



Tomorrow River Community Charter School
Governance Board Meeting
 Monday February 3rd, 2020, 6:30 pm
 Whitetail Lanes

MEETING MINUTES

Board Member	Present?		Present?
Kristy Stacy: Chair	yes	Matt Dombroski	no
Tom Quinn: Vice-Chair	yes	Louise Pease	yes
Tina Giombetti: Secretary	Zoom	Amy Nitka	yes
Sarah Tompkins: Treasurer	yes		

Other Attendees: Laurie Low, Dan Quade, Jeremy Albright, Ed Lemar, Lindsey Pietrzak, Maggie Dorsey, Lindy McLaren, Brigid Ferkett, Emily Conner, Stephanie Aleman, Beth Shore, Chamomile Nusz, Lindsey Jenkins, Laura Brown

Minutes taken by Laura Brown

- I. Joint Staff & Board Bowling
- II. Joint Staff and Board discussion about the Alliance Principles & report from membership application process
 - A. The members present broke up into groups to consider ways to grow in each of the 7 principles, considering input from the site visit report and brainstorming ways to strengthen each principle.
 - 1. Image of the human being: Noted our school's challenges with maintaining consistent specials teachers, and the continuing need to introduce new staff to Waldorf principles. Also a challenge to keep our parent body educated on Waldorf pedagogy as new families join each year. Suggest more educational parent circle events related to Waldorf.
 - 2. Child development: Our curriculum has a strong basis in child development.
 - 3. Social change through education: Continue to strengthen relationships with UWSP and Amherst schools. More community service projects for middle school kids.
 - 4. Building Relationships: We've done a great job with internal relationships. Now need to strengthen relationships with the outside community. Create a

stronger space for subject teachers, find ways to create full time positions and offer benefits for Specials teachers. Lack of cultural and religious diversity is an ongoing challenge for us, even if we don't have students from diverse circumstances maybe we can take field trips to expose our kids to them.

- 5. Access and diversity: Formal assessment process to get services for kids who need additional academic support so it is an objective recommendation. The campus is not conducive to students with physical disability issues: bolster financial relationships that could enable us to modify the campus in ways to make it more accessible. The report mentioned that our 40 hour volunteer requirement may lead families to feel guilt/pressure.
 - 6. Collaborative Leadership: The shared leadership between Principal/ED is currently a strength but could potentially be a challenge with different personalities in those roles. Part-time teaching positions cause difficulty. The report mentioned that in other schools there can be tension between subject teachers and classroom teachers, but we believe that is not the case at our school.
 - 7. Schools as learning communities: Most of the challenges they noticed had to do with media use in families. They recommended that each class have 4 parent meetings each year. They also mentioned that they see a lack of support for social emotional issues for students, so finding a way to have some counselling services on site would be helpful.
- B. The site visit team recommended full membership through 6th grade, but the final judgement was that we are still a developing school and we should apply again once we have graduated at least one eighth grade class ("fully established 8th grade"). The process will likely be less rigorous at that time as we have already completed a lot of it.
- Action items are listed in the report with timelines.
- C. Suggestion to do more pedagogical parent events. Also structure pedagogical sharing for teachers and staff to grow in understanding of curriculum.

6:25pm business meeting call to order.

Amy, Sarah, Tom, Brigid, Emily, Stephanie, Beth, Cham, Kristy, Louise, Laura. Tina zoom.

III. Opening Meeting

- A. The regular meeting of the Tomorrow River Community Charter School Board was called to order at 6:25pm at Whitetail Lanes by Chair Kristy Stacy
- B. Gathering Verse: **Rudolf Steiner "Verse for Destiny"**
The wishes of the soul are springing, The deeds of the will are thriving, The fruits of life are maturing, I feel my destiny, My destiny finds me, I feel my star, My star finds me, I feel my goals in life, My goals in life are finding me, My soul and the great world are one, Life grows more radiant about me, Life grows more challenging for me, Life grows more abundant within me.
- A. Introductions & Sharing of a Positive Memory - All

IV. Business

- A. Approve Agenda**
- B. Public Participation: Sarah suggested having a short stretch/bathroom break after an hour, to hopefully enliven the second half of the meeting.

C. Next meeting date: March 6-8 Board Retreat.

- Location River Edge. Friday check out their yurts and school, chat with staff and board members. Board will meet all day Saturday until 5pm and wrap things up in time to get home Saturday evening.

D. Approve Consent Agenda

- **Approve December 2019 meeting minutes with changes as discussed.**
- **Committee/Staff Reports/Minutes**
 - a) Discussion about buying classroom sets of books as opposed to just acquiring library books. Chamomile will email the revised budget so everyone can review the line items as it is written.
 - b) Question from staff meeting minutes regarding discussion about after school care for staff kids. Suggest removing staff member's name from the minutes.
 - c) Tom asked about the nature of staff discussions about gender neutral bathrooms and why this hasn't been brought to CWES. The staff has just had preliminary conversations about how the concept of gender neutral facilities could work in our school community and will make a proposal to CWES if and when they are prepared to suggest a change.
 - d) Brief discussion about the genesis of the high school committee and why that committee is so separate from TRCCS and there are no TRCCS teachers on that committee.

E. No Parent Circle Report

F. WAEE Winter Workshop report: Brigid shared her experience at this workshop and felt it was a valuable opportunity to network with other schools and envision how TRCCS can expand in the area of environmental education. Stephanie feels it would be beneficial to start evaluating our Nature Studies curriculum in how it is meeting environmental literacy standards.

G. Approved funds for volunteer awards: Maple syrup from Tapped (\$200).

H. Expansion Committee/Capital Campaign Report

- Donation buttons are live on website
- Toelle Cabin campaign
 - a) The building is currently located in a place that is inconvenient for the district. Cham talked with the fire inspector who said we don't need to move the building to be in compliance with code. She will be meeting with Mike Richie and Robert at the district next week to talk about whether they still need it to be moved. Quotes to move it are between \$2,500 and \$3,500. The executive committee will meet to discuss this if the district still insists on moving it.
 - b) Kristy has created banners which will be displayed on the building.
- EC Yurts campaign
 - a) Sites are still being evaluated because there is a drainage field where we had thought they would go. Tom and EC teachers will look at it once Bob Stuczynski marks the drainage field.
- Informational materials are up on our website for both campaigns.

I. TRCCS District Budget and internal financial statements

- Financial statements included in packet.
 - a) Chamomile and Laura are working on getting the past unpaid debts cleaned up so they don't show as receivable.
- After revising the budget we should still have about \$57,000 surplus.

- Current plan includes funding a loan through the district while we are raising funds for expansion projects, which we will then pay back to the district using funds raised. If we were to default on that loan, they could revoke our charter. If we fail to raise sufficient funds, loan payments will be factored into the budget for coming years.
 - Stephanie would like the expansion committee to consider dedicating a space for TRVCS in the future.
 - J. Advertising WPR: Ad will run on radio and on podcasts statewide during our 12 week enrollment period. Specifically highlighting TRVCS statewide. Seeking approval for funds.
Approved agreement as listed in the packet.
 - K. 2020-21 calendar
 - The District calendar is included in the packet. Under our charter we aren't beholden to the number of instructional hours, but our teachers still have contracted hours that Beth and Chamomile have looked at and structured into the annual calendar. They will be working on drafting a proposed calendar based on the TRSD calendar.
 - L. Grant midyear report
 - Shared in the packet as it was submitted.
 - M. TRVCS DPI Charter School Grant
 - The executive committee will review and approve prior to submission.
 - N. Breakfast program through DPI
 - Paul Skinner is working with DPI to find a way to get a breakfast program set up for TRCCS. As soon as the program is set up, paperwork will go out to all families to announce the program.
 - Breakfasts will come on the bus, milk will be on site.
 - Families will be able to participate at Amherst or at TRCCS.
 - Will include fruit, grain, milk.
 - In the classroom
 - Available to all students, at a cost to families that do not qualify for F/R.
 - Potentially tracked via a fingerprint scanner just like at the district.
 - There is the potential for the district to bring the CWES lunch program in as a contracted service.
 - The teachers are aware that this program is in the works and will be consulted about how it will be implemented in the classrooms.
 - O. 1st Grade Teacher Posting
 - Now active. The only way to apply is through WECAN. There are already several applications that have come in so we hope to have a good selection to choose from.
- V. Events
 - A. Winter Performance: February 28th
 - Jeremy doesn't have artwork to display. Suggestion to have classes create some window stars or collect watercolor paintings to decorate.
 - B. Waldorf 100 Conference: June 22-26, 2020.
 - 15 people are registered, Chamomile has reserved 2 houses. Considering having kids stay at a neighboring school; reach out to 4th-6th grade families and create a performance once we know how many kids can go. It is the same time as the theater camp so Ed can't come.
- VI. Closed Session

- A. Following the resignation of our Spanish teacher for next year, the board agrees to post for a new Spanish teacher. Brief discussion about whether to open the position up to other world languages but decided to stay with Spanish.
 - B. Discussion about other potential staffing changes.
 - C. Exit closed session at 8:08pm
- VII. Closing
 - A. Meeting review.
 - B. Adjourn 8:10pm.