

MINUTES - September 23rd, 2019 - TRCS Board of Directors Meeting

Mission Statement: We will support each student's continuing discovery and development of self and community by providing a learning environment that is relevant, active and project oriented. All aspects of the student's experience at Two Rivers Community School will enhance their natural learning power.

Members Present: April Flanders, Paul Fox, Laura Fonseca, Charlene Grasinger, April Flanders, Rose Mary Webb, Zack Green
Virtually present: n/a

Non-Voting Members Present: Austin Pack, Vicki Krueger, Natalie Oransky, Bill Ireland (Special Education), Melissa Thomas (PTO liaison)
(PTO Representative)

Members Not Present: Virginia Falck

CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order by Rose Mary at 5:39pm
- Quorum established with 7 voting members present at the call to order

MISSION STATEMENT

- Reading of the Mission statement by Charlene Grasinger

ACTION: April Flanders moves to approve the agenda for this meeting (Charlene Grasinger seconded) - MOTION CARRIED 7-0

ACTION: Paul Fox moves to approve the minutes from last meeting (April Flanders seconded) - MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Conflicts of Interest

- none brought forward

Governance Process, Board Leadership, Ends, and Executive Limitation Review

- Read aloud by Natalie, Rose Mary, April Flanders, Charlene Grasinger & confirmed

Discussion of Best Practices for Boards

- Put on hold while waiting for lawyer

Executive Reports

Chair

- Open House on Sept 11th was a success with 12-13 parents visiting meet the board session

Vice Chair

- Will talk about recruitment ideas during recruitment/enrollment committee reports

Secretary

- Bullet point summary for newsletter will be sent to Kelly Snider this week to ensure it gets into the newsletter

Treasurer

- Account fluctuates due to quarterly deposits from state
- Productive meeting with bank about possible refinance/loan extension
- Discussed pros and cons of refinance/loan extension, April will get more info about loan fees, closing fees, comparisons with other local banks for interest rates, terms, prepay penalty
 - Pros - lower monthly payment
 - Cons - only about 6 years and \$120k left on loan, would increase the total interest paid over time of loan
 - Question of refinancing before tariffs change in 2020
- Investigated cash back credit cards for expenses

ACTION: Laura Fonseca moves to approve applying for cash back credit card (Charlene Grasinger seconded) - MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Director

- Report
 - Natalie figured out how funding per student is calculated based on attendance
 - 159 students currently (actually 160 - had one student start today, will receive Watauga County funding for them but not state money)
 - Major accomplishments - workers comp audit completed, unemployment claim completed, request for special state reserve funds for new students with high needs that wasn't budgeted for (requested an aid for three students)
 - For BOD Approval
 - Garden Grant - Cindy Rapinsky - needs help proofreading/editing, special info

ACTION: April moves to approve applying for Garden Grant (Rose Mary seconded) - MOTION CARRIED 7-0

- Field Trip Grant
- Herpetology Grant

ACTION: Rose Mary moves to approve applying for Field Trip and Herpetology Grant (April seconded) - MOTION CARRIED 7-0

- Fitness Club Request - students not at TRCS have asked to participate in Coach Pack's fitness club - how to have them while being covered liability-wise?
 - Natalie has called insurance and discussed waivers, etc.
 - Will also have them complete a registration form with medical info, behavior agreement

ACTION: Zack Green motions to conditionally approve outside students joining the Fitness Club, pending a registration form with medical info, behavioral agreement, and waiver (Rose Mary seconded) - MOTION CARRIED 7-0

- Finance presentation - went over budget report, clarified some expenses and income
- Willscot - Natalie received a response, scanned all 20 contracts which were sent to contract department, went through previous director's email and found relevant communication
 - Began paying contracted amount rather than billed amount
- Parent complaint/issues
 - Movies in class - policy about parental permission
 - Potential 7th grade bullying - Coach Pack helped find a resolution
 - Transportation issue (handled)
 - Expedition (teacher training in progress)
- Safety concern from a parent about publishing info about school events on social media

Committee Reports

- Academic Standards
 - Report on proficiency for Math/Reading EOGs since 2011-2012
 - Community aspect of students' time at TRCS, variation over years
- Strategic Planning, Fundraising, & Recruitment
 - Graphic design for package - needs to be coherent
 - Fundraising goal: \$50k to help with both endowment and cash flow
 - Updates to website - new photos, etc.
 - Ideas for spring recruitment materials

- Policy Committee
- Human Resources

Staff Representative Reports

- Ms. Vicki's Staff reports:
 - Thoughtful Thursday - help tell about why we care for the school, stories about past and neighbors
 - Staff had crisis prevention/intervention training

Upcoming events

Oct 28th - Next regular board meeting

ADJOURN

- Paul moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded April – PASSED by consent
 - September 23rd, 2019 TRCS Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 7:38pm
 - Moved to Executive Session

BOARD MEETING BULLET POINTS for newsletter

- Ms. Natalie is hard at work as the new Interim Director. She balances spending time with students and teachers with negotiating contracts, balancing budgets, writing grants, and ensuring a smooth and organized fall semester!
- The Meet the Board session at Fall Open House was a success; we were thrilled to meet and get to know so many Two Rivers families!
- The Board is planning and discussing strategies for telling our story and building connections and awareness of TRCS and our place in the community. This will involve interviewing Two Rivers alumni and founding teachers, taking photographs, and sharing stories.

Send to: Kelley Snider - art teacher - kellysnider@tworiverscommunityschool.net