

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 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

Lisa Hughes, Rising Tide Lead Nurse and COVID Response Leader

New Business

None

Old Business

Attachments/Handouts: Weekly COVID-19 Report with Rising Tide Towns/Cities

Lisa reviewed last week's data from the State that she updated on her internal report. A lot of towns in our school have gone up. Barnstable went down a little. We have a staff member who tested positive this weekend, however, internally our numbers are quite low. We discussed reducing risk for COVID coming into the building by extending Remote learning after holiday break. Michael is waiting for analysis of air quality numbers, but they seem to match what we anticipated. Lisa went over updated CDC guidelines for shorter quarantine times. We will meet December 29 at 6:30 to review this week's data before deciding on when to return to Hybrid learning model after break.

Lisa left the meeting at 7:42.

Meeting Minutes

Attachments/Handouts: Special Meeting Minutes for October 22 and 29, November 5 and 19, and December 3, 8, and 10; November 2020 Meeting Minutes

Sandy made a motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes for October 22 and 29, November 5 and 19, and December 3, 8, and 10. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

Amy made a motion to approve the November 2020 Meeting Minutes. Norm seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

Financials

Attachments/Handouts: RTCPS Financial Reports for the period ending November 30, 2020; Financial Projection Report

Eric continues to budget 660 students and tuition at \$14,811/student, but we are doing better than that. We are over budget on expenses, which are COVID-related. Year-to-date our net income compared against budget is (\$187,185). Cash balance remains very strong for the year. There have been no real unexpected capital costs.

Plymouth County Cares Grant has been processed and a check for \$157,500 is on the way; we are eligible for an additional grant of \$157,500. An additional \$62,000 is coming to the school from DESE grant.

Amy made a motion to accept the November financials. Sean seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Eric reviewed the Projected Actual FY21 Financial Report he put together with a Best Case, Worse Case, and Middle of the Road scenario. This was reviewed in detail in the Finance and Audit Subcommittee meeting and they are recommending a 3% Cost of Living raise for staff, retroactive to the beginning of the year. DESE's updated tuition projection received earlier today is a 3.78% increase in revenue, which may result in a better than Best Case outcome.

Amy made a motion to provide a 3% Cost of Living raise for staff, retroactive to the beginning of the year. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Board Subcommittees

Nominating and Governance - Did not meet.

Finance and Audit – Nothing to add.

Communications and Advocacy – Did not meet.

School Report

Current enrollment as of today is 674. We are slightly behind last year with applications for the next school year. There were a couple of virtual Open Houses and we're working on getting condensed videos of them on the website before break.

Michael reviewed current status of MCAS testing. Currently, any senior who hasn't passed will be allowed to take it in January. Betsy DeVos has said there will be no waivers for standardized testing this year. Adjustments to Spring MCAS schedule may be forthcoming with change to new administration.

There is a State law on Structured Learning Time that requires a certain number of hours of actual programming/learning time for students. In November, DESE surveyed school districts on their actual Structured Learning Time. Review of the results showed only about 1/3 of districts were meeting the requirements. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education amended the baseline regulations, which now include a live check-in each day and 35 hours of live teaching time every 2 weeks. Rising Tide is well over these baseline requirements, and has been since the start of the school year.

We are halfway through the 2nd Quarter and looked at internal information on how kids are doing with Hybrid Model. Some students are not doing well. We've added more students into building for 4 days/week of in-person learning. We need to do more to engage kids by working with families, students, and staff to build upon what is currently working well. We will host a Family Engagement night after break. We will provide extra support for students on Wednesdays as well as more check-ins from the Wellness Team. We will also help teachers to reframe language as well as come up with various avenues for students to show success.

Adjourn

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