

# Truxton Academy Charter School

## Regular Board Meeting

**March 9, 2020**

**Members Present:** Cindy Denkenberger, Beth Klein, Korinne L'Hommedieu, Krysta Austen, and Tom Brown. John Tillotson arrived at 7:16pm.

**Members Absent:** Stuart Young and Sarah Stevens were absent.

**Others present:** Sara Petit-McClure, Lydia Aris-Brown, Patty Dawson and others.

President Cindy Denkenberger called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

### **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

### **Community Comments**

Julie Eaton reported that the PTO Beddy-Bye Book Night on March 6<sup>th</sup> went well.

Kathie Arnold reported that the TCC board approved teacher use of the library as teacher space when needed. They can access the second floor using the stage elevator.

Kathie also reported that per Sara Petit-McClure's request for TCC to consider taking on the after school enrichment program, the TCC board approved looking into partnering with another group and opening up the program to other community students. Kathie has talked to JM McDonald about their CHAMPS program. They would provide a program M-F from 3-6pm for school age kids K-6 run by SUNY Cortland PE Students. It is not a free program. TACS will look into options where our students cost would be covered by a scholarship or grant. We would also want to collaborate in planning and implementation.

Since the Enrichment Program was included later in the agenda, we decided to move up the discussion to now. It was decided that an Ad hoc committee would be created to plan the program, find and utilize resources such as Cornell Co-Op Extension, Homer Free Library, DeRuyter Free Library, Town of Truxton Recreation Department. It was also suggested to model after SUCCESS Academy's parent involvement and to reach out to Martine McNerney who offered to help with the program. Ad hoc Committee members are Beth Klein, Patty Dawson, Kay Reakes, Cathy Johnson, and Leaf Carmer. First task should be to define enrichment vs. childcare.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by John Tillotson, seconded by Tom Brown, to adopt the minutes as presented from the regular BOT Meeting held February 10, 2020. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **Opening comments**

Sara Petit-McClure reported Head of School Highlights. All students K-2 have been learning about the water cycle in different ways such as a song and a story. They learned about condensation, evaporation, and precipitation, also learning these words in Spanish. Guided Genius hour exhibition allowed students to demonstrate their projects to each other in groups. They discussed carbon emissions, played board games while teaching each other about cooperation. On March 16 students had a visit from literacy readers from NY Ag in the Classroom. The K class moved on from their paper/wood project to paper mache, to continue learning about paper properties. They learned which types would hold up to different elements better, and why, i.e. wax paper, when hung outside. All students have been working on the importance of handwashing especially with the Covid-19 situation. A letter was sent home to parents encouraging continued practice at home and explaining that a plan is being worked out if school has to be closed.

### **President's Comments**

Cindy Denkenberger reported on the Resignation of Elaine Sturges due to a personal need to step down. We will notify SUNY CSI that a board position has opened. All are encouraged to think of possible candidates to fill the rest of her term. Suggested individuals Clint Brooks and Dave Amberg. Cindy Denkenberger will check with Ellen on conflict of interest.

Beth Klein reported that the Leadership Council met and discussed support for teachers, students with needs, safe space designation. The implementation of a co-teaching model using SUNY Cortland will be developed. They will train teachers, student teachers and master students as well. Teacher mentoring will be included.

Cindy Denkenberger requested that willing board members and founding team members help enhance the Staff development day scheduled for 3/13 by paying for bowling and lunch. Donations are not required and would be accepted anonymously.

Sara Petit-McClure reported that new student screening was being revamped from last year to obtain more consistent information to match current students.

Patty Dawson reported that the Open House had a good turnout receiving 4 completed applications and positive feedback. The next Open House dates will be 3/19 from 5:30pm to 7pm, focused on parents, and 4/25 from 10am to 12pm focused more on kids. School visits are now being offered on Thursday mornings for families who cannot attend these dates.

Cindy Denkenberger reported that the School SAVE Plan Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00pm.

### **New Business**

Tom Brown reported that the new Phone System install date was requested to be 3/27. We are waiting on confirmation of availability. Sara Petit-McClure verified that the down payment was made.

Sara Petit-McClure reported that the SUNY CSI First Year Evaluation date is set for 5/14 with the Prior Review call set for 4/22. Prior Action items are due 4/13 and are being worked on. Board members are not required for the prior call. Sara will inquire on who should be her for the actual visit and Board interview. Cindy will forward the email for all to review.

Cindy Denkenberger reported that Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8. We should create an Ad Hoc Committee and coordinate with PTO to come up with ideas to ensure our teachers know how much we appreciate them.

### **Board Committee Reports:**

#### *Finance Committee*

Treasurer's report attached. Korinne L'Hommedieu reported that our current cash position is strong, however we will end the school year behind. We can plan for last district invoicing in June to help get thru school year. Tom Brown reminded that the budget includes \$25k per year for a dissolution fund. The Financial committee has discussed private contracts with supporters, including friends and family, to provide interest free unsecured loans with re-payment scheduled for later on. We will need approximately \$50k.

Motion by Beth Klein, seconded by Krysta Austen, to accept report. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Committee report attached. Tom reminded that the CSP quotes need to be decided and agreements signed by the June deadline.

Motion by Beth Klein, seconded by John Tillotson, to accept report. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### *Personnel Committee*

No Report submitted. Cindy Denkenberger reported we received two viable substitute teachers applicants that she will be screening by phone.

*Facilities Committee*

No Report submitted. Tom Brown reported that there were generator issues. The transfer switch isn't always working correctly but Levi is looking into it. They are still waiting to review doorbell/security quotes; one from Chimera, waiting on quote from Doyle, and still no answer from Syracuse time and alarm.

*Curriculum Committee*

Report attached.

Motion made by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by John Tillotson, to accept report. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

*Marketing Committee*

Report attached.

Motion made by Beth Klein, seconded by Korinne L'Hommedieu, to accept report. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Special Committee Reports**

*Nutrition Committee* No report submitted. Cindy Denkenberger reported that there had been requests from parents to allow chocolate milk to be offered more than once a week. The nutrition committee will survey parents and make a decision.

*Professional Advisory Committee.*

No report submitted.

*Transportation Committee*

No report submitted.

*Fundraising Committee*

No report submitted. The committee is working with the Gala Committee. Lydia Aris-Brown reported that Holly emailed looking for a phone meeting with Sara Petit-McClure to determine if we qualify to submit a full application.

**Upcoming Events**

Mar 19 Open House 5:30pm to 7:00pm  
Apr 4 PTO Wing Night Fundraiser at Elm Street Café in Tully  
Apr 20 BOT Regular Meeting (rescheduled from 4/13)  
Apr 20 Lottery Date (if needed)  
Apr 25 Open House 10am to 12pm  
May 9 Gala Fundraiser  
May 15 PTO Parent and Me Paint Night

**Adjournment**

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Korinne L'Hommedieu, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:22pm. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

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Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary