

Turquoise Trail Charter School  
Governance Council Meeting Minutes  
August 28th, 2023

**Members Present:** Sammi Triolo, Matt Pahl, Victoria Schweizer, Ruth Center, Miranda Mascarenas, Alejandra Rodriguez (arrived 5:35pm), Amber Maes (arrived 5:37pm)

**Members Not Present:**

**Also Present:** Gowan Hays, Kathleen Moore, Stephanie Behning, Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Joe Dan Lovato, Rebecca Jones, Zach Chavez, Viviana Ortega (arrived at 6:55pm)

**Scribe:** Francesca Margaritondo

- I. **Call to Order – Open Session 5:32pm.** It was determined there was a quorum. Meeting called to order.
  - A. **Roll Call** – Introductions made.
  - B. **\*VOTE** - Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Miranda Mascarenas to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
  - C. **\*VOTE** – Approval of July (07/24/23) Business Meeting Minutes: Sammi Triolo requests change in section II: “to approve” instead of “by”. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the meeting minutes with edit in section II and seconded by Amber Maes. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Matt Pahl – abstains, Miranda Mascarenas - Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Abstains, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0 with 2 abstains.
- II. **\*VOTE** – Consent Agenda:

Alejandra Rodriguez explains the consent agenda to the board. Finance Committee recommends a do pass. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to pass the consent agenda as presented and seconded by Miranda Mascarenas. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

III. Public Forum: Ruth Center – has had a great review of this year’s school. Only complaint is nothing can be hidden from siblings in the new backpacks!

IV. **Updates/Presentations of Reports**

- A. Business Office: Gowan Hays: still in audit process. First check in with the Auditors has happened. They will probably finalize the week of Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. It is going well so far. Lots of work happened with the payroll in taking it over as well as adding new staff.
- B. Principals/Staff Representative(s): Mary Ellen Dannenberg – Everything going smoothly. Kids are having fun. Tomorrow we start with testing for a baseline. We are planning our first assembly and it will be on safety in collaboration with LE. Joe Dan Lovato – Looking forward to including LEs with the school and the general community. Next week MS will also be starting baseline testing. Sports are underway and going well, volleyball and cross country. Restorative process has started and seems to be getting a good response from students and parents. We mend what was broken instead of simply suspending/punishing. The portables are looking great with the new floors and paint job. School walkthroughs are going well and appreciate the presence of the Head Administrator. We are establishing our afterschool robotics and coding club. Looking for a staff representative now.
- C. Head Administrator: HA Report Against Goals: Stephanie Behning is grateful for the progress in the portables. Teacher training went really well. More focused on hands on and practicing what we preach with our teachers. Great results came from that. We can have an imbedded MLSS coach this year, and Evy Lareau has taken on this role. We are supporting the teachers in a way where they can understand how to implement these processes instead of simply referring them to the SAT process. Lots we can do in the classroom. Simple things such as single use restrooms for MS instead of the cafeteria restrooms has improved behavior already. We want the students to interact with multiple environments and more teachers which also helps reduce behavioral issues. We’ve chosen IMASSA because it better suits our school and processes. Know yourself is in all classes and especially in the Specials classes. We are fully staffed which has been challenging in the past. We are having our first PD

session this week. The safety assembly will be great with a new song from Mr. Char. And the involvement of LE is amazing. The assemblies will continue to be interactive. The RAPTOR will be rolled out in September with parents coming in to sign up. The MS expansion is going to be discussed later this week. Enrollment goal is 642 which is exactly what we have. Plus 84 students in the Pre K program.

D. Committees and Councils (as needed)

- Recruitment: As of now we do not have any updates, but do have 4 potential members to be contacted.
- Equity Council: Nothing to report this month
- Strategic Planning/Expansion: Wed. meeting with some potential lenders. Homestretch of the lot being ours.
- GC Executive Committee: Hosting a luncheon for the teachers.

V. Review of Safe School Plan: Francesca Margaritondo presents the Safe School Plan.

Amber Maes leaves the meeting at 6:17pm.

- VI. **\*VOTE** – Fire Alarm Estimate: Stephanie Behning explains the fire alarm estimate from Intraworks. Our system is so out of date, they anticipate that it may crash at any time. If it does, we would have to hire someone to monitor the school and that would cost \$1500 to \$2000 per day for proper, in compliance monitoring. This does factor in the new middle school. Victoria Schweizer adds a few comments. Question: how does this impact our budget? Gowan explains that we do have funding for this in HB33 that was saved up and can be used for this. Would the funding impact any other areas? Yes, these two funds are non-reverting and the funds we are setting aside for the expansion. Discussion ensues. Alejandra Rodriguez proposes that the vote be tabled pending more information. Alejandra Rodriguez makes a motion to table to vote pending more information for the GC and seconded by Ruth. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas - Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.

- VII. **\*VOTE** – Policy 326 – Transportation (second read): Stephanie Behning reviews the policy for the board. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve Policy 326 amendments as presented and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye,

- Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.
- VIII. **\*VOTE** – Policy 327 – Tobacco (second read): Stephanie Behning reviews the policy for the board. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve Policy 327 amendments as presented and seconded by Miranda Mascarenas. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0.
- IX. **\*VOTE** – Policy 329 – Communicable Diseases (second read): Stephanie Behning reviews the policy for the board. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve Policy 329 amendments as presented and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0
- X. **\*VOTE** – Policy 337 – Meals Payment Collection (second read): Stephanie Behning reviews the policy for the board. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve Policy 337 amendments as presented and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0
- XI. **\*VOTE** – Policy 420 – Title I Parental Involvement (second read): Stephanie Behning reviews the policy for the board. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve Policy 420 amendments as presented and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0
- XII. **\*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, Matt Pahl - Aye, Miranda Mascarenas - Aye, Ruth Center - Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 - 0. Meeting adjourned at: 7:01pm.