

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting

August 9, 2021

Notice was provided on our website, truxtonacademy.org on Monday, August 2, 2021.

A quorum of 6 trustees out of 8 total number of trustees was present as follows:

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

Members Absent: Korinne L'Hommedieu, Beth Klein

Others present: Sara Petit-McClure, Leaf Carmer, Patty Dawson, Victor Siegle, Lydia Aris-Brown,

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Stuart Young moved to accept the minutes for the BOT Regular Meeting July 12, 2021 as emailed. No corrections. Minutes are approved.

School Report

Sara Petit-McClure reported family surveys were sent home. The report was shared and is attached. Topics included: Why did you choose TA? Academic Growth, how did we do meeting academic areas? Student engagement? Social emotional support and instruction? Student individuality? School community? Relationship building and self esteem? Was enrichment a meaningful addition? Sara reported that her take away was that the parents appreciate hands on learning, outdoor space, Spanish and agricultural elements. Parents indicated in comments that they appreciate emails from HOS, and that their children are pushed to progress and encouraged to love learning. Parents love the projects and even offered suggestions.

Sara reported on student data/end of year assessments. Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment reflects that K/1 are most in need of reading help. This was expected from COVID because of social emotional stress and learning inconsistency. Investigations Math curriculum assessment and MAP assessment reports were shared and are attached. Data used from pre-covid time as standardized testing is still being revamped. We will be able to reflect better after next year's growth. We have not received results from end of year testing, so no projections have been shared. Sara plans to compare next year's data with both Homer and Cortland since most of our students come from Cortland.

Jenny Hull presented data collected from student surveys. She feels in some ways, this is more critical than parents. Eight questions were asked and focused on student feelings about school. Responses requested were "Good, Eh or Not Good". They were asked about school in general, teachers, other adults, other students, remote learning and project learning. Most responses were positive and when asked, "Do you know a lot more than you did in September?", 92% responded yes! Comments about school ran across the board including subjects, teachers, and friends. Most students are looking forward to next year.

Tom Brown asked if Jenny felt kids may feel apprehensive toward honest answers? She responded that teachers and staff make daily inquiries on how students are feeling to ensure they trust sharing concerns with adults at the school.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report – Korinne shared financial reports for review prior to the meeting. Financial status still good. EOY cash position \$195,000. Final information will be shared after the audit is complete.

Finance Committee reported that the Quick books changeover may not be working out. Reviewing if we will continue with this. Victor Siegle has offered to help save operating costs by switching out lights in the gymnasium and cafeteria thru a Siegle Foundation donation. He and Tom Brown will research and report back.

Personnel Committee

Report attached. Miss Sol had to resign due to family issues. Additional positions for the upcoming school year include: 2 classroom teachers, 2 TA's, teacher for the Arts. The committee is actively interviewing and offering positions. We are still waiting on 2 responses to offer letters. 3rd grade teacher did accept position, Maddison Eckert. Staff positions – still need cafeteria, offer made to custodian, offer pending to admin assist.

Facilities Committee

Report not submitted

Curriculum Committee

No Report submitted.

Marketing Committee

No Report submitted.

Special Committee Reports

Nutrition Committee. –

No Report submitted. Sara reported that the health permit was received for 2021-2022 school year.

Professional Advisory Committee

No report submitted.

Transportation Committee

No report submitted.

Fundraising Committee

Report attached. Dave reported on grant opportunities (attached). "Wild Ones" – Jenny Hull will contact Kathie Arnold to discuss project possibilities. Tom Brown asked about energy and security grants – phones and intercoms in all rooms upstairs will be costly. Dave will look into. Another opportunity is Fundraising with dog treats. The committee is still researching. Jenny mentioned that it could be fun to include students with the recipe and packaging. Jenny will work with committee to see if it can be incorporated into a student project. There is a long list of organizations that the committee would like to reach out to. They would like to task board members with two contacts to reach out to per month and a follow up call.

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

New Business

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen, to approve the contract as presented for CNYRIC. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Dave Amberg, to approve ERP and DRAFT SAVE Plan to be publicly posted on website & select public hearing date (30 days out) September 10. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve up to \$4,000 cost for architectural plans for small animal barn including electrical and plumbing. None opposed. Motion carried.

Funding Opportunity 2021-2022 Universal Pre-kindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students – fundraising committee to explore and will follow up year to year.

being Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen, to approve allowing space and time outside of school hours for staff members to offer private lessons, pending insurance issues reviewed. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Sarah Stevens, to approve salary schedule as presented to be added to the employee handbook including reviewing scale every 3 years. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Dave Amberg, to enter into executive session at 8:43pm to discuss employee information. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion Tom Brown, seconded by Sarah Stevens, to exit Executive Session at 9:00pm.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Dave Amberg, to approve Madysen Eckhardt, F/T third grade teacher and Sheri Herlihy as P/T Spanish Teacher. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen, to proactively approve F/T second grade teacher, Kayla Elliot, F/T fourth grade teacher, Roderia Foddell and Daniel Masserini F/T TA. Also, Teacher of the arts, visual, P/T, Warner Varno, and music, P/T, Chris Cresswell, if they accept offer letters.

Stuart Young created an Ad Hoc Re-Opening committee to plan for recently released COVID guidelines as follows: Dave Amberg, chair, Tom Brown, Beth Klein, Kyrsta Austen, Sara Petit-McClure, and Sarah Stevens.

School Events

August 16	Year End Audit begins
August 23	Professional Development Begins
August 27	Drive In Movie Night
September 7	First Day of School

Adjournment

Motion by Stuart Young, seconded by Dave Amberg, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary

Uniform charter school survey – is there one? Can we start and collaborate on one?