

Turquoise Trail Charter School
Governance Council Meeting Minutes Pending
October 23rd, 2023

Members Present: Alejandra Rodriguez, Matt Pahl, Amber Maes, Miranda Mascarenas, Ruth Center (arrived at 5:37pm), Victoria Schweizer (arrived at 5:56pm)

Members Not Present: Sammi Triolo

Also Present: Stephanie Behning, Rebecca Jones, Viviana Ortega, Joe Dan Lovato, Gowan Hays, Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Roberta Cole, Jennifer Luong, Zach Chavez,

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 Miranda Mascarenas to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Chair, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
 - C. ***VOTE** – Approval of September (09/25/23) Business Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Miranda Mascarenas to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Amber Maes – Abstains, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Chair, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye. Passed 4 – 0 with 1 abstains.
- II. ***VOTE** – Consent Agenda:

Alejandra Rodriguez explains the consent agenda to the board. Finance Committee recommends a do pass. Motion made by Matt Pahl to approve the consent agenda as presented and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Chair, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye. Passed 5 – 0.
- III. **Public Forum:** Roberta Cole – Wanted to say that she is thrilled and honored to be part of the admin team. Stephanie is a major player and each and every one of us is putting in our all. Every single one contributes so much. She lists every one and mentions what they do.

Viviana Ortega – Wanted to extend to the board an invite to the fall festival. Food, games, arm painting and trunk or treat. Business after hours with the Hispanic chamber of commerce is afterwards.

IV. **Updates/Presentations of Reports**

- A. Business Office: Gowan Hays – The audit is supposed to have the exit this week, but have not heard yet. Working on a few grants that need to be worked on such as the playground and some others. There was a meeting with a finance company to get some more info on charter school financing. They did a good job explaining things. Will we be using a statewide price agreement for the playground? We will be reaching out for quotes depending on what Stephanie decides is needed.

Victoria Schweizer arrived 5:56pm

- B. Principals/Staff Representative(s): Mary Ellen Dannenberg – Lots of stuff happening. Last Friday there was a candling of chicken eggs. Over 100 people showed up. This has started inspiring a bunch of projects all over the school. The Fall Festival is this Friday. EXPLORA came to see the littles and they did bubbles with all of the ECECD classrooms. Teacher observations started this week. This always creates a great conversation that helps teachers work smoother and improve in their classrooms. Joe Dan Lovato – Started spirit week this week. The students were in charge of sending out notifications, and it wasn't perfect which is called "productive struggle". Tomorrow is Turquoise Tuesday. Computers are in which is very exciting. We are going to work on preserving our technology. Student council went to the youth symposium and got rave reviews for our students' representation of the school. There might be a new community or teen center in this area. Just started our "no excuses" program. In a small school like ours, there should be no excuses for any student to fall behind. Students with a D or lower will be giving up their outdoor time to work on their grades. Students with disciplinary issues will be sitting with Joe Dan during lunch and outdoor time, they will be reflecting on their behavior in a variety of ways. Girls Basketball is in full swing. First game at Mandela, second in Espanola. Our agricultural barn is coming along. Quotes are coming for the barns and we hope to get it turned

around in a matter of weeks. Suggestion from the board to stay close to Gowan Hays and Rebecca Jones for the barn.

- C. Head Administrator: Loving the bird theme around the school. Thanks Zach, Viviana and the PTA for organizing everything, especially Fall Festival. The community is really coming together and changing the energy of the school. Excited that the lots have been approved and expansion plans are moving forward. Wanted to bring up that our building currently needs quite a bit of repair. In particular the stucco. Looking into quotes for that. Reading Quest is a great addition to the school. 22-23 data is being released from PED, and we are working on accessing it. She is excited to compare it to this year's data as it comes along. The concept of 'Know Yourself' is happening throughout the whole school. Students have been tasked with being responsible with their electronic devices and are learning how to self-regulate with these devices and according to their environment. The 4th through 8th graders are doing a really good job regulating themselves. She went into an 8th grade class that was working so hard on so many different projects, it was beautiful to see. We have 2 quotes for the fire system which will be presented to the finance committee soon. The current system is showing its age more and more, disrupting school operations more frequently. We currently have 619 K – 8 students and 88 ECECD. 40th day deadline has been extended. The new system with PED is NOVA and it has had a few bugs. Roberta Cole is doing an amazing job with it. Are yonder pouches still being used? No, they are not, we found the students were very good at getting around the Yonder pouches. It was not teaching kids responsibility, but how to be sneaky. Can we resell them? And for how much? This might be difficult as these were handed to students and they were told it was theirs to keep.
- D. Committees and Councils (as needed)
- Recruitment: Amber Maes – There are a few things being put out by Sammi to contact Amber if anyone is interested in any of our committees. Hoping to have a meeting soon.
 - Equity Council: Stephanie Behning – Great things coming. We will roll them out soon.

- Strategic Planning/Expansion: Victoria Schweizer – The county has approved the lot split and now we can begin closing on the property portion of the new campus.
- GC Executive Committee: Victoria Schweizer – elections are coming up and there is the PCSNM conference in November. Please let Stephanie know if you would like to go.

V. **Discussion – Enrollment Figures:** Stephanie Behning brings up the numbers and looking into getting together a team to reach out to students who have left and ask them why. Discussion ensues.

Matt Pahl Left the Meeting 6:32pm

VI. ***Adjournment of Business Meeting:** Motion made by Ruth Center to adjourn the business meeting and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Amber Maes – Aye, Miranda Mascarenas – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye. Passed 5 – 0. Meeting Adjourned 6:41pm.