

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 17, 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, Amy Norris, and Mary Schiess. Also in attendance were Michael O'Keefe, Head of School, and Eric Mello, Business Manager.

Guests

None

Meeting Minutes

Attachments/Handouts: April 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Sandy made a motion to approve the April 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. Sean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mary abstaining.

Financials

Attachments/Handouts: RTCPS Financial Reports for the period ending April 30, 2021

Eric reviewed the April financials. We have 2 months left in the year. On the Income side, we're planning on a total enrollment of 666 students and \$15,352/pupil in tuition, which resulted in a significant increase of state tuition from what we budgeted at the beginning of the year. Year-to-date our total revenue is \$725,872 over budget.

Expenses are over budget by \$342,084, mostly due to COVID-related expenses. COVID grants have covered these expenses.

Net Income compared against budget is \$383,788 and our Balance Sheet remains strong with a cash balance of \$2,500,819.

Eric doesn't expect any big changes for the remainder of the year; Net Income may go up.

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

New Business

Attachments/Handouts: Proposed Board Meeting Dates FY22; Staff Survey Questions; End-of-Year Staff Survey Results June 2020

Michael reviewed the Proposed Board Meeting Dates for next year, which have traditionally been held the 3rd Monday of the month. Alternate days were suggested around the Martin Luther King holiday and February/April vacations.

Sean made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for FY22 with Monday dates presented. Amy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Nominating and Governance Subcommittee reviewed the June 2020 Staff Survey questions and comments at their last meeting. The Board discussed suggestions/changes for this year's survey.

Old Business

None

Board Subcommittees

Nominating and Governance – Discussed new contract for Michael. Sandy is working with Subcommittee on draft of contract for next Board meeting. They also reviewed goals for the Board for the upcoming year. Also working on a calendar with tasks that happen annually. They started to discuss what we want to accomplish in our next 5 Year Strategic Plan. Michael will send current 5 Year Plan to Board members.

Finance and Audit – Will discuss what to do with surplus at next meeting.

Communications and Advocacy – Did not meet.

Public Comment

None

School Report

Michael reviewed working spreadsheet for 2021-22 school enrollment. As of today, there is a projected total of 689 students starting in September. There will be another Upper School enrollment period towards the end of June or after July 4th holiday to try and fill open spots.

In today's Monday Memo, Michael shared updated guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding the use of masks. For the remainder of the year, students will no longer have to wear masks outside. They will still have to wear them inside, and adults will still be required to wear them whether outside or inside. He anticipates the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) will provide updated guidance for outdoor sports soon. Any changes will be shared with families.

Michael will be reviewing new outdoor guidance to see if guest totals for graduation can be expanded and will let families know.

The Senior Celebration Night held last Friday at Plimoth Patuxet was a huge success. The Junior Classical League (JCL) will have an outdoor Classics Night next week. Upper School Awards Night will be June 3rd, with a Senior Cookout happening beforehand. There will be a Senior Car Parade June 4th with the whole school outside to cheer them on. The Middle School had their Field Day about 1-1/2 weeks ago, which was a great team building experience. The Upper School will have their Field Day next week. Leadership is working on finalizing an 8th grade event to celebrate the culmination of Middle School.

Adjourn

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