

Turquoise Trail Charter School  
Governance Council Meeting Minutes  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Members Present:** Sammi Triolo, Alejandra Rodriguez, Ruth Center, Miranda Mascarenas, Matt Pahl (arrived 5:36pm), Victoria Schweizer (arrived 5:42pm)

**Members Not Present:** Amber Maes

**Also Present:** Tammie Padilla, Zach Chavez, Roberta Cole, Joe Dan Lovato, Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Gowan Hays, Stephanie Behning, Nick Jones, Greg Pinkston, Rebecca Jones

**Scribe:** Francesca Margaritondo

- I. **Call to Order – Open Session 5:35pm.** It was determined there was a quorum. Meeting called to order.
    - A. **Roll Call** – Introductions made.
    - B. **\*VOTE** - Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Ruth Center to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
    - C. **\*VOTE** – Approval of August (08/28/23) Business Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Ruth Center to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
  - II. **\*VOTE** – Consent Agenda:

Alejandra Rodriguez explains the consent agenda to the board. Finance Committee recommends a do pass. Motion made by Miranda Mascarenas to approve the consent agenda 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.
- Alejandra Rodriguez leaves the meeting 5:52pm.
- III. **Public Forum:** Nick Jones, has not heard back from Stephanie Behning since the 28<sup>th</sup> of August and emailed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. He is letting the board know that he has not heard back from her regarding the bus policy where there is some confusion on Stephanie’s side on how to apply this policy. She says the kids cannot walk home from the bus stop

and he believes she does not have the right to make that decision for his children. He believes neither she nor the school has the right to make this decision. So far, he is not impressed with the parent involvement with these policies and not impressed with her lack of response on this matter.

IV. **Updates/Presentations of Reports**

- A. Business Office: Gowan Hays has a reminder for the finance committee: there is a 4:00pm progress meeting for the audit on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Everything has been provided, no open requests. There have been a few payroll issues that we are working together on solving those. The money for the playground is being taken care of.
- B. Principals/Staff Representative(s): Mary Ellen Dannenberg: in the ES testing is over and we got some really good data. We had an assembly last Friday on safety. Mr. Char created and wrote a song for it. Field trips coming up. We have a new opportunity for girls' basketball in ES. Coach from Kearny needs more players. We have PTC conferences coming up and fall break. In October the Early Childhood wing has Explora coming to do a presentation on bubbles for each class. Joe Dan Lovato: Testing is also complete. We are getting PD for teachers to become a data driven classroom. PTC also coming up for MS. Wants them to be more student lead. Our Student Council is in full swing. Elections are finished and they are now nominating grade level representatives. That should get us about 10 students serving on Student Council. We want to get them some nice student council jackets to represent who they are. Corine Martinez will be the official sponsor with David Brown being the adult lead. Sports are going well. Cross Country had a meet this last weekend with 300 runners for junior high boys. All of the TTCS boys finished and finished strong. Our Volleyball girls are close to being undefeated. They are close to the end of the season and the girls have worked tirelessly. The outdoor grant was awarded to 7 out 33 schools including us. We are establishing location and working on getting this up and running and will be open to all of our students and maybe our community as well.
- C. Head Administrator: Stephanie Behning presents her report. Students are wrapping the quarter with DOM. They will be doing one per quarter. Looking at the DOM as engaging students in a multi modal project with 2 or more modals to bring together. The

goal for students who finish 8<sup>th</sup> grade is that they produce 32 DOMs and 2 capstone projects which should really prepare them for success no matter where they go. There is a big focus on student achievement and product of mind. Highlighting Deanna Bradford, a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, who starts her morning with the coyote notebook and a check list for students to complete. As a class they go through the checklist and identify what they need to complete and if something is missing, the teacher asks the students what needs to be finished. There is more excitement about learning around the school in general lately. We are now going to dig deeper into data now that testing is done. The teachers are doing a great job growing our students' love for learning. The PTC coming up should be interesting with the data and the DOMs being shown to parents. The concept of "know yourself" for MS is being explored. The restorative justice circles are happening and are creating lots of discussion and working through the issues for students. We are fully staffed with teachers and are looking for 2 EAs in the MS. Focus on safety is extremely important to us for our children and staff. The assemblies on safety were very hands on and interactive. We want this to be imbedded in everything we do in our daily school lives. The RAPTOR system is going to be rolled out, but carefully. We want it to be smooth for our parents. The popcorn and cider event was a great success. LE was there to talk with families. The LEs this year are being extremely proactive this year to be more of a friendly presence in the community. We are looking for an official count for Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> which is 40<sup>th</sup> day and we will have more info after that day. The Virtual Academy will be included in the Student Council.

D. Committees and Councils (as needed)

- Recruitment: One person was invited for tonight, but they did not make it. Another person was interested and then joined another board.
- Equity Council: No updates at the moment. More info was received recently on how to move forward.
- Strategic Planning/Expansion: Still waiting.
- GC Executive Committee: We had our second annual hosting of La Reunion. It went really well. We are moving into

interviews and going into our Head Administrator Review Cycle in the HA Evaluation Committee.

- V. **\*VOTE** – Fire Alarm Estimate: Two quotes were presented and were reviewed with the Finance Committee. To ensure we are getting what we need, we reached out to the Fire Inspector and requested them to review. Unfortunately, they cannot and we need another analyst to do that instead. Motion made by Sammi Triolo to table the vote and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
- VI. **\*VOTE** – Policy 300 – Turquoise Trail Charter School Attendance Policy (second read): The Board reviews Policy 300. Stephanie Behning explains the change, which is an addition from the original. Suggestion to remove specific time to avoid having to change it at another time and referring to a location where the bell schedule will be posted and easily accessed. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to approve the policy amendment with the suggested changes and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
- VII. **\*VOTE** – Policy 305 – Assignment, Promotion and Retention (second read): The Board reviews Policy 305. Sammi Triolo explains that the phrasing is being reworded. Stephanie continues the explanation. Motion made by Matt Pahl to approve the policy as amended and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
- VIII. **\*VOTE** – Policy 306 – Student Records (second read): The Board reviews Policy 306. Stephanie Behning explains the changes. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to approve the policy as amended and seconded by Miranda Mascarenas. Roll Call Vote: Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
- IX. **\*Adjournment of Business Meeting:** Motion made by Ruth Center to adjourn the business meeting and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Matt Pahl – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 5 – 0. Meeting Adjourned 6:49pm.