

# **Rising Tide Charter Public School**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

**May 20, 2024**

*(In person meeting)*

“Rising Tide Charter Public 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 (This is our Annual Meeting)**

Chairperson, Chris Schelleng, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

In attendance were Chris Schelleng, Laura Stearns-Flynn, Dr. Ian Rivera and John Polvere (via Zoom). Also in attendance were Michael O’Keefe (Head of School), Eric Mello (Business Manager). Sean Kelly, Amy Norris, and Zahra Williams (Principal/Assistant Head of School) were absent. There was a quorum.

**ATTACHMENTS/HANDOUTS:** May 20, 2024 Agenda; 2024 April Board Meeting Minutes; April 2024 Financial Reports; Board of Trustees’ Goals 2023-2024 Sheet; Resume for Chris Talamo

**GUESTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

#### **MEETING MINUTES:**

Ian made a motion to approve the April Board Meeting Minutes. Laura seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

#### **SCHOOL REPORT:**

- **Graduation** will occur at Memorial Hall (for the 1st time) for our 10th graduating class on Friday, May 31st at 2:00 PM. All are welcome. The rest of the school community will have a half-day with the option of attending. This move has made both financial sense (significantly less expensive than the former tent option) and logistical sense (no weather concerns, able to utilize the infrastructure available at Memorial Hall - rooms, sound, chairs, etc.)

- **8th Grade** has their traditional class day for students at College Pond; Wanted an option to also involve families, so have added a Moving-On Ceremony to note their passage from the Middle School to the High School
- **Spring Sports** are all wrapping up with Senior Days, End-of-Season Banquets and some post-season play for the Girls Softball Team
- **Additional Enrollment** push specifically for High School grades 9-12 (this is the 3rd enrollment window) has shown a solid return. Have additional 12-15 new applications just in the last week. This will remain open until end of June.
  - May want to consider this timing again as it appears a time when families are considering school options as their school year ends
  - Waitlists at every level for Middle School
  - Discussed ways to increase interest in High School (lose some to Tech schools) can further highlight our Aviation program and the dual-enrollment with SNHU

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Board of Officers for SY25 - put to a vote  
Chris Schelleng (Chairperson), Laura Stearns-Flynn (VP) agreed to continue  
Dr. Ian Rivera agreed to step up as Clerk

Laura made a motion to approve the present slate of officers  
Ian seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

- Nomination of New Board Member, Chris Talamo (see attached resume)  
Laura made a motion to accept new member.  
Ian seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Discussion last meeting regarding goal for the Board and attached is a copy of our Board of Trustees' Goals for SY 24
- Made significant progress on these goals, specifically around adding new members to the board (3 new members added this year), reviewing/monitoring student performance using data, and creating a plan to update the succession plan for Head of School
- Would like to continue working on building a relationship with RT's Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees and to continue to explore ways to

communicate and share the school's mission and message with the community and families

- Discussed building greater connection between the Board and School personnel by adding a meeting between Board Members and Senior School Leaders in person during early August. Date and Agenda TBD

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS:** (Eric Mello)

- Presentation of the April 2024 Financial Statements (see attached for details)
- Overall, this year had been shaping up "really well" and are within our projections due to streamlining decisions made last year that have worked out well
- Had some savings due to lower snowplowing needs, lower needs for legal/recruitment, also due to some teachers out on PFML
- Budget for next year shows a potential for additional savings due to a switch in health insurance as we transition away from Cigna (for profit) in response to a drastic rate increase to Harvard Pilgrim (non-profit) who are showing a more reasonable rate. Working with a broker and we feel confident about this switch.
- Overall picture shows us stabilizing and showing solvency.

Laura motioned to accept the April 2024 financials. Ian seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

#### **BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Nominating and Governance:**  
Finished and approved the updated Head of School succession plan last month. Added a new Board Member - Laura Stearns-Flynn
- **Communication and Advocacy:**  
Been quiet, want to add some energy here. Dr. Ian Rivera has joined and is excited to help.
- **Finance and Audit:** Nothing to add.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

#### **ADJOURN**

Laura made a motion to adjourn. Ian seconded the motion. All voted in favor to adjourn.

