

# Truxton Academy Charter School

## Regular Board Meeting

**November 8, 2021**

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

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

**Members Present:** Stuart Young, Dave Amberg attended in person. Tom Brown, Sarah Stevens, Krysta Austen, Korinne L'Hommedieu, Cindy Denkenberger and Beth Klein joined remotely.

**Others present:** Patty Dawson attended in person. Leaf Carner, Sara Petit-McClure, Marci Francis and Lydia Aris Brown joined remotely.

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the Regular Meeting October 18, 2021 were presented. Having no objections, minutes were accepted as presented.

### School Report

Marci Francis reported that this year she is teaching the K-1 class. They are already thru phonics and moving to letter words and blending sounds. Next will be word to word correspondence. The "readers and writers" workshops are going very well and the students are enjoying them. The current Social Studies unit is "learning about ourselves and our families." Students are learning how they are all unique and have differences but at the same time are inherently similar as human beings. They are making books about what makes them special and will eventually add information about their families as well. Science unit is on trees and the students were happy they got to plant an apple tree. They are also doing a PBL unit on their 5 senses and have been asked to bring in something they can use all 5 senses to explore. Taste will be tricky. In Math they are starting addition, subtraction, and visual stories. They are learning to picture the problem in their head, then move on to solving. It has been interesting for Mrs. Francis to be moving forward more quickly with the K/1 students and she is enjoying it!

Sara reported that the entire school is working on gratitude. It is a great time of year with the holiday approaching, but also great timing because of challenges in the school that have previously been discussed. Gratitude helps students and teachers connect with each other. One way they are sharing is by having a sheet in the hallway for each Staff member. Everyone is encouraged to add positive comments and the sheets will be up until Thanksgiving. Our music teacher, Mr. C, is working on composing a song with students aiming for a concert on DEC 21. Sara is waiting on guidance from the Health Dept to determine how an in-person event could be held. Mr. C is also doing after school enrichment programs. Both Drama for K-2 and 3-4 students with a performance to be included in the December event. Mrs. Hull is providing a STEAM enrichment program for K-2, 3-4 students as well. A volunteer high school Junior from Seven Valley was connected with thru Kathie Arnold and is helping with programs.

Korinne asked about Math assessments and what Sara's perspective was. Sara noted that she and the teaching staff are aware Math is the area most in need of growth for students. They are working on incorporating into more areas and keeping more in focus. However, she also believes that focus must remain on social trauma and social emotional well-being. It is the bigger need right now. Students need to feel safe and secure before they can focus as much on learning. "Movement in Math" might be an option. Curriculum committee is happy to take suggestions. Sara asked for any contact info from Success Academy as it has been suggested we work with them. She has not been successful in contacting anyone to date. Beth asked where Sara feels students really fall in Math. Sara reported that assessments

show only 23 % of students would be proficient on NYS test. She is not sure how accurate that is. She does feel math is an area of needed growth and more rigor needs to be added from teachers, i.e., problem solving. Korinne asked as far as social emotional issues, does Sara feel students are in a better place since the beginning of the year? Are we seeing improvement? Sara reported that there are less incidences, but not necessarily less support is needed. The systems they have implemented are doing something to improve experience, but not taking less time and energy from teachers. Korinne asked if certain classes are having more challenges than others. Sara reported that students throughout the school are experiencing challenges. Personnel committee will be discussing adding another TA position at their meeting tomorrow.

## **Board Committee Reports**

### *Finance Committee*

Treasurer's Report attached. Korinne reported that cash position is improved due to cycle of billing. We still have not received payments from Cortland Enlarged School District. Leaf has been in contact and the issue is being explained as "new employee challenges." Korinne reported that a new policy has been suggested authorizing a permanent cash advance for Ashley Riehlman for \$300 to supplement groceries as needed for the nutrition program. Ashley would turn in her expense reports with grocery receipts and a check would be issued to replenish the \$300. If Ashley and the school should separate, Ashley would be required to refund the \$300 to the school.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Beth Klein to approve cash advance policy for our current School Chef, Ashley Riehlman. Discussion, Tom Brown asked for clarification on separation clause. Motion amended to included that should Ashley and the school separate, the \$300 would be due back within 1 week of termination, or would be held from Ashley's final paycheck(s). All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### *Finance Committee Report -*

No report submitted. No meeting was held as they are working towards reconciliation from the audit.

### *Personnel Committee*

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 7pm.

### *Facilities Committee*

No Report submitted. Tom reported that we are still waiting on the barn drawings from the vendor. We should have in approximately 3 weeks. The delay was due to wiring questions. The next step is completing NYSED paperwork. Fire inspection will have to be separate. Sara has tried sharing pavilion use videos with SUNY. The size of the videos has proven to be challenging, but she will work it out.

### *Curriculum Committee*

No Report submitted.

### *Marketing Committee*

Report submitted. Patty reported that the committee is finalizing signs to be placed at Lab and Song Mountain.

## **Special Committee Reports**

### *Nutrition Committee*

Report submitted.

Motion by Beth Klein, seconded by Dave Amberg to procure the cold serving line and salad dryer as recommended by the committee, including any cost over the awarded grant money, not to exceed \$500.00. None opposed, motion carried.

Sara reported that the reimbursement through SSO looks to be promising. The reimbursement for September was approximately \$3,000. She will discuss future budget and expenses with Taylor and Ashley to provide more accurate projections.

*Professional Advisory Committee*

No report submitted.

*Transportation Committee*

Report submitted.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Beth Klein, to approve Thomas Henry as a volunteer bus driver for Truxton Academy Charter School, pending proper endorsements from the NYS DMV. Having no discussion and none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Dave Amberg, to approve new insurance premium through Progressive to get the bus on the road (see attached). Having no discussion and none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger to contract with Scott Record as a paid bus driver, on an as needed basis. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

*Fundraising Committee*

No Report submitted. Dave reported grant was submitted to American Heart Association for \$2500 for fencing around the garden.

*Personnel Committee*

No report submitted.

*Agriculture Committee*

No report submitted.

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

**Old Business**

Leadership Council met. Sara reported that items were discussed during the school report. Leadership Council meeting minutes will be shared with the board and added to the school report going forward.

**New Business**

Leaf inquired about new COVID vaccine eligibility for children age 5-11, and the need to track vaccination status. Sara replied that, pending Health Department or NYSED guidance, if parents offer vaccination status, it would be documented only for our student health records, and would not to be shared for any other reason.

**School Events**

NOV 11	No School Veteran's Day
NOV 12	No School Parent/Teacher Conferences
NOV 15	6:30pm Educational Excellence Committee Meeting
NOV 17	7pm Marketing Committee Meeting
NOV 23-25	No School Thanksgiving Recess

**Adjournment**

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Dave Amberg, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. None opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary