

# Truxton Academy Charter School

## Regular Board Meeting

**March 8, 2021**

Notice was provided on our website, [truxtonacademy.org](http://truxtonacademy.org) on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Join	Zoom	Meeting	
<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98161711210?pwd=THlYdW5wOGttWnliIWE9VU1MvVWxmZz09">https://zoom.us/j/98161711210?pwd=THlYdW5wOGttWnliIWE9VU1MvVWxmZz09</a>			
Meeting	ID:	6171	1210
Passcode: SSN9b7	981		

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, David Amberg, Beth Klein, Tom Brown, Sarah Steven, John Tillotson. Krysta Austen joined at 7:14pm

**Members Absent:** Korinne L'Hommedieu

**Others present in person or via Zoom Meeting:** Sara Petit-McClure, Leaf Carner, Patty Dawson, Kathie Arnold, and Jenny Hull.

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comments

Adam Aldrich spoke to need for 5 day instruction. His expectation was that his child would get a better education at Truxton Academy, not less of an education. He is concerned that the lack of in person instruction could hinder his child's progress. He understands that we have limited resources, but hopes we are moving in the direction to go back to 5 days. The home learning day is difficult for his family and he is sure for others as well.

Answered by members that we are working towards 5 day return, but must ensure that we provide an equitable education for all students and continue to meet NYS requirements. We are working on a parent survey to obtain Parent feedback to help determine how many students would be ready to return to in person learning as the biggest challenge is the equity in education for virtual learners.

Tom reported on behalf of community that with Dan McCall's (Mr. Dan) passing, we may consider commemorating him with naming of ball field or playground area.

### Approval of Minutes

Stuart Young moved to accept the minutes for the BOT Regular Meeting February 8 2021 and as emailed. Tom Brown noted one correction, noted. Hearing no additional corrections or additions, minutes are approved.

### School Report

Brianna Smith reported that Wednesdays, they have fun with the all school meetings which include a monthly project to be completed on that day. As far as student work at home, the community helper project has yielded great success. Students had to interview and ask questions of a local person. Dress up was an option. This month is to interview a family member, compare and contrast "then and now".

Another focus has been mindfulness, specifically on one detail at a time. Students spend 30 minutes of what “centers them” i.e. reading, coloring, etc. These items are then applied to learning, like with site words. The third graders are working on a joint project with the K/1 classroom. The older students read the story, discuss the moral of story and characters. They will eventually act out the story. The end of day now includes “optional centers” at end of day which have helped to create more structure and less of a chaotic end of day.

Sara Petit-McClure reported that the school wide collaborative PBL project is interdisciplinary and provides connected learning and allows student choice. It is centered around story telling with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders leading. The other students guide what the presentation will look like, based on what they have learned from the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. They describe the message of each story and decide how they can share with the community. Then they provide a written reflection on how they did and/or how they could do better next time. This project allows for all grade level interaction. Mrs. Hull’s PBL experience and projects like this provide Professional development for the other teachers. These types of projects will eventually lead to events in the pavilion with spectators. After COVID, of course.

## **Board Committee Reports**

### *Finance Committee*

Treasurer’s Report - Tom reported that the bank balance reflects that we will just about break even at the end of the year. Reserve funds include \$50k dissolution fund. We will plan to put away the rest required next year. Profit & Loss shows better results than previously thought. Tracking expenses are in a much easier format. Anticipating 79-82 students for next year, reaching our goal. Sara reported she put in for CSP COVID relief grant which for reimbursement for this year’s expenses totaling \$6,450.00. She also applied for a grant for rural small schools for \$18,000 which would be for next year, earmarked for an additional Teacher Assistant for the K/1 classroom. With no objection to reports as submitted, report is approved.

### *Personnel Committee*

Cindy reported that the board needs to approve the Administrative Evaluation proposal recommended by the Personnel Committee. The evaluation is a year long process that tracks the health of the school, which in turn is a true review of the Head of School’s performance. The full process was reviewed.

Kay Reakes commented on some wording changes that no one objected to. Stuart included that they use a similar method on his farm and it has proven to be very successful. Tom wanted to make sure that the teachers would have input on this process. Sara pointed out that it would be included in cooperation and collaboration within the school climate. Tom also suggested we add financial data if possible. Ellen suggested using end of year audit and mid-Spring budget approval. Stuart agreed that this would help for setting goals.

Motion by Beth Klein, seconded by Dave Amberg, to approve the proposal with suggested edits based on comments shared pending teacher input and final review. Ellen Eagan will make changes and present along with Stuart, Cindy and Sara present. All in favor, none opposed.  
Motion carried.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Krysta Austen to approve Steve Reed as the new Maintenance Operator, pending background check clearance.

Cindy also reported that the search is still on to find long term sub for Heather Boyden.

### *Facilities Committee*

No report was submitted, but Tom Brown reported that improved internet services are available, and by using eRate, it would be at a \$10 savings.

### *Curriculum Committee*

No report was submitted, but Cindy Denkenberger reported that the committee is working on budget/funding so teachers will have more time in summer to plan curriculum.

*Marketing Committee*

No Report submitted.

**Special Committee Reports**

*Nutrition Committee.*

No Report submitted.

*Professional Advisory Committee*

No report submitted.

*Transportation Committee*

No report submitted.

*Fundraising Committee*

No Report submitted.

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

**Adjournment**

Motion by John Tillotson, seconded by Tom Brown, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:57pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary