

# Truxton Academy Charter School

## Regular Board Meeting July 7

Notice was provided on our website, [www.truxtonacademy.org](http://www.truxtonacademy.org) on June 30, 2025.

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order by President Stuart Young at 6:34 p.m. The pledge to the flag was led by President Young.

**Members Present:** Stuart Young, Tom Brown, Carol Woodhouse, Jeff Perry, Krysta Austen

**Members Excused:** Korrine L'Hommedieu

**Others present:** Scott Anderson remotely, Patty Dawson, Lydia Ardis Brown Cindy Denkenberger, Alison Sprouse Mastroe

**Community Comments:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** The June 9, 2025 minutes were accepted by President Young as presented with no objections.

### **School Report:**

School Principal Scott Anderson reported:

- The three year vision for the school has not changed, everything is the same for the next two years. Will look at revising then.
- The data in iReady shows no significant change. There was not much progress in the fourth quarter, which he is not sure why, as the other quarters all showed improvement. Most students are moving towards grade level. Overall it was a strong first year of implementing iReady.
- Big picture goals were discussed with the staff. Very positive staff culture. Working on smoothing out operations. As far as comprehensive scope and sequence, the majority of the staff did not do this consistently, but a few did. Scott is creating a scope and sequence for the teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. Board member Woodhouse expressed interest in reviewing the teachers' scope and sequence and being of help trying to build a hands on scope and sequence.

### **Measurable Goals**

- Regrettable attrition. The school lost 5% of students between October 2024 and June 2025.
- Chronic Absenteeism. The absentee rate was up 1%. The administration will be taking a hard look at this problem for the 2025-2026 school year. There may have to be home visits, involve a social worker or if the student is actually ill make a plan for instruction in the home. 37% of the students missed 10% or more days in the school years. This in turn reflects on the students' academic success. Mr. Anderson wanted to point out that this is a nationwide issue, not just a Truxton Academy Charter School issue.
- Executive Director Patty Dawson did mention that the report cards sent home do include the students absences which in turn gets feedback from parents to help understand what even excused absences do with regards to the student learning.
- The New York State test results have not been received. Last year, compared to the Cortland Enlarged City School District, Truxton students performed lower in both ELA and Math. Mr. Anderson is confident this year's results will be better.
- iReady growth targets - One half of the students met their goals. The staff has had discussions on meeting goals for next year. Kindergarten and first grade students seemed to have a hard time testing on the computer.
- Personnel update: The fourth grade teacher is moving to fifth/sixth grade for the 2025-2026 school year. Our long term substitute will move into fourth grade and there will be a new second grade teacher. There will be improved structures for intervention in the classroom with additional benchmark testing done once a month and iReady can be used to compare for progress. The school will continue to use Jamie with the project based learning rural life lab on time per week for

all classes in the garden, high tunnel and with the animals. She will be able to go into the classrooms as well.

- There has been some discussion on having Enrichment Classes, especially for Art and Music as the school has not been able to secure a teacher for those positions. Soccer Shots was a big hit with families, who paid for that out-of-pocket, and the school would like to expand to include Art and Music with a fee charged to families. There is a possibility of STEM classes if a volunteer, such as Board Member Tom Brown, would be willing to teach those.

Executive Director Patty Dawson reported:

- The school has a new family member. Patty shared a photo of Coach P's son born on July 6.
- The data dashboard is available in the July folder.
- The school lost one student in June. This student had missed 67 days in the school year. Highly unlikely this student will return for the next school year.
- Attendance is still steady. There were two disciplines, one out of school suspension and one in school suspension. There were positive results with the families resolved on these disciplines.
- Staffing - as reported earlier by Mr. Anderson, our fourth grade teacher will move to grades five and six and our previously approved long term substitute teacher will move to fourth grade. The new second grade teacher has accepted an offer to be employed by the charter school and her approval will come before the Board at their August meeting. We may lose our Spanish teacher which means losing Spanish for the students. He may be able to volunteer while we plan for replacement. A custodian has requested a change in hours and duties. We have someone available for hire to fill in the other hours.
- The 2025-2026 school year has 105 students registered. We have improved our registration process for students. Schools will be contacted for transportation purposes to be sure all of these students have had their approval.
- "Camp Truxton" will not be held this year. Although the registration period has not ended, there are not enough students signed up to hold camp.
- The Moving Up Day ceremony went well and was well attended by families.
- Patty and Miss C. went on the 6th grade trip to Darien Lake in June.

## **Board Committee Reports:**

### **Academic Committee Report**

Jeff Perry reported that the Academic Committee met June 16, 2025.

- Discussion centered around staff and recruitment.
- Discussed getting teachers into the NYS Retirement system. This would affect certified teachers only. They can buy in, but cannot buy back out.
- Would like to be able to fast track new teachers into certification.
- Working off the SUNY comments, they need to get teachers to take certification test.
- The data dashboard will be used more showing student test results
- Jeff has three grad students who are willing to work with our teachers on project based learning. Project based learning provides structure to students' learning.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Tom Brown reported that the Finance Committee met on June 9, 2025 and the minutes were attached to the email with tonight's agenda.

- Oil prices and staffing issues are always a concern for the committee
- Motion was made by Jeff Perry, seconded by Carol Woodhouse to approve the quote from Heveron as presented for the audit. All in favor. Carried.
- Patty Waltz was hired as a bookkeeper on an hourly rate. She prefers to be put on a salary. She has good control over the finances which will in turn help Korrine, has reconciled the whole school's books, made a change with Quickbooks and will be helping Patty with billing school districts monthly and for IEP's.

### **Operations Committee**

Tom Brown reported. He is reiterating what a nice functioning group the Operations Committee is. There is concerns with the hot water heater and the committee is in discussion with regards to same.

Patty reported that Logan Austen will be handling the cans and bottles. Still undecided if they will be taken to Sheds or to Superior in Cortland. Board member Perry stated he was just at the Superior location and they have expanded their operation.

### **Old Business**

Re-Election of Officers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Slate of Officers presented: President - Stuart Young; Vice President - Krysta Austen; Treasurer - Korrine L'Hommedieu; Secretary - Tom Brown. Motion was made by Carol Woodhouse, seconded by Jeff Perry to accept the proposed slate of officers. All in favor. Carried.

Re-appoint Board of Trustees Recording Secretary Andrea Dawson Motion was made by Jeff Perry, seconded by Carol Woodhouse to re-appoint Recording Secretary Andrea Dawson. All in favor. Carried.

### **New Business**

- Committee Meeting Dates need to be set. Every Committee needs to have three Board members as members of the committee.
- Proposed that the Finance Committee meet on the same day as the Operations Committee, at noontime or thereabouts so Korrine may be part of the meeting.
- The Heartland Contract for the cafeteria software program has increased to \$1,435.00 Motion made by Jeff Perry, seconded by Krysta Austen to accept the Heartland Contract as presented. All in favor. Carried.
- The proposed SAVE plan was presented to the Board for approval. Motion was made by Carol Woodhouse, seconded by Jeff Perry to approve the SAVE plan as presented. All in favor. Carried. There must be a public hearing prior to the August 18 Board meeting for this to be accepted and posted to the school's website.
- Executive Director verbally presented the Cell Phone Policy for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion was made by Tom Brown, seconded by Krysta Austen, to accept the proposed cell phone policy. All in favor. Carried. It was asked if there was any problem and there was only one. Towards the end of the year there were a few watches taken from the students for the day but they did not return to school with them.
- New Board of Trustee Member - Proposed by the Ad Hoc Nomination Committee members Lydia Ardis Brown, Krysta Austen and Cindy Denkenberger to accept Alison Sprouse Mastroe as a new Trustee. Motion made by Carol Woodhouse, seconded by Tom Brown. All in favor. Carried. Patty will submit Bio and necessary paperwork to SUNY.

### **Community Events**

Events were reviewed by the Board.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on August 18 2025, following the Public Hearing with regards to the school's SAVE Plan.

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm by Krysta Austen seconded by Jeff Perry. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Dawson, Recording Secretary