

Turquoise Trail Charter School
Governance Council Meeting Minutes pending
April 22nd, 2024

Members Present: Sammi Triolo, Victoria Schweizer, Alejandra Rodriguez, Amber Maes, Miranda Mascarenas (5:36pm arrival), Ruth Center (5:37pm arrival),

Members Not Present: Matt Pahl

Also Present: Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Sarah Salazar, Roberta Cole, Viviana Ortega, Tammie Padilla, Stephanie Behning, Gowan Hays, Joe Dan Lovato, Rebecca Jones, Zach Chavez (5:39pm arrival), Brett Barker (5:39pm arrival), Amanda Sotelo (6:14pm arrival)

Scribe: Francesca Margaritondo

- I. **Call to Order – Open Session 5:34pm.** It was determined there was a quorum. Meeting called to order.

- **Roll Call** – Introductions made.
- ***VOTE** - Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Amber Maes. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 4 – 0.
- ***VOTE** – Approval of March (3/25/24) Business Meeting Minutes:

Miranda Mascarenas arrives, 5:36pm

Ruth Center arrives, 5:37pm

Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Miranda Mascarenas. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Abstains, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Abstains, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 4 – 0 with 2 abstains.

- ***VOTE** – Approval of April (4/08/24) Special Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Amber Maes. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.

- II. ***VOTE** – Consent Agenda:

Alejandra Rodriguez explains the consent agenda to the board. Finance Committee recommends a do pass. Motion made by Sammi Triolo to approve the consent agenda as presented less the two items that will be voted on later on in this meeting and seconded by Miranda Mascarenas. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.

III. Public Forum: Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Elementary School Principal, Early Childhood Director, Concerned Citizen: expresses concerns about the stucco and putting school money into a money market account, Joe Dan Lovato, Middle School Principal, Concerned Citizen: expresses concerns about the stucco and the money market account, Amanda Sotelo, Teacher, PTA President, Parent and Concerned Citizen: expresses concerns about the stucco.

IV. **Updates/Presentations of Reports**

- Business Office: Thanks the board and all of those working with him for their support.
- Principals/Staff Representative(s): Mary Ellen Dannenberg: Student NDI performance last Thursday for the Preschoolers; which they loved. The parent performance is happening this Thursday and 5:30pm. Friday we had the state legislature credit union read to the children. They want to come more often. Tea and Story Time in A wing where students will be reading their own stories. Last set of testing next week for ES. Zach talks about PTA and it's new officers for next year. Teacher appreciation week coming up and Spring Rodeo in 2 weeks. Joe Dan Lovato: We are done with our first round of testing and are awaiting our last assessment. Good data is coming out of this especially from returning teachers from last year. Went to a program about SEL and worked with a consortium of Principals to assist them to build the program. We are starting teacher observations as of today. We were given a great opportunity with Tutor fly which is through PED. Joe Dan will be identifying the lower 15% to get them extra support with their reading. The services should continue next year and be ready to roll in August for next school year. Youth board learning op also came up this weekend. This is new to all of us. The field trips! The 7th

graders went to the Rio Grande Nature Center and next we have the end of year field trips. Brett Barker: nothing to share at this time.

- Head Administrator: Stephanie Behning: Student achievement and academics: state testing is finished and EOY testing is coming up for monitoring. The data will not come to us till May and we do not know when we can share that data. The support the goals, teachers will be provided with rubrics. The Capstone students are finishing their projects. They are very passionate about their projects and will be presenting at the graduation as far as we can tell. Stephanie will share a lot of these projects at the next business meeting.
Enrollment: 710 K-8 with 88 Pre-K. People are eager to get off the waitlist. Other schools are losing students, we continue to gain students. We are focusing on the MS and are attempting to make it more desirable. Next week starting to work on plans to best engage students. MS is a challenging time for students and can also have challenging behavior, but we don't want this to be the norm. We have a new quote for the infrastructure and need to determine the best group to work with. The goal is to get this done by the end of May. Accomplishments for the year: we have an org chart and will have an even more detailed one for next year. We have updated 9 policies and anticipate to update more. We started and followed through with bilingual FY25 and have submitted this application through PED. We are in compliance with EL for the first time in years. This year we have had after school socials monthly which has gotten involved. Our DOM is happening at all grade levels and the work from the students is amazing. We are publishing a book written by the students and selling it. Our school is the cleanest it has been in a while and the Teachers are happy. The portables are also clean and rodent free in many ways thanks to the new flooring. We should be increasing our enrollment by 100 students. We have a yearbook. Great afterschool programming. Great Teacher Retention. Job Description will be with every contract. And we now have a data tracking system for the DOMs. Families are joining the PTA and want to join the board. We have a healthy cash reserve. Stephanie invites the entire board to join the upcoming events which she then lists.
- Committees and Councils (as needed)

