

# **RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

**July 20, 2020**

*Virtual Meeting due to 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 7:10 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 changes to the Rising Tide Academic Calendar to coincide with Plymouth Public School's revised calendar.

Sean made a motion to accept the calendar changes as shown. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **Minutes**

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

## **Financials**

Eric reviewed the June 30 report with Sean and Norm in the Finance Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting. DESE gave the final June payment. It was based on student enrollment of 647.3 (fte), which was close to what we thought it would be. Total revenue is under budget by (\$267,267).

Expense savings continue to accumulate. Total expenses to date are lower than budget in the amount of \$445,832. Net income compared against budget is +178,565. Strong cash surplus balance.

The audit will start up this week. Auditors will come to the October Board meeting prior to filing the report with the State.

We are holding funds back from our contractor while we continue to test that the shades are working properly.

Eric negotiated with our banks to eliminate monthly fees and get a little more interest.

Eric presented an amendment to Rising Tide's 403(B) Retirement Plan so that employees need to work a minimum of 20 hours/week to be eligible to participate. Kevin read the Formal Record of Action to the Board. Kevin made a motion to amend Rising Tide Charter School's 403(B) Retirement Plan to include the change of a minimum of 20 hours/week for employees to be eligible. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Kevin made a motion to approve the June Financials. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the June Financials.

The school has received \$165,000 in COVID relief grants. Michael reviewed the areas where we need to make purchases including technology purchases, safety supplies, air quality, furniture, and staff in preparation for in-person reopening of school in the Fall. He and Eric will put together a more detailed budgetary plan to present to the Board later this week.

## **Board Subcommittees**

Nominating and Governance – Have a couple of retired teachers that Michael is going to reach out to as possible Board members.

Finance and Audit – Already covered under Financials.

Communications and Advocacy – Did not meet. Will try to meet in the next couple of weeks.

## **School Report**

Enrollment update – just over 700 registered for Fall. There is an enrollment period currently open for the Upper School with 6-7 applications to date. The drawing will be mid-August.

There will be another enrollment period at the start of school.

Reopening plans/progress – Michael is participating in regular calls with Commissioner Riley and Charter School leaders, as well as Plymouth Public School leaders, to keep connected as we plan for the challenges of reopening. Re-entry group continues to meet weekly.

The school has been asked to come up with 3 models for different contingencies for fall reopening: 1) in-person; 2) hybrid; and 3) fully remote. Really trying to get to in-person but we need to be prepared for remote learning for students who are unable or aren't comfortable with coming back to school. Family survey being sent out tomorrow to get feedback. Michael reviewed possible hybrid models. If fully remote, we will build on what we did this year, with an increase in class time and higher expectations to better match Rising Tide's strong academic program. Preliminary plans need to be submitted to the State by July 31. More comprehensive plans are due August 10, at which time they can be made available to the public.

Graduation for Class of 2020 will be August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM on the school lawn. There will be a small stage for the podium. Everyone will be required to wear masks. Seniors will be seated 6' apart, and families can be seated together but spread out from other families.

Board to have an Emergency meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM to discuss COVID related purchases.

## **Adjourn**

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