

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 22, 2021

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

Attachments/Handouts: Mary Scheiss Profile

The Board reviewed Mary Scheiss' profile and discussed how her background and experience would broaden the Board composition. The Nominating and Governance Subcommittee interviewed Mary about 2 weeks ago and recommended the Board vote to add her as a member.

Sean made a motion to add Mary to the Board. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Old Business

Michael reviewed the latest COVID numbers of the towns in the school's region and they have ticked up slightly over the last 2 weeks. There have been 2 new student cases this weekend due to exposure outside of school. Cases in the Town of Plymouth have also risen slightly on several days over the past 2 weeks.

A confidential staff survey indicates that any staff member who wants a vaccine has either gotten theirs or has an upcoming appointment.

In-person learning preparations are coming along. Furniture and jersey barriers should arrive soon. Internal spaces are getting organized. Teachers are resetting seating charts and leadership is finalizing which classrooms will work best during certain periods. The final stages of mask and snack breaks are being worked out as well.

Many families have completed the form on whether or not their child(ren) will be participating in the Full In-Person Learning Model for the final two months of the school year. More targeted follow-up with families will happen this week to finalize numbers for planning purposes.

Meeting Minutes

Attachments/Handouts: February 2021 Board Meeting Minutes; Special Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2021

Sean made a motion to approve the February 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Amy seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

Sean made a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. Norm seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

Financials

Attachments/Handouts: RTCPS Financial Reports for the period ending February 28, 2021

Eric provided year end projections based on 666 seats filled as of February 15th and per pupil tuition of \$15,352 based on Q2 number from DESE, which totals almost \$450,000 more than budgeted. To date, we have received over \$597,000 in COVID-19 related grants. Expenses are higher due to PPP costs and the December salary increase. Net income is projected to be a surplus of over \$502,000 for the year. Not included are 2 additional COVID grants totaling \$330,000, which will be spread out over the next 2 years.

At the Finance Subcommittee meeting, they discussed a one-time incentive bonus of \$1,500/staff member, which would still allow a carry-over of about \$350,000 for next year.

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

Amy made a motion to provide a one-time \$1,500 pro-rated bonus for all staff members. Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Board Subcommittees

Nominating and Governance – They interviewed Mary Scheiss for a position on the Board.

Finance and Audit – Working on FY22 budget.

Communications and Advocacy – Michael gave an overview of Accepted Students Day, which was a big success. The MCPSA hosted an Advocacy Week last week which Sandy and Sean attended. The Subcommittee discussed the new alumni tutoring program, as well as future fundraising plans which included a community garden to start. They also reviewed the subcommittee charter/goals.

School Report

Closing out the term this week and reviewing how students are doing academically. Attendance has been lower than normal, but better than other schools. The Leadership Team is working on plans for student growth over the next 2-5 years. Working on end of the year events including graduation on Saturday, June 5, at 10 AM; a fancy formal dinner (prom) at Plimoth Patuxet; and a virtual civics night.

MCAS testing continues to be a moving target. Seniors are no longer required to take. Juniors will be taking in May, along with 5th grade testing some time in May/June. As of now, no scheduling has been provided for 6-8th grades.

DESE performed their site visit last week. They met with several focus groups composed of students, teachers, parents, staff and Board members. On the whole, the exit meeting was very positive. A written report will be provided in the next month or so.

Adjourn

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