

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

November 18, 2019

Narrative Mission Statement:

What is the purpose of the school?

“...The Rising Tide Charter School provides students with community-based education each day, using the Town of Plymouth as a local yet dynamic textbook which will provide fertile ground for the development of higher-order thinking skills.”

Leadership and Governance:

“In accordance with MA Charter School Law, the Board of Trustees is ultimately accountable for the school’s educational mission, performance and adherence to its Charter.”

Call to Order

Chairman, Chris Schelleng, called the meeting to order at 7 PM. In attendance were Chris Schelleng, Norm DeCoste, Amy Norris, Sean Kelly, Sandy Kozlowsky, and Kevin Hennessey. Also in attendance were Michael O’Keefe, Head of School, and Eric Mello, Business Manager.

Guests

None

New Business

Michael presented the 2019 DESE Accountability & Spring 2019 MCAS Results. Rising Tide is in its 5th charter cycle. There will be a site visit in May.

Michael went through MCAS results in detail by grade level and subject, comparing Rising Tide with state averages.

In DESE’s 2019 Accountability Report, Rising Tide falls in the “Substantial Progress Towards Targets” category and does not require assistance or intervention. Rising Tide’s accountability percentile is 83 compared against other schools in MA serving High School and at least one other lower grade.

Old Business

None

Minutes

Under School Report of the October Meeting Minutes, the sentence needs to be changed to say that based on new MIAA rules, any school in the league that is at 500 or better will be included in tournament play starting in about a year.

Sean made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes with the change. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the October meeting minutes with the change.

Financials

The Finance and Audit Subcommittee met with Chris prior to the Board Meeting.

Eric updated the Board on the October financials. State tuition was budgeted on 660 students at \$14,850/student. Actual enrollment will probably be 655 students.

Expenses are lower than budget by \$35,921 due to delayed hiring of administrative positions. Water/sewer costs were more than budgeted.

Cash balances remain strong.

The boilers are getting older, so Eric is looking to see if there are Mass Save or other incentives for energy efficient systems.

Shades will be replaced over December break.

Eric is working on End of Year Report that is due December 2.

Amy made a motion to approve the October Financials. Norm seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the October Financials.

Board Subcommittees

Nominating and Governance – Did not meet

Finance and Audit – Met with Chris prior to the Board Meeting. Nothing additional to report.

Communications and Advocacy – Chris made a motion to approve the Subcommittee Charter presented at the last Board Meeting. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the Subcommittee Charter.

Martha is working with Tim Walker on a new website and hopes to have it up soon. Michael presented an Advocacy slideshow from MA Charter School Association. He will be getting more information on how the Board can work with legislators. Also, looking to spend more time with local organizations to network. Martha and Michael are working on a handout for families

attending the Open House on Wednesday. Martha is also working on interviewing an alumni and current senior for a Blog section on new website.

Next Subcommittee meeting scheduled for January 23rd at 5:15 PM at Rising Tide.

School Report

Currently enrollment is at 656 students. New enrollment for next school year began November 1st and runs through early February. Great beginning with 135 applicants so far, which is more compared to same timeframe as last year. We have 65 applicants for 5th grade, which is the main entry point, as well as 22 for 9th grade – both good starts. There are 4 Open Houses scheduled during the enrollment period. Martha's efforts at getting news out about Rising Tide has helped – lots of applications came in even before the postcard mailing went out.

Eric is looking at regional transportation and has spoken to other schools to get options/financial impacts. He should have information to share at December Board meeting.

Should hopefully have a site study to share at December Board meeting from David LaPointe, Beals & Thomas Engineering. Looking at possibilities of what we can do with our property as well as ballpark figures for potential projects.

Michael's goal is to have a boys and girls lacrosse team for Spring 2021. There will be another meeting for families next Monday with Michael, Kelsey Kincade, and Sean.

Adjourn

Sean made a motion to Adjourn. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to Adjourn.