

# Truxton Academy Charter School

## Regular Board Meeting

January 9, 2023

Notice was provided on our website, [www.truxtonacademy.org](http://www.truxtonacademy.org) on Monday, January 2, 2023.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Stuart Young at 7:03pm.

**Quorum as 8 trustees out of 9 total number of trustees was present as follows:**

**Members Present:** Stuart Young, Tom Brown, Cindy Denkenberger, Korinne L'Hommedieu, Dave Amberg, Sarah Stevens and Matt McIntyre. Krysta Austen arrived at 7:12pm.

**Members Absent:** Beth Klein

**Others present:** Patty Dawson (remote), Kerryanne Schenck, Leaf Carmer, Kay Reakes, Levi Sutton.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting December 14, 2023 were presented and corrections given by Stuart Young. Hearing no objections, minutes were accepted as presented.

### School Report

Original Climate Survey was sent in November with 16 responses. It was resent with 9 responses, this time including comments. See attached. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of MAP testing is about to begin. Things have generally been going well. There have been no discipline issues since the last Board meeting. Jenny Hull is still out for another week on medical leave.

### Board Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report attached. Cash position remains consistent. Cash flow is positive and there are not many variances in spending.

#### *Finance Committee*

Report attached. Tom also reported that the committee reviewed 3 bids for Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funding and recommends UC Solutions Group. A range of \$80k-150k can be anticipated. Cost would be 10% of \$ received. If NYSED retorts saying we are funded by tuition, they will provide their fee back. Committee suggests we still set funds aside in case of this happening. This includes the period from March 2020-July 2021 and the deadline to file would be in March 2023.

Tom Brown moved, Matt McIntyre seconded, to approve the committee recommendation to pursue ERC funding with UC Solutions Group. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### *Personnel Committee*

No report submitted. Krysta reported that there was no meeting this month. The committee is working out a new meeting schedule as it is often difficult to meet during the day. Meetings will be schedule via Google Meets for easier participation.

#### *Facilities Committee*

No report submitted. Levi Sutton reported that barn drawings are almost complete. He is just missing a few approvals and sections on submission forms. He will have completed and ready for signatures next Monday.

This includes the trenching as well. Tom asked about heating oil. Levi reported that we are doing well, but will likely have to order in March.

*Curriculum Committee*

No report submitted.

*Marketing Committee*

No report submitted.

**Special Committee Reports**

*Nutrition Committee*

No report submitted.

*Professional Advisory Committee*

No report submitted.

*Transportation Committee*

No report submitted.

*Educational Excellence Committee (Fundraising Committee)*

No report submitted. Dave reported that they are working with a group at ESF on a 2 fold strategy – target grant for heating, use as match for NYSERTA grant on building upgrades, windows, insulation, solar, etc. Due date for first piece is Jan 26. He has reached out for assistance and will be working on the writing. Tom suggested asking for Victor Siegle’s assistance as well. Dave said he will circulate the form. Tom reminded that similar ideas were discussed by Homer CSD prior to closing. He will look for any info to share – specifically looking at carbon neutral.

*Rural Life Lab Committee (formerly Agriculture Committee)*

No report submitted.

Stuart moved to approve reports as given. With no objections, reports are approved.

**Old Business**

Collaborative discussion with Administration, Board of Trustees, Committee Chairs, PTO President and Volunteer Coordinator to discuss mission, existing structure and resources related to the school’s governance and volunteer network. Working with select group, Patty Dawson, Jamie Smart, Erin Kelly and will report after group meets.

Truxton Academy Team relations – executive committee met to discuss issues raised at last board meeting.

Recommendations:

- Set meeting date for Executive Committee members and staff – next staff meeting 1/17 @ 3:45pm. Stuart commented that composed letter will be shared at this meeting. Kerryanne said we are welcome to use the whole meeting time if needed. Whole staff will be in attendance.
- Reinstate Leadership Counsel to include 2 members of Admin Team, 2 Board members/Founding Team members and 2-4 Teachers/Staff to meet once a month to discuss all school issues. Stuart commented that he and Kerryanne spoke –0 want to bring back all topics not just teaching, rigor in classroom.
- Schedule Team Building Sessions – review options from Peaceful Schools & Empire Charter Consultants. Stuart commented on received quotes – comments on which would be better. Tom commented we may want to save empire charter resources for renewal. Krysta suggested we see

what comes of staff meeting before paying. Kerryanne mentioned that jill offered similar help before this all came up knowing we should be on same page prior to renewal interview. She was planning on a virtual meeting with staff. Perhaps we try this first.

Motion by Tom Brown to contract with Empire Charter Consultants Jill for a mediation session. Discussion indicated that further research on options be explored, first. Motion withdrawn.

### **New Business**

Kerryanne reported that we were informed that we are not currently charging enough for adult lunches and should be charging \$4.90 plus tax, \$5.29 total. We need to work out how taxes are collected. Serving 4-8 per day. Nutrition committee is tasked to work this out. Supply Chain Assistance funding 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> allocations have been received. Kerryanne is looking into how and by when we have to use it. Ashley is asking if we can use towards kitchen equipment. We need to give accounting because of review we are going through – interview is in March.

Kerryanne asked if the Board would like to consider re-contracting with Sara for assistance on renewal writing. Tom asked to discuss further. Kerryanne reminded that the narrative is due Aug 16, visit in Dec, and approval in April.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Dave Amberg to offer Sara Petit-McClure per diem, at will employment, at the same rate as previously approved. This offer would be effective immediately for up to 40 hours per day through May 31, 2023. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Krysta Austa, seconded by Tom Brown to enter executive session at 8:11 pm including Kay Reakes, to discuss personnel issues pertaining to a specific employee. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Amberg, seconded by Matt McIntyre, to exit executive session at 8:46 pm. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

### **School/Community Items**

Jan 16 – No School Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### **Adjournment**

President Stuart Young adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary