

RISING TIDE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

November 18, 2024

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.”

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Chris Schelleng, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance were:

Chris Schelleng, John Polvere, Ian Rivera, Chris Talamo, Laura Flynn, Sean Kelly, Amy Norris, Erin Koh. Also in attendance were Michael O’Keefe, Head of School, and Eric Mello, Business Manager, and Martha Popoloski, Communications Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS/HANDOUTS:

- **October 2024 Financial Statements**
- **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes October 21, 2024**
- **2024-2025 Enrollment and Marketing Overview**
- **Non-Discrimination and Harassment Proposed Policy Update**

2. Welcome to Guests

Chris Schelleng welcomed Erin Koh as the newest member of the board.

3. Review and Approve MEETING MINUTES – October 21, 2024

Laura Flynn made a motion to approve the October Board Meeting Minutes. Sean Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. School Report

Enrollment Update and Marketing Overview

Michael O’Keefe and Martha Popoloski went over the presentation. Martha presented the updated branding templates for the school. Michael discussed Rising Tide’s charter public school region on a map as well as the student demographics. Michael explained the Recruitment and Retention Plan that is updated each year. The school uses mailing flyers, social media, and school website press releases, Open Houses as well as advertising and newsletters.

The group engage in an open discussion about the different reasons why parents look into Rising Tide for their children’s education, and why some families don’t. One theme of the discussion was how Rising Tide prepares students well for the future.

The group agreed to brainstorm of “Elevator Points” in preparation for next meeting (5 points to briefly describe RT to another individual in a concise and direct manner in a short conversation).

1. Tuition Free school,
2. Curriculum is aligned with MA Frameworks,
3. Support for all students, including students with disabilities as well as English learners,
4. Overseen by DESE’s Accountability System,
5. Public oversight - Board of trustees hold the school accountable for; faithfulness to the charter, academic program success and organizational viability.

6. New Business

Updated Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Michael shared the proposed update to the Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy which includes some updated language suggested by the school’s attorneys.

Sean Kelly made a motion to approve the motion the updated Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy. Ian Rivera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business

None

8. Financial Matters

Review of October 2024 Financials

Eric talked about the October 2024, financials.

The updated budget was Approved on October 21, 2024.

- 618 students at \$18,784 per pupil = \$11,608,512
- The transportation reimbursement budgeted at 80% of cost.
- Total Income as of October 31, 2024 is under budget by \$262

Total expenses year to date as of October 31, 2024 are under budget by \$48,664 (lower administrative salary expenses and health insurance cost.

Net Income year to date compared to Budget is \$48,402

Total Cash balances available for operations as of October 31, 2024 is \$2,322,488

Amy Norris made a motion to accept the October financials. Chris Talamo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Board Subcommittee Reports

9.1 Nominating and Governance – No Update

9.2 Communications and Advocacy – No Update beyond the discussion earlier in the meeting

9.3 Finance and Audit - Nothing to Report

10. Other business not anticipated by the chair 24 hours in advance

Two different DESE Compliance review updates

Integrated Monitoring of Special Education and Civil Rights – January-February 2025

Core Criteria Site Visit - March 20, 2025

State Elections and MCAS Update – more guidance from DESE coming

11. Adjourn

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