked about tilling, Bonsbak has volunteered to do it. He just reminded that we can put the tiller on our tractor if needed.

Beth Klein commented on how glad she was to hear about the SUNY Cortland student relationship and hopes for in person for the fall.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer’s Report – Korinne reported cash balance is adequate. We should end the year in good shape. Keep in mind, we will need to fund another \$25k to dissolution fund by end of this school year.

Actual revenue and expenses thru April projecting May and June, PPP grant is included as income since loan was forgiven. Projecting positive net op income \$116K – also must set aside reserve balance 2% \$19k, after \$25 diss leaves net balance \$72k this year. Puts budget upside of \$17-18k. Good to carry us into the future.

Finance Committee reported working on next year’s budget – enrollment looks strong. How many students can we accommodate as we do not know what covid restrictions will be put in place. Committed accepted students is 93 – building budget on this number. Final number still a moving target. Leaf reported that 7 new applications came in – on wait list. Room measurements will allow for additional students – at least 6 more will be accepted. (1) K and (1)1st grader from Cortland, (1)K and (1)3rd grader from Cortland, (3) 3rd graders from Cincinnatus. Transportation should not be issue for Cincinnatus as already transporting students, but not confirmed yet. Cortland transportation is still on a waiting list as they are currently at capacity for Truxton students with current covid restrictions. Korinne shared keeping enrollment at 93 for budget purposes. Tuition rates for next year have not been released yet so staying conserve using this year’s rate. Looking at \$1.1 million for tuition revenue. 26 1st graders would be too many for 1 classroom. We will need 6 classroom teachers next year and plan on adding staff 1 totalling 6 classroom teachers.

Personnel Committee

No report. Cindy reported that no meeting was held, but she and Sara met to discuss offer letters for teachers and they were sent out. Only 1 teacher may not be returning and we will place Ad this coming month. Chef position is also open. Kathie Arnold suggested reviewing wages for chef and service positions as they are very low. Tom mentioned that benefits need to be highlighted as part of the wages. Will discuss this info at next meeting.

Facilities Committee

Report submitted. Barn plans still in progress, not yet complete. Stuart reported that Levi was contacting Aaron Weiss for assistance. Kathie said Aaron would stamp approval, but not sure about helping with drawings. Continuing to monitor to keep on timeline for next fall.

Curriculum Committee

No report was submitted. Cindy reported that SUNY is using some of assessment pieces we are using will make accountability plan easier. Need to review what is working and what teachers might need for next year. Sara reported that Erins law required abuse classes be held and that was done.

Marketing Committee

No Report submitted.

Special Committee Reports

Nutrition Committee.

No Report submitted. Tom reported that they filed for a small grant for salad bar and small equipment.

Professional Advisory Committee

No report submitted.

Transportation Committee

No report submitted. Tom reported that bus company wants to deliver. Holding off if possible. We will have to make decision by next meeting on where to park it as storage insurance for one year is approximately \$1k.

Fundraising Committee

Report attached. Cindy added applied for grant thru Kings Daughters, \$250 individual children's needs. Gave us \$500.00. Looking for more ways to help – additional grant may help support summer school program. Submitted, hoping to have response by end of May. The committee is looking for young person to help with Facebook Fundraising activity.

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

Old Business

Approval of 2021-2022 School Budget

Korinne reported staffing increases (FT Student Achievement Coordinator, FT Classroom teacher, PT Art Teacher, (2) FT Teaching Assistants, PT Administrative Assistant, PT Cafeteria Monitor) would take us from 14 to 21 employees. That and additional classroom costs, along with \$25k dissolution fund, and 2% reserve, brings balance to \$0. Tom asked about line-item title funding other – Sara reported it is for Spec Ed (IDEA). Cindy inquired that if we were using current year rates, if tuition rates do increase, that would put us plus. (Tom est approx. \$40k additional) Korinne referred to Kathie's comments and suggested that any additional amount would go towards staffing wages. Sara reminded that she also expects higher enrollment to help with that. Kathie asked about Food service reimbursement. Korinne was cautious and left that out, Sara will submit calculation at beginning of the next school year. Tom expressed concern about technology and marketing. Additional students are helping. Issues to consider, transportation, COVID status, Cortland payment status. Admin has been in contact with Cortland Bus Admin. They are now aware and understand, but no timeline was established. Follow up will happen. The budget is due 6/30/2021. The vote will take place next meeting.

Approval of 2021-2022 School Year Calendar – Sara utilized Cortland and Homer's district to match as needed. Referenced BOCES as well. State holiday was added, Juneteenth (June 20). School starting 9/7.

New staff training 8/18 19 20 – benefits, school procedures etc. does not include returning staff – allows PD time in full 8/23-31. teacher input and feedback considered. half day's 1st and 2nd for all students. - 3 2 hr intro sessions – counted as school days but not mandated. 9/3 final teacher work day. Staff day planned for last day of school 6/23 for summer planning 6/24 teacher in service day for reflection and planning toward next year – totals 194 teacher days 183 student days. Tom suggested community members to add special learning days.

Motion by David Amber, second by Beth Klein, to approve calendar as presented. No objections, motion carried.

We received quotes for lawncare quotes.

Tom Brown moved, Korinne second, to approve contract for lawn care for the 2021-2022 school year from Harold Booth, at \$85 per mow. None opposed. Motion carried.

We received quotes for fuel oil. We are currently under contract through Mirabito. Kathie explained how we pre-purchased fuel with PPP funds that should have lasted thru April. The tank was filled last week, and we still have money left on the account. The next fill should last thru January 2022. Quotes came back and Mirabito came in lowest. Price will stay locked in.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Dave Amberg, to accept contract from Mirabito as presented. No objections. Motion carried

New Business

Cindy reported titles and responsibilities for Leaf needs review and finalization at next meeting.

Victor reported on FOIL request, believe all has been answered satisfactorily in accordance with law and will be shared timely.

School Events

May 12 SUNY First year visit
June 1 Dairy Parade

Sara requested that the marketing committee discuss an outdoor Open House in June/July for interested/incoming students.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by David Amberg, to enter Executive session to discuss personnel matters, 8:38pm. Cindy would like to include Carol Woodhouse as a personnel committee member. No objections. Motion carried.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Tom Brown, to exit executive session at 9:07pm. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Beth Klein, seconded by David Amberg, to support the proposal by the Head of School to adjust hours starting in September by one day to allow for completion of her doctorate. None opposed. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by David Amberg, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:09pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary