

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting

JUNE 14, 2021

Notice was provided on our website, truxtonacademy.org on Monday, June 7, 2021.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 981 6171 1210

Passcode: SSN9b7

A quorum of 5 trustees out of 8 total number of trustees was present as follows:

Members Present via Zoom Meeting: Stuart Young, Tom Brown, Sarah Stevens, Cindy Denkenberger, Krysta Austen joined at 7:38pm.

Members Absent: Korinne L’Hommedieu, Beth Klein, Dave Amberg.

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

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Leaf Carmer reported that a dead tree leaning onto the property was safely removed by the neighboring property owners.

Brittany Mattoon spoke to having masks removed from kids ASAP. She has heard that other districts have sent letters, stating something to the effect of “as of tomorrow, masks will stop.” She shared a study showing harm from masks and how kids are not considered spreaders. She would like Truxton Academy to take similar action. Tom Brown spoke to the state and county’s current status and that we cannot act without authorization from the State Ed. Dept. Sara thanked Brittany for bringing this concern and suggestion to the board. She explained that it is discussed at every County Health meeting and she attends monthly. She asked for clarification on the letters mentioned. How are they shared? do they go to the governor? It sounds like the letters indicate a “thank you” for the most recent loosening of guidelines, but that schools would like to have say over what is best for their students. Sara feels we could send a similar letter. We will discuss options as a board and revisit this topic.

Approval of Minutes

Stuart Young moved to accept the minutes for the BOT Regular Meeting May 10, 2021 as emailed. Correction to attendance of board members; Krysta Austen was in attendance, John Tillotson was not. With correction made, minutes are approved.

School Report

Miss Sol, our 2/3 classroom teacher, reported the following: for Math, students are working on word problems, measurement, and money. They have also reviewed 2d and 3d shapes. 2 graders have done

addition and subtraction. 3 graders are working on area and perimeter and have started some multiplication and division. They will begin with fractions this week. For reading and oral comprehension, all students have made progress. They are writing their own stories and math problems. They also have been working on their end of year play hand sewing and decorating their own costumes and working on props. In Spanish they are practicing the dance that will be performed at next week's picnic. The Sword dance for the boys has proven to be challenging, but fun, so they will forge on!

Sara reported that the all-school Field Day was this past Friday. A parent brought in a horse and pony. the 3 graders ran a station for beach volley ball. There were water balloons, a sponge race, and a dunk tank for the teachers. Parents and grandparents volunteered. The weather was perfect. Students had their last visit from 4 H on June 3 and they started their quilt squares. Miss Robin at 4H sewed them all together and delivered the quilt. It will be put on display at the school. Kathie Arnold was able to get our garden planted. The K1 class helped and then taught the other classes how to plant potatoes, onions, and carrots. They have since added watermelon, squash, and pumpkins. Gardening has been enjoyed and they hope to harvest in the fall and use in school lunches. Volunteers for weeding and checking progress will be needed over the summer. Kathie will be the contact point for interested families and community members. K graduation is this week and the family picnic is next week. Board members are welcome and encouraged. Please let Sara know if you would like to attend. There is a BOT podcast available, regarding end of year assessments. Sara will share data on student growth for Math and Reading (part 1 only) when she receives it. NYSED does not know yet how they will disseminate data.

Stuart Young asked about the previous 3 grade assessment done in April. Some info had not been covered yet with students when the test was taken. The end of year test showed much better results.

Tom Brown mentioned that Fabius CSD is using Ag in Math, Homer CSD has upped their PBL and Cortland ESD has started a gardening club. We are having an impact on neighboring districts.

Stuart is preparing the President's annual report and will share at next month's meeting.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report – Korinne shared reports. Tom noted that we are on track with what we planned for with our proposal. Tom reminded of the importance of reconciling our accounts, especially being a new school. Marie Ann Gotie, Victor Siegle, and Leaf Carmer will be working on this task together. The bank balance shared includes the dissolution fund and 2% reserve. The accounts look good. One goal of the committee to set up an additional reserve fund as well. Sara asked about the carryover from this year of \$40k. We did owe some districts back tuition and she wanted to know if it was accounted for yet. Leaf reported that we owe \$6,000 to 2 districts (waiting on invoices from Tully and FM). We have been paid in full on outstanding tuition totalling \$11,000 from remaining districts, but it has not been entered into QuickBooks yet.

Finance Committee reported

Tom shared the final proposed Budget for next year. There were a few slight changes from last month's review. Some savings from insurance costs went to marketing. Sara reminded that the budget was handled very conservatively with enrollment numbers at 102.

Motion by Krysta Austen, seconded by Tom Brown, to approve the budget for the 2021-2022 School Year as presented today. With none opposed, the motion is carried and the budget approved.

Personnel Committee

Reports submitted. Cindy reported that they updated staff and discussed how to deal with short staffing for summer and run efficiently. It was suggested that if a new hire for custodian was not found for summer, Steve's hours could be upped to handle responsibilities. The custodian job was posted on Indeed. The survey looking for feedback from staff this year includes a broader range of staff. They will be using the template from last year and will share with all staff. They are currently interviewing for Student

Achievement Coordinator and Classroom Teacher. The committee approved combining the PT PE with PT Maker Space for a FT position.

Facilities Committee

No report. Planning a meeting next week. Sara and Kathie discussed using TCC office as shared space, the small room can then be used for Student Achievement Coordinator office. Library space will begin sharing. These items will be added to the committee agenda. The following year, all TCC tenants will be gone so sharing space will not be an issue.

Curriculum Committee

No Report submitted.

Marketing Committee

No report submitted. Meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks to discuss Finals site contract and Open House event.

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 but we need to discuss where to park it and the cost of storage insurance. Active use insurance cost was budgeted for Fall. A contract from Progressive Insurance Company would be no more than \$1300 for storage.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve Progressive contract thru Baily Place for up to \$1300 annual premium. None opposed. Motion carried.

Fundraising Committee

Report attached. Dave Amberg will become the chair. They are still awaiting status of applied for grants. King's Daughters upped the approved grant amount to \$2500. \$500 for individual children's needs and \$2000 towards the summer program.

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

Old Business

Victor Siegle handled our FOIL request. It was completed and sent out by Stuart.

Sara shared the updated mask policy. Students are not required to wear masks while outside. Events still require masks. Tom Brown shared that some parents reached out immediately upon hearing from health commissioner's letter looking for removal of mask mandate. He shared that NYSED loosening restrictions 3ft distancing and no cohorts was good and we can hope it continues. Kathie stated Per gov 69.9 % when reach 70% remaining restrictions will be lifted. He reiterated parent concerns as stated in community comments and it was determined we would reply to Brittany via email by Monday 6/21/2021 that the Board will be drafting a letter together.

New Business

Beth Klein has agreed to continue on the board for another term. It is agreed that she is a huge asset to the board and staff. Unfortunately, John Tillotson is not able to continue due to other commitments.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve Beth Klein for a 3-year term as a voting board member. None opposed, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen, to extend Dave Amberg's term thru 2024, in addition to his interim service for remainder of Elaine Sturges's term. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Nomination Committee will be meeting to plan for further recruitment.

Motion by Tom Brown, second by Sarah Stevens, to adjust bylaws from officers/executive committee having two members filled by a current resident of the Town of Truxton, to a current resident within a 10-mile radius of the Town of Truxton. None opposed. Motion carried.

Be sure to report change at next month's meeting.

Sara has requested a calendar change. The last day of school, June 25, 2021, should change to a professional development day. There will be no transportation from Homer nor McGraw that day. Cincinnatus transports one student and they would have to be picked up mid-day. Cortland does not have school, but would provide transportation if given notice.

Motion by Krysta Austen, seconded by Tom Brown, to approve calendar change to have the Student's last day of school be June 24, 2021. Rest of staff will report June 25, 2021 for professional development. None opposed, motion carried.

Leaf Carmer reported that our new insurance policy requires two signatures on outgoing payments to vendors. We now need a third person to be available for signatures. Financial Committee will discuss and designate an individual.

School Events

June 16 – K Graduation Please RSVP

June 23 – All School Picnic - recognize Fran, Rich & Jane Ryan, John Tillotson

June 25 – Teacher luncheon - budget and funding

Adjournment

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Tom Brown, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:27pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary