

# **RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

**August 17, 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 7:00 PM. In attendance were Chris Schelleng, Norm DeCoste, Amy Norris, and Sandy Kozlowsky. Also in attendance were Michael O'Keefe, Head of School, and Eric Mello, Business Manager. Sean Kelly and Kevin Hennessey were not present.

#### **Guests**

None

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Old Business**

**Attachments/Handouts:** News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *On the Desktop – August 11, 2020*; MA Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Michael sent a letter to the school community last Friday with information on the reopening plan and start date for school.

Air purifiers with HEPA filters as well as ionizers have been installed and are operational. School is in touch with the vendor and town regarding tents. Because they are temporary

structures, we need permits from the town. We are hopeful they will be up for the start of school and will delay Hybrid start if we need to.

Eric relayed that minor construction has begun with 8 interior classrooms that needed secondary doors for security reasons, and the addition of lights to 2 science classrooms. Work should be completed prior to school opening.

Faculty leadership (Advisory Team Leaders and Curriculum Coordinators) preparation meetings and new staff orientation will be this week.

Michael presented Commissioner Riley's August 11<sup>th</sup> letter which provided guidance for schools in their decision making for learning models throughout the school year based on health & safety metrics from the MA Department of Public Health. He then shared the Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report that the commissioner referred to. It is a color-coded (red, yellow, green, or unshaded) spreadsheet based on number of COVID cases per 100,000 residents for each town in MA. It gives us a way to monitor our local region since data differs throughout the state. If any town that we serve is approaching red (more than 8 COVID cases/100,000 residents), a Board meeting will be held to discuss any change of learning model.

School leadership should have a better feel for staffing needs this week. Because of health concerns, a couple of teachers will be fully remote and piped into classrooms. Looking at options for in-class support for those teachers (paraprofessionals, student teachers, etc.).

Eric is exploring with our attorney and insurance company about using space in the school for teachers' children. If we cannot do that, we will look at other options to help teachers.

## **Minutes**

**Attachments/Handouts:** July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes; July 23, 2020 Special Emergency Meeting Minutes; August 5, 2020 Special Reopening Plans Meeting Minutes.

Norm made a motion to approve the July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the July 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Sandy made a motion to approve the July 23, 2020 Special Emergency Meeting Minutes. Amy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the July 23, 2020 Special Emergency Meeting Minutes.

Amy made a motion to approve the August 5, 2020 Special Reopening Plans Meeting Minutes. Norm seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the August 5, 2020 Special Reopening Plans.

## **Financials**

**Attachments/Handouts:** Memo from Eric Mello regarding July 2020 Financial Statements; preliminary financial statements for the month of July 31, 2020

Eric reported this is the first month of operation for the school year and is based on the budget approved by the board pre-COVID. He will be adjusting enrollment and adding grant information to the budget to present to the Board next month.

Projected income is \$14,811/student at 660 students. Total revenue is over budget by \$3,317, mostly because of first grant deposit of \$2,000 for Chromebooks.

Expense savings due to lower recruitment costs and delayed facilities spending.

Net income compared against budget is +69,738.

### Grants update:

Received \$20,000 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grant. We applied for approximately \$78,000 and received \$27,773 from the Remote Learning Technology grant which will help pay for Chromebooks. Have also received confirmation of DESE funds of \$225/pupil (\$147,825 total). Eric sent in request today to the Plymouth County Cares fund for \$156,627, which include expenses to date for the ionizers, HEPA filters, PPE and supplies.

Tent expense could be around \$100,000 depending on final number from vendor and permitting costs. Still gathering data on families who will remain remote (~9-10% currently). Will be able to figure out staffing needs once that data is collected. Michael feels we can stay within the dollar amount the Board has already approved for COVID-related expenses.

Amy made a motion to accept the July financials. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

## **Board Subcommittees**

Nominating and Governance – Meeting Wednesday.

Finance and Audit – Audit went well and should be ready to be presented at October Board meeting.

Communications and Advocacy – Did not meet.

**School Report**

Summer enrollment period ended last week and all applicants were admitted. Looking to see what other support can be provided to families who will be remote so they stay connected with the school. Still do not have word on Fall athletics from the State.

**Adjourn**

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