

# Truxton Academy Charter School

## Regular Board Meeting (DRAFT)

**September 14, 2020**

Notice was provided on our website, [truxtonacademy.org](http://truxtonacademy.org) on Monday, September 7, 2020.

### **Zoom**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75078118734?pwd=azYxNUpNTm4rYUpwR1BSM0VxZGVKUT09>

Meeting ID: 750 7811 8734 Password: 6eaMyp

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

**Members Present:** Stuart Young, Korinne L'Hommedieu, Sarah Stevens  
Cindy Denkenberger, Tom Brown, John Tillotson

**Members Present via Zoom Meeting:** Beth Klein, Krysta Austen

**Members Absent:**

**Others present in person or via Zoom Meeting:** Sara Petit-McClure, Lydia Aris-Brown, Patty Dawson,  
Leaf Carmer, Ellen Egan, Levi Sutton, Victor Siegle, David Amberg, Miriam Astacio, Carol Woodhouse

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

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Community Comments**

Kathie Arnold introduced Miriam Astacio as possible BOT member. Miriam gave a brief background and explained her enthusiasm and support for the school. She was happy to be there to listen.

Lydia Aris-Brown introduced David Amberg as a possible BOT member. The nominating committee has met and interviewed David. His CV has been shared with the BOT for review.

### **Approval of Minutes**

BOT Regular Meeting July 13, 2020

BOT Regular Meeting August 8, 2020

Motion to approve as emailed. Having no discussion nor none opposed. Motion carried.

### **Board Committee Reports**

#### *Finance Committee*

Treasurer's report attached. Korinne L'Hommedieu reviewed and reported that with only 60 students enrolled and since projected budget was based on 70 students, we are looking at an approximate 14% shortfall. We need to adjust the budget or will be down \$25-50k. This does not take into account open positions. She also reported that CSP grant money is still on hold. SSF grant money has all been fronted and we are waiting on the state's \$124k reimbursement, expected in a few weeks. This all totals \$200K+ in outstanding grant money along with the approved loans from Kathie Arnold and Tom Brown of \$30k each.

Motion to approved TACS BOT Resolution 2020-5 to retroactively approve the capitalization policy as of January 2, 2019 by Tom Brown, seconded by John Tillotson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Sarah Stevens for a Paypal account to be opened for Truxton Academy Charter School. None opposed. Motion carried.

Finance Committee report attached.

Motion by Krysta Austen, seconded by Sarah Stevens for report to be approved. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### *Personnel Committee*

Report attached. Sara Petit-McLure also reported on new teachers. The new Spanish teacher, Jasmine Jahungir, has a dual degree as an Elementary and Spanish teacher. Crisol Mattos, our new 2nd grade teacher has always had a dream to start a farm that she could convert into a school. She is very excited to be a part of Truxton Academy. Our new TA for the K –1 cohort, Jasminique Harris, goes by “Miss Bella”. She has experience teaching English to students in Spain. She grew up locally and is happy to be back. Lastly, Ashley Martin has joined us as our Special Education coordinator and co-teacher.

#### *Facilities Committee*

Report attached. Levi Sutton also reviewed the new security system. Codes and key fobs are used to deactivate the system upon entering. Communication and logistics are still being worked out, so make sure if you are entering the building outside of the school day that you know where to enter and how to disable the alarm. Levels of permission and access are still being established.

Levi also reported that the trench project and small animal barn project are waiting on drawings and ultimately state approval.

#### *Curriculum Committee*

No Report submitted. Cindy Denkenberger confirmed that the committee has had some changes and she is now acting as Committee Chair with Beth Klein, John Tillotson, and Carol Woodhouse all confirming they will continue as members.

#### *Marketing Committee*

No report submitted. Patty reported that committee focus has been on getting Finals site info smoothed out.

#### *Executive Committee*

Report attached. Stuart Young reported that the committee has spent time on our Board training review. There are a few areas that the committee felt need addressing sooner than later and were communicated in the attached report. He also asked that each Board Member review the information that was shared, specifically the INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEE EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

### **Special Committee Reports**

#### *Nutrition Committee*

No report submitted. Sara Petit-McClure reported that the NYSED approved her appeal to keep Brigitte as our Food Service Director. We have not been approved yet as an SFA. She also reported that community member, Raina Barber donated tomatoes that will be made into sauce. Tom Brown reported as a reminder that SUNY Morrisville senior students had offered to help create menus. Sara also reported that breakfast and lunch is being served daily. Meals are pre-ordered by parents. Students are eating in the cafeteria or classrooms. They have been eating outside, weather permitting, but bees were proving to be quite a nuisance and distraction. Menus are similar to last year. Portions are being served as if we have been approved as an SFA. Brigitte provides items such as homemade chicken nuggets, steamed veggies, and homemade bread.

### *Professional Advisory Committee*

No report submitted.

### *Transportation Committee*

No report submitted.

### *Fundraising Committee*

Report attached. Cindy Denkenberger reported that the Trinity Valley corn maze event will take place on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm. at TV. sun 9/27 10am to 4pm. We will use marketing funds to invite the teachers to attend with their families during the event.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen to approve the report. None opposed. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Stuart Young reported that we need to review and determine our annual meeting date which would include a review of voting members and term dates.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Korinne L'Hommedieu, to move the annual date to the June Board Meeting. None opposed, motion carried.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Tom Brown to nominate Dave Amberg as a new Board member. None opposed, motion carried.

Sara Petit-McClure reported that she spoke with SUNY CSI regarding the Accountability Plan. They are willing to work with us on getting this done correctly and timely. We can start on the plan now and it will be due 9/30. Part of this report goes to NYSED as well. Sara let them know that SUNY CSI gave us the extension to 9/30. The Board needs to decide what we want to add in other than ELA, Math and Science. She is putting together recommendations.

Sara also reported as head of school; the first week of school has gone smoothly for students. Teachers could use positive kudos and feedback as they are working very hard. They are working on balancing virtual and in person instruction, while getting to know the students. All classes have managed to get outside time. They have had strong participation from families for distance learning compared to Spring. They are trying a new software – See Saw - for younger students. It allows them to answer without parent help. The new Clear touch boards are working out very well. The 3rd graders are working on a hand lens activity. 2nd graders have built a fairy house and write letters with surprise responses in return. Students currently cannot take books home, but are using EPIC reading at home. Projects are in the works.

Beth Klein reported that during Professional Development, the teachers participated in Project Learning Tree and were very enthusiastic.

Tom Brown reported that he is looking into getting Truxton Academy involved in Labrador Mountain's Ski Club. It would be available to third graders at a cost of \$110.

### **Upcoming Events**

Sep 15 Accountability Plan due – extension granted to 9/30

Sep 27 Trinity Valley Corn Maze fundraiser

Sara mentioned that a parent school night is being planned, both in person and virtual. Date not yet determined. Also, the after-school Champs program has started.

Motion by Sarah Stevens, seconded by John Tillotson, to enter into Executive session at 9:17pm to discuss employees. None opposed, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by John Tillotson, to adjourn Executive session at 10:31pm. None opposed, motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:33pm. Having no discussion and no one opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary