

**RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Minutes**  
**Special Emergency Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**July 23, 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**

Maureen Chapman, Rising Tide Academic Director; James Simons, Rising Tide Upper School Principal; Tyler Post, Rising Tide Middle School Principal

**Public Comment**

None

**New Business**

Michael shared a presentation on Physical Space and Safety Guidelines for school this Fall. The school's goals for preparation and planning are to prioritize safety while implementing Rising Tide's key design elements. The school is preparing plans for 3 models of possible Fall learning (in-person, remote, and hybrid) based on guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Michael displayed a site map of the school and described what would be involved to utilize the classrooms and other space inside and outside the building based on safety and physical spacing recommendations by DESE and the World Health Organization (WHO). With 3' spacing guidelines, Rising Tide should have enough usable spaces to meet requirements for in-person or hybrid learning.

Maureen Chapman reviewed plans for each cohort. For 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts, students would stay in classrooms and teachers would come to them. For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts, she has come up with 8 groups based on math pathways, where groups 1-4 would not mix with groups 5-8. Upper School is more complex since many teachers span multiple grade levels. So as not to sacrifice choices on classes, she is trying to cluster students with similar schedules together to the best of her ability.

Michael is considering tents for outside space that could be used for mask breaks as well as for lunch.

In summary, if kids can get to the building, we can make it work while keeping to the 3' spacing guidance. The school would need to purchase some smaller furniture, storage units to hold larger furniture, and tents. Our current air system does not bring in 100% fresh air, and windows do not open. Adding air scrubbing capabilities would help mitigate risks.

Maureen added that some instruction time will be lost due to adjusting schedule to safely accommodate students with additional lunch seatings and mask breaks. Tyler commented that mask breaks are important for the younger kids who need movement, especially since they will be staying in the same room most of the day.

Preliminary plans are due to the State by July 31 with final plans due by August 10.

If Plymouth Public Schools opt for remote learning, bus transportation for Plymouth students could be an issue. Plymouth Public School Committee is scheduled to meet August 3 to vote on their plan. We will meet August 5 to finalize our plans.

### **Old Business**

Eric and Michael provided a presentation on COVID-19 Related Costs and Funding Relief Sources. Eric went over planned FY21 spending and cash reserves. The school is looking to use future capital expense money to meet the gap between grant money and what they need for this crisis.

Additional purchases needed include cleaning equipment & services; facilities expenses such as HVAC, plumbing, IWave ionizer installation, HEPA filters, and additional sinks; furniture needs such as desks, tents, and signage; as well as staffing contingencies.

We received \$20,000 in grant money from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) for the purchase of additional Chromebooks, and \$147,825 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CvRF) School Reopening Grant. We have applied for and are waiting to hear about an additional \$78,580 from the Remote Learning Technology Grant. Eric is hopeful for another \$100,000 from the Plymouth County Cares fund.

Kevin made a motion to approve \$250,000 from Cash Reserves to be made available at the discretion of Michael and Eric for COVID-related expenses including cleaning equipment and services, facilities clean air equipment and supplies, and furniture. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next special Board meeting will be August 5 at 7 PM.

**Adjourn**

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