

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 21, 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, Sean Kelly, Sandy Kozlowsky, and Amy Norris. Also in attendance were Michael O'Keefe, Head of School, and Eric Mello, Business Manager.

Guests

None

New Business

None

Old Business

Michael co-designed a staff survey with Chris Schelleng, Sandy Kozlowsky and Kevin Hennessey that was shared with staff in June. There was more participation this year than last, with constructive feedback from staff. Chris will share comments with Board at future meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Attachments/Handouts: August 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes; September 3, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.

Sandy made a motion to approve the August 2020 Meeting Minutes. Amy seconded the motion. Motion passed with Sean abstaining.

Sandy made a motion to approve the September 3, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. Amy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the September 3, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.

Financials

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

Eric reported the auditing process is finished and there were no surprises. The auditors are putting the final report together to present at the October Board meeting.

Recently received updated tuition projections from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). They are predicting a higher tuition number than budgeted, so we are on track with our FY21 budget. DESE will provide another update in December.

Year-to-date for Income, we are under budget by (\$5,937).

Expenses year-to-date are over budget by \$84,215, which are all COVID related expenses that will eventually be covered by grants.

Net income compared against budget is (\$90,152).

Our balance sheet is strong and cash balance is stable.

We have received confirmation of \$195,598 in COVID-related grant funds. We are waiting to hear on our request for \$157,500 from the Plymouth County Cares grant but are hopeful we will get that money.

Contractor will probably need to return to work on shades. We are holding \$45,000 back until they are working properly.

Eric reviewed in detail a couple line items on the Income Statement. Some of the money budgeted under Other Revenue will probably not come in. Most of the deficit for the year is from unbudgeted expenses for PPE supplies and extra cleaning services.

Norm made a motion to accept the August financials. Amy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Board Subcommittees

Nominating and Governance – Did not meet.

Finance and Audit – Did not meet.

Communications and Advocacy – Did not meet.

School Report

As of today, we have 675 students enrolled, which is the strongest starting enrollment we have had at Rising Tide.

New regional bus transportation is off to great start. Two buses are full, and two others are close to capacity (based on COVID guidelines).

Just closed late summer enrollment and will be adding 6-7 additional students.

Today was first day of sports, with about 75 athletes participating in practice for soccer and cross country. There was plenty of room on the athletic field based on social distancing guidelines.

Prior to the start of the school year, there were three 4-day weeks with teachers, with first 2 fully remote, phased to in person for 3rd week, to allow staff to get comfortable coming back to the school building. There were walk throughs of mock schedules, time to practice in classrooms, and training on new remote learning tools available. About \$15-20,000 were spent on additional tools to assist teachers with remote learning.

Tents came in on time and are being rented through Thanksgiving. Will discuss at the October Board meeting how we will handle mask breaks and lunch after that.

Adjourn

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