

Turquoise Trail Charter School
Governance Council Meeting Minutes
November 28th, 2022

Members Present: Alejandra Rodriguez, Victoria Schweizer, Sammi Triolo, Hannah Mazur, Lorenzo Dominguez, Amber Maes, Ruth Center

Members Not Present: Miranda Mascarenas, Matt Pahl

Also Present: Tammie Padilla, Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Stephanie Behning, Chris Eide Azevedo, Zach Chavez, Joe Dan Lovato, Kristalyn Loftis, Rebecca Jones, Phillip Lujan, Leslie Meehan, Amy Oler, Myrrhine Faller (late arrival).

Scribe: Francesca Margaritondo

- I. **Call to Order – Open Session 5:33pm.** It was determined there was a quorum. Meeting called to order.
 - A. **Roll Call** – Introductions made.
 - B. ***VOTE** - Approval of Agenda: Small typo to be corrected. Minutes are October, not September. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the agenda as presented with one correction and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll call vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Abstains due to sound issues, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0 with 1 abstains.
 - C. ***VOTE** – Approval of October (10/24) Business Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the meeting as presented and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Abstains, Hannah Mazur – Abstains, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Abstains, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 4 – 0 with 3 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 approve the consent agenda as presented and seconded by Hannah Mazur. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes - Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

III. Public Forum: None.

IV. **Updates/Presentations of Reports**

A. Business Office: None.

B. Principals/Teacher Reps: Stephanie Behning: Teacher observation feedback is coming up. Book fair and winter assemblies are coming up as well. We are inviting families to the assemblies with the theme of giving. Coaching has begun. Principals are providing coverage so teachers can go and observe another classroom. Second grading period wrapping up. We would like to provide families with more guidance on how to support literacy at home. The collaboration with teachers has been going well as well as the behavior management. We are significantly further ahead than we were last year. With illness this has been challenging, but we continue to receive more subs and are able to cover these classes and make this happen. Joe Dan Lovato: Capstone/Winter Festival coming up and promise to be amazing. Lots of help from many to assist in getting big ideas off the ground. MAPs testing coming up next week and will then have comparative and relative data. The behavior wall is a great success. We are updating out technology and moving into final rounds of the Verizon grant. We have an official coach for the ELA department who fits right into our scheme of things. Very appreciative of all of the support from everyone on the team.

C. Head Administrator: Chris Eide Azevedo: We're trying to make sure our students and teachers can be in school. There was so much absence last year, we want to make sure we are not generating spread of any number of the airborne pathogens. We had 10 teachers and 30% of students out last Monday. We've mandated masks indoors for everybody in the school. It has been calculated that only 16% of a student's time will be with masks on, so they will have plenty of time without the masks. We are in the final round for the Verizon Grant. Thanks everybody for the great success of the Fall Festival. December 15th will be Winter Festival. This will be a continuation of the Winter Concert with the 8th grade Capstone project, a blind bake off and a farolito walk. First staff survey data has been rolled out and adjustments are already being made. We've been in the news for the cell phone pouches. We hope this

promotes more authentic communications in the MS. We are also promoting the importance of tutoring, especially for 8th graders. We will be partnering with Reading Quest who will help with our struggling readers. Joe Dan Lovato and Zach Chavez hosted the first Donuts with Dads. We wanted to make sure to create an opportunity for fathers to meet and talk. The Academy is working on a new project. They are learning about how people interact with park space and are making plans and making an extensive write-up to create a new playground at TTCS and will go with the lobbyist to the Round house to pitch for capital outlay dollars for this project. Alejandra Rodriguez requests more info on cell phone pouches. Has there been an improvement? So far there has been a small rebellion. Joe Dan Lovato – overall it has been generally accepted. No feedback from teachers, we need more time. No complaints from parents, even though a couple had to pay for new pouches. Distractions are minimized now with phones eliminated. Alejandra Rodriguez comments about students participating in legislation. They will never forget, and those who have done this in the past still remember. Be sure to be very inclusive and communicate very clear structure of who gets to attend. Stephanie Behning – found that just days after starting the pouches, one of the 5th grade groups showed a substitute teacher how it worked. Building these bridges between ES and MS will create better MS students.

D. Committees and Councils (as needed)

- Communications and engagement: Lorenzo Dominguez - There was a meeting where the progress in communications has been discussed. One issue is ensuring equitable engagement for those in the community. We hope to better assess which families would need translation. The PTO is coming back to life and needs more parents.
- Recruitment: Amber Maes – we've had a couple of meetings and have created a spreadsheet of all of the committees to make it easier for parents to see what the committees are and where their interest might lie the most.
- Equity Council: Ruth Center – we had a meeting where nobody showed up. Ruth did go to the PED meeting and we need to do a better job and need many more people to

participate. Equity shouldn't be extra. The Communications committee offers to assist with recruitment.

- Strategic Planning/Expansion: Victoria Schweizer – met twice last month and made a lot of headway which will be coming up later in this meeting.
- HA Evaluation: Sammi Triolo: It is about done, we are consolidating the feedback and will be meeting directly with Chris for the informal interim review and feedback.

V. Policy XXX Parental Leave (first review): Chris Eide Azevedo presents the amendment to the sick leave bank policy to the GC and it is reviewed for the first time. This does provide for an additional parental leave policy, but should help for now. Question from Victoria Schweizer: Asks about paragraph A and makes suggestions for amendments. This policy would bring us above SFPS because we include non-birthing parents. Sammi Triolo expresses concern and requests we continue to look at an actual policy specifically pertaining to parental leave.

Question: Was there discussion of bringing in an insurance solution?

Answer: Yes, this would not be with this policy but on top of this policy.

Question: Is it new to require people contribute to the bank in order to benefit from it?

Answer: Yes

Sammi Triolo and Hannah Mazur request to strike the requirement to contribute.

Question: What would be the max for an adoptive parent?

Answer: needs to be added

Question: Can we afford to do this if we take out the requirement?

Answer: Eventually no

Suggestion: Allowing staff to donate their leave to a specific person.

Response: This already exists in the current policy.

Victoria Schweizer points out that there are three options: this policy, using an outside party, or asking the community to donate to a specific individual.

Alejandra Rodriguez asks why we cannot instill a peer to peer donation policy for leave.

Hannah Mazur suggests: Do not mention names and put out a request anonymously for donors for specific sick bank donation events.

- VI. ***VOTE** - Policy 326 – Transportation (second review). Chris Eide Azevedo explains this policy and the need for the change.
Question: are we required to provide transportation for IEPs?
Answer: Only if the IEP demands it and at times we seek a waiver.
Question: Are we keeping all of the CPR and health docs on file for all of our drivers?
Answer: We do have the docs for the coyote wagon and the other docs are held by Herrera buses.
Request: We should make sure we are holding onto all of them.
Response: It will be done.
Question: What about the CDL clearances? Do we hold them?
Answer: We will get a copy, but we do get assurances that they have them from the company.
Tammie Padilla will work on getting all of those documents on campus.
Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve Policy 326 – Transportation as presented with procedures and documents requested within the policy and seconded by Hannah Mazur. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.
- VII. ***VOTE** – GC Staff Representative Election Process: Chris Eide Azevedo presents the process to the board. Victoria Schweizer is concerned the three methods to nominate do not follow the original policy which states peers only. Discussion ensues.
Request: 2 people and not only the HA tally the votes. Someone from staff not administration.
Concern: Should a principal be allowed to nominate? Discussion ensues.
Sammi Triolo requests reassurance that those coming into the role understand it fully and those voting do too. Motion made by Hannah Mazur to table the vote until edits are made per the board’s request and presented back to the council and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0. Vote tabled.
- VIII. ***Executive Session:**

Closed session pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H)(8) – Acquisition (lease) of real property, TTCS MS Site Pre-Development. Chris Eide Azevedo attending.

Roll Call Vote to enter executive session: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo - Aye. Passed 7 – 0. Session entered at 7:34. Session exited at 7:46pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

- IX. ***VOTE** – MS Site Pre-Development Services Agreement: Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the MS site pre-development services agreement and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur - Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Abstains, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0 with 1 abstains.
- X. ***VOTE** – Land Lease Agreement: Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the land lease and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Abstains, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 0 with 1 abstains.
- XI. **Adjournment of Business Meeting** – Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to adjourn the regular session and seconded by Amber Maes. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Maes – Aye, Hannah Mazur – Aye, Lorenzo Dominguez – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, the Chair, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0. Meeting Adjourned 7:51pm.