

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

June 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting due to Governor Baker's stay at home advisory.

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 reviewed the proposed Board of Trustees meeting dates for FY21.

Amy made a motion to accept the meeting dates as presented. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Old Business

Michael has not heard back from DESE on the by-law changes we submitted. Hopefully by the next Board meeting.

Minutes

Sandy made a motion to approve the May 2020 meeting minutes. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve May 2020 meeting minutes.

Financials

Eric updated the Board on the May financials. The school has realized cost savings on traffic guards, transportation and cleaning due to the school closure. Still budgeting 660 students with tuition of \$14,850/student, however, final numbers may go down.

Contracts for next year have been issued with no salary increases.

Total revenue is under budget by (\$181,176), primarily due to lower enrollment from original budget.

Expense savings keep accumulating over time. Total expenses to date are lower than budget in the amount of \$410,278. Net income compared against budget is +229,102. Cash flow continues to stay strong.

Shades are scheduled to be fixed over the next 3 days.

When meeting with the Finance Committee prior to the Board meeting, they discussed whether to restrict any surpluses for the year. There is no need to restrict since we are no where near the allowable cap.

School is putting application in for \$20,000 grant for PPE and online learning expenses.

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

Board Subcommittees

Nominating and Governance – Met last Friday. Reviewed goals for the committee. Decided to put tracking in place as to when things have been done (e.g., updated bylaws done May 2020). Looking for new Board members. Have a couple of possible people.

Finance and Audit – Already covered. Audit will be done in July and August.

Communications and Advocacy – Did not meet.

School Report

Finding ways to keep staff and students/families connected as we close out the year. Looking forward to a real graduation August 8th. Next week students will return and retrieve materials at school. There is an 8th grade car parade next Wednesday. Teachers are wrapping up report cards with new grading scale for remote learning. Hope to have a decision made this week on the summer programs and what they will be.

Still many unknowns about reopening in the Fall. Expecting draft guidelines this week from Commissioner Riley, but they will likely be adjusted before school starts depending on what happens with the virus. Michael described the three primary collaborative groups at school

that have been meeting to work on potential solutions to different scenarios for reopening. They include a Program Leader group that is working on ways to improve distance learning and improved support for students and families. Another is the Crisis Response Team, which is reviewing facility and safety protocols. They have placed an order of masks, gloves, and sanitizer based on guidance already received. Lastly, the newly formed Re-Entry Group has been meeting bi-weekly to review all guidance received by Commissioner Riley to plan for a variety of reopening scenarios. In addition, the school purchased a hydrostatic disinfecting machine that can quickly disinfect all surfaces nightly by 1 cleaning staff member. Approximately 150 new Chromebooks were purchased from this year's budget, and another 150 will be purchased with next year's budget.

About 30 people expressed interest in joining a new Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity group to work on ways to improve the sense of belonging everyone should have in our school community.

Adjourn

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