

# **RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

**January 27, 2020**

#### **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 a Draft of the Enrollment Policy that included regional transportation updates in accordance with the Charter School Technical Advisory 16-1: Transportation. Verbiage was also updated to name Districts instead of towns included in Rising Tide’s region. Sean made a motion to accept the revised Enrollment Policy, with an additional change of “town” to “District” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, after list of Districts. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Michael shared information regarding MA Charter Public School Association’s (MCPSA’s) Advocacy Day scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to make connections with local legislators and educate them about the importance of Charter Schools. Several Board members will attend with Michael.

## **Old Business**

Eric moved ahead to solicit bids for regional transportation for students residing in Rising Tide region, but not in Plymouth. He hopes to have a contract by next Board meeting. Based on enrollment data, he will map out best bus routes and stops. Letters will then be sent to students.

## **Minutes**

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

## **Financials**

Eric updated the Board on the December financials. The Finance and Audit Subcommittee met prior to the Board Meeting.

New state tuition projections came out from DESE and our per pupil rate went up from our budgeted amount of \$14,850/student to \$15,339/student. The increase was due in large part because Plymouth has biggest per pupil spending rate, and the town of Plymouth's decision to spend above the foundation rate. Tuition may change once all towns finish reporting to DESE.

Heading toward solid fiscal year. Expenses are in line with last month. Net income is +165,812. Cash surplus continues to grow, and we continue to pay down loans.

Work was done on shades over Christmas break. Two shades are still not working, so we continue to withhold payment of funds to the contractor in the amount of \$45,000.

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

## **Board Subcommittees**

Nominating and Governance – Will discuss in Executive Session.

Finance and Audit – Met prior to the Board Meeting. Nothing to add.

Communications and Advocacy – Met last Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. New Rising Tide website is up. Discussed upcoming MCPSA Advocacy Day. MCPSA hosts phone call-ins approximately every two weeks. Martha participates in them. They are used to gather and share information with other charter schools.

Thesesa Szczepanski, Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator, had a Computer Science elective for the Congressional App Challenge. Upper School students won with their Plymouth 400 app and were invited to Washington, DC. Congressman Keating will present the award to students at a place and date TBD.

## **School Report**

Michael updated the Board on the school community regarding the 2 students involved in a car accident over Christmas break. Wellness team continues to be available to support students as they continue to recover emotionally. Eric commended Michael for his leadership during this time.

Chris Dematos, IT Director, is working on a low-cost solution for a direct connection of our security camera system with the Plymouth police department.

Deadline for enrollment applications for next school year is February 6<sup>th</sup>. We have a current total of 388 applications. This Saturday is the last Open House before the lottery.

## **Executive Session**

Kevin made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the complaint of staff member. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor to go into Executive Session.

## **Other Business**

After returning from Executive Session, Kevin presented information on private insurance for MA Paid Family Medical Leave, where we can seek exemption from state and not pay premiums until January 2021. Eric will research.

## **Adjourn**

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