

Turquoise Trail Charter School
Governance Council Meeting Minutes
February 22nd, 2021

Members Present: Victoria Schweizer, Sammi Triolo, Matt Pahl, Alejandra Rodriguez, Amber Romero, Wendy Flood (arrives at 5:49pm). Ruth Center (arrives at 5:53pm)

Members Not Present: Floyd Trujillo and Hannah Mazur

Non-voting Members Present: Chris Eide, Christie Berg, Harry Phillips, Miranda Gonzales, Leticia Garcia, Maya Mirabal

Also Present: Francesca Margaritondo, Tammie Padilla, Roberta Cole, Rebekah Runyan, Miriam Baker, Mary Ellen Dannenberg, Zoe Migel, Toeni Tillman, Vanessa Gonzales (arrives at 6:47pm)

I. Call to Order – Open Session 5:44pm. It was determined there was a quorum by Board Secretary Victoria Schweizer. Meeting called to order.

A. Roll Call – Introductions made.

B. *Approval of Agenda: Request to amend the agenda. Add Item V – First read of policies 102, 105, 109, 110, 113, 119, 125, 126. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to add Item V and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Sammi Triolo – Aye, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, the Secretary, Victoria Schweizer – Aye. Motion to add Item, Review of Policies Passed 5 – 0. Request from Floyd to table Item IV until he can bring an alternative plan to the finance committee and the board. Motion made by Matt Pahl to table Item IV and seconded by Amber Romero. Discussion between board members on why this item is on the agenda. Brief explanation from the Secretary. Roll call Vote: Sammi Triolo – Nay, Alejandra Rodriguez – Nay, Matt Pahl – Nay, Amber Romero – Nay, Wendy Flood – Nay, Ruth Center - Abstains, the Secretary, Victoria Schweizer – Nay, not passed 0 – 6 with one abstained.

C. Approval Minutes from Business Meeting:

1. *January 25, 2021 Minutes: Motion made by Sammi Triolo and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the minutes; Roll Call Vote: Sammi Triolo – Aye, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, Ruth Center - Aye, the Secretary, Victoria Schweizer – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

2. ***February 1, 2021 Minutes:** Motion made by Sammi Triolo to approve the minutes and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Sammi Triolo – Aye, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Secretary Victoria Schweizer – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

II. Public Forum: Zoe Migel: asking about returning back to school. Is there something we could do that would support some social engagement? Offering to help with this.

III. ***VOTE – Consent Agenda:**

a) ***BAR’s**

BAR #	Fund Description	Type	Purpose
2021-0041-I	23000-Non Instructional Support	Increase	Increase to reflect additional revenue received for Child care
2021-0043-M	24106-Entitlement IDEA B	2XXX Function Maintenance	Maintenance
2021-0045-M	24301-CAREs Act	1000 Function Maintenance	Maintenance
2021-0046-M	25233-Rural Education Achievement Program	1000 Function Maintenance	Maintenance
2021-0048-M	31900-Ed Technology Equip Act	4000 Function Maintenance	Maintenance
2021-0051-T	24101-Title I ESEA	Transfer	Transfer
2021-0053-T	24301-CAREs Act	Transfer	Transfer
2021-0054-D	11000-Operational	Decrease	Decrease for growth projections not met on 40th day
2021-0055-I	13000-Transportation	Increase	To increase budgeted cash carryover based on actuals as of 06/30/20.
2021-0056-I	14000-Instructional Materials	Increase	

b) ***Checks over 50,000**

1. Check #13968 - \$500,000
2. Check # 13974 - \$87,434

Alejandra Rodriguez explains the consent agenda to the board. Many of the BARs are for maintenance purposes. Making sure expenditures are in the correct categories. Likelihood that the food will run a deficit, but this will be covered. Not as bad as expected. Others are carryovers from previous years. This month is property tax collection bills. The Finance Committee recommends approval of

the consent agenda as presented. There are invoices being paid from some time ago and there will be memorandums explaining why as they come about. Motion made by Ruth Center to approve the consent agenda as presented and seconded by Sammi Triolo. Roll Call Vote: Sammi Triolo – Aye, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Secretary, Victoria Schweizer – Aye. Passed 7 - 0.

IV. *VOTE – Moratorium on Financial Spending and Entering into any

Agreements for Expansion Plan A.: Sammi Triolo explains to the board.

She feels the board needs more time to become clearer on what the plans are before making more expenditures. Sammi Triolo feels they do not need to rush and would like more time to review all possibilities. Matt Pahl – feels revisiting the plan is a very good idea, and this needs to happen fast because facility events can move very quickly. This would help avoid a time crunch and being forced to move. The moratorium is on moving forward on Plan A which is “the Ocate site with portables by fall of 2021”. The strategic planning committee has not met since last September and is not aware of what the current situation is. Alejandra Rodriguez – what we voted on is no longer the situation and we need to define where that line of change should go. Wendy Flood – Is there a timeline for the moratorium? Sammi Triolo – This is not to pause or put anything on hold, just simply asking to stop spending money until we can bring this back to the table. Maybe we could revisit this at the next Business meeting. And also, until it has gone back to the strategic planning committee. Request that there be a presentation at the next business meeting and possibly at the workshop. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to move forward on the Moratorium on financial spending and entering into any agreements for Expansion Plan A, and to bring it back to the table at the next business meeting, seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Sammi Triolo – Aye, Alejandra Rodriguez - Aye, Matt Pahl - Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, the Secretary, Victoria Schweizer - Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

V. First reading of Policies 102, 105, 109, 110, 113, 119, 125, 126: These policies are all referencing Governance Council activities. The board has been working on updating these policies. The new policies are read through.

VI. Updates

A. Head Administrator: Chris Eide – we are at the point of the year where we start looking forward to the next year. The status of our return to in person learning – we are moving forward. We are offering a couple of different pathways for the teachers. We have learned that this is a lot more complicated than just data points. It is emotional and there is baggage involved – mistrust, fear We have gone from 87% not wanting to return at all to 51% willing to consider it which is a large step forward. This is a collaborative effort which it must be.

The lottery is almost up. We have 252 students on our waitlist which is far below our 700 goal. We have our 4th and final open house on this coming Thursday and have advertised in a variety of different ways. Largest demand is Pre K, K and 7th grade.

We are starting to focus on school design. We need a clearer vision as to what success truly is for an 8th graders. We are having several volunteers working across cross-functional teams to work in a design thinking method. We have people who are internal and external.

School Calendar – we’ve just started the dialogue on this. And we might be leaning into discussion of a creative school calendar because more than ever students are going to need more interventions. One example would be a year round calendar which there are many options thinking outside the box.

Proposal for intervention: This does pertain to our expansion plans. The principals have been asked to get an idea of how many students:

- A. Would need extreme intervention or retention
- B. might thrive in a virtual environment.

Different types of intervention might be more appropriate. He is proposing a ‘school within a school’ idea. Presentation.

B. Business Office: Betty Mitchