

Truxton Academy Charter School

Regular Board Meeting

August 10, 2020

Notice was provided on our website, truxtonacademy.org on Monday, August 3, 2020.

Zoom Meeting info:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73703209539?pwd=WjFUUWdZb3lqTnpKUDdvUFRxUzBSZz09>

Meeting ID: 737 0320 9539 Passcode: B13uSH

A quorum of 7 trustees out of 8 total number of trustees was present as follows:

Members Present: Stuart Young, Cindy Denkenberger, Tom Brown, Krysta Austen

Members Present via Zoom Meeting: Beth Klein, Korinne L'Hommedieu, Sarah Stevens

Members Absent: John Tillotson

Others present in person or via Zoom Meeting: Sara Petit-McClure, Lydia Aris-Brown, Patty Dawson, Kay Reakes, Leaf Carmer, Ellen Egan, Levi Sutton, Jenny Hull.

President Stuart Young called the meeting to order at 7:15PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

July Meeting Minutes were not completed for approval. Will be provided for approval at next meeting.

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Treasurer's report attached. Korinne L'Hommedieu reviewed and reported on attached report. CSP Grant release is on hold due to COVID and SSF Grant funds will not be released until proof that projects are complete including any outstanding invoices paid in full. Not all district invoices have been paid. Cash is tight. To ensure payroll and necessary expenditures are met, we will pursue personal, non-secured loans of \$30,000.00 each from supporters.

Finance Committee report attached. Tom Brown also reported that the committee is finalizing adjustments to the reports for the auditors by Friday, August 14, 2020. Auditors will confirm receipt and that everything is okay.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the Finance Committee report by Tom Brown, seconded by Korinne L'Hommedieu. Having no discussion, and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Personnel Committee

Report attached. The committee is working on updated guidelines for the hiring process. Positions looking to be filled are Special Ed, 3rd Grade and Teaching Assistant. Returning teachers have been sent offer letters. A few questions and concerns were raised. Committee has drafted a response and is planning to send out this week. It was suggested that we plan for a meeting with Board members to discuss expectations and the financial situation of the school on the first day that the teachers return for professional development. We must address skepticism and improve trust. The response letter and employee handbook should be distributed as soon as possible so they can be addressed as needed at this meeting.

Motion by Korinne L’Hommedieu, seconded by Tom Brown, to have a joint meeting with available board members, returning teachers and administrative staff on August 25, 2020 at 8:30am. Having no discussion, and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Facilities Committee

Report attached. Levi Sutton reported on progress of the SSF Grant projects. The pavilion project, art room floor and security projects are all complete. Training for teachers and staff for the new security system is scheduled.

Levi also reported that the small animal barn project is delayed. NYSED required drawings are in process. The trench to supply water, electric and wi-fi will not happen until the barn project begins. The security system should have a signal booster on the outside of the building installed and we can run electricity overhead via the poles in the meantime to allow for teaching to take place in the outdoor classroom.

Motion by Cindy Denkenberger, seconded by Tom Brown, to approve the report. Having no discussion, and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Curriculum Committee

No Report submitted.

Marketing Committee

No report submitted. Patty Dawson reported that two meetings were held with Finals site and our Facebook campaign is underway. The drive-in movie fundraiser at Arlington Acres brought in \$1,501.00.

Special Committee Reports

Nutrition Committee

Report attached. Sara Petit-McClure reported that the NSLP/SFA application was submitted. Initial response was to not accept Brigitte Ulrich as our Food Service Director. Sara was appealing with NYSED stating Brigitte’s qualifications fall within the exceptions stated on the application. She is awaiting further response.

Motion by Korinne L’Hommedieu, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve the report. Having no discussion, and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Professional Advisory Committee

No report submitted.

Transportation Committee

Report attached. Tom reported that with our bus purchase, we should start looking for volunteer CDL drivers to help with initial use as we will not be budgeting for a paid driver for a while.

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu , seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve the report. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Fundraising Committee

No report submitted.

New Business

Sara Petit-McClure reported that the re-opening /leadership team sent out surveys to teachers and parents as part of their planning. The required Health and Safety Plan have been submitted. They will be able to complete the instructional plan once they receive all replies from parents on which students will attend in person vs. Home learning. They have received 24 replies so far. Replies are due this Wednesday, August 12, 2020. So far, more parents are choosing the in person learning model. The team is focusing on safety and equitable learning plans, regardless of the model, for all of our students.

Sara also reported that the first two online Parent Information Sessions went well. They had approximately 9 families attend. One more is planned for next week. Unfortunately, we lost a few students specifically in response to our proposed plan of in-school learning 4 days with a mask requirement. Sara reached out to Lisa Perfetti and the Cortland County Department of Health to be sure she understood recommended mask requirements and to make sure our plan was on par with what was expected, which they are.

Lydia Aris-Brown reported that the Nominating Committee will be meeting with prospective board member, David Amberg. His CV will be shared with all trustees for review and the committee will make its recommendation at next month's meeting.

Old Business

Approval of the 2020-2021 School calendar.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve the 2020-2021 calendar as presented. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

Adjustment of Board of Trustee meeting dates.

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to approve amending BOT meeting date as follows, October 12, 2020 to October 19, 2020. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, to retroactively approve the 2020-2021 Safety Plan. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

Upcoming Events

Sep 3 Virtual Student Orientation

Sep 8 First Day of School

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Korinne L'Hommedieu, to enter into executive session at 9:12pm to discuss personnel issues. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Brown, seconded by Korinne L'Hommedieu, to exit executive session at 9:22pm. Having no discussion and none opposed, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Korinne L'Hommedieu, seconded by Cindy Denkenberger, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:24PM. Having no discussion and none opposed, the motion is carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Dawson, Recording Secretary