- Recruitment: Still working on a recruitment matrix, but have found some people who are interested. There has been a meeting a couple of weeks ago. Sarah Salazar has shown some interest in joining the board.
 - Equity Council: Zach and Roberta are working on the equity council now. It is in full swing and they are looking at the requirements and partaking in monthly meetings. Should be really strong going into the summer.
 - Strategic Planning/Expansion: Met on April 10th to discuss Capital Outlay, SB9. Discusses concerns about the money and needing to realign with the school on this plan. Working on the financing with the team. The stucco information was not received by everybody.
 - GC Executive Committee: We are moving into the final end of year evaluation cycle. Voting members will be receiving that shortly. The Ad Hoc Grievance committee is waiting for legal to give us feedback and/or recommendations on the process.
- V. SY24-25 School Budget Salary Schedule (first review): Gowan Hays explains the salary schedules for next school year. Question: is this competitive with other districts? Answer: Gowan is looking at hard to staff stipends to encourage people to come our way and the retention bonuses are significant as well. He will look at other charters in Santa Fe and will share that info. Stephanie feels we are doing quite well, mostly because of the 180 day rule. Question: is the bilingual stipend the same as the ESL stipend? No it is not. Teachers need to receive a stipend for what they teach.
- VI. SY 24-25 School Budget (first review): Gowan Hays explains the first draft of the budget for next school year. The budget is balanced without any anticipated carry over. All teachers and staff will receive a 3% raise. Holding onto the retention bonus and winter stipend. Considering PED changed the funding for extended learning/K12 plus ... we are going to generate some units after the calendar is approved, however it was not used and the budget is balanced. The bilingual program has been added. The budget did increase 3.7% mostly with ancillary funding. Some benefits have gone up, but everything else is mostly the same. Gowan explains the operational budget and the breakdown of revenue. Then talks about

Program costs review and the 910B5. With more students coming in, we should continue to grow. Talks about Cash carryover from a variety of sources. Finishes with a year over year comparison and contracts and reserves. As other numbers are revealed, he will bring them to the board.

- VII. ***VOTE:** Stucco Quote: Stephanie Behning presents the stucco quotes. Voices concerns with waiting to get the entire job done at once. Discusses issues with trying to get capital outlay funds and how that delay would affect the building and safety of the children. No risks for doing it all at once, the phasing was to see if it could be cost efficient. Request to approve both phases to happen at the same time. Question: Are these the critical items discussed on 4/10 and when it comes to phasing, where are we with lease renewal? We would be out of compliance with our lease to take care of the whole building. We need these repairs to pass our site visits. Per Matt Pahl, we would be better served moving forward. Question: Where is the source of the funding where these repairs would come from and how does it impact our current budget and our FY25 budget and our fund balance. The amounts have been split between this year and next year and we can still maintain the cash balance for both years. These reports have received 3 bids. Explanation of how these quotes were picked. Question: is there any discount if we are able to do it all at once? Not really besides it would cost us more if we did it in phases. Question: if splitting it between June and July, will it be done before the start of the next school year? Yes, and considers moving students from childcare in the summer. Question: are we obligated to take the lowest bid? Answer: yes, we must obtain the best price. We are using the lowest, but have an expert reassuring us that the work will be good and it has a 10-year warranty. Motion made by Sammi Triolo to approve the Stucco quote as presented in one phase and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Nay, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 1. Request that the board is given more time to review proposals for future repairs, maybe one more meeting.
- VIII. ***VOTE:** Wells Fargo funds to NMB&T money market account: Discussion ensues. Victoria Schweizer requests to remove this from the agenda because it was brought to the board to change banks. All funds were supposed to be transferred to NMB&T. Alejandra Rodriguez asking for clarification from the business office. Is this more to clarify the move of

the money to a Money Market instead of just to one account? This would then be a different vote than the one Victoria is alluding to. Victoria Schweizer recommends keeping a rolling balance in the checking account. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to move funds to a money market account keeping required minimums in the checking account and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascrenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.

IX. ***VOTE:** SY24-25 School Calendar (second review): PED is no longer counting PD days so those had to be changed. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the calendar as presented and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.

X. *Adjournment of Business Meeting: Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to adjourn the business meeting and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Zoom meeting info:

<https://zoom.us/j/757353854?pwd=WG56RmNSaDAvMjRMOU0Y4aGFRZTVLZz09>

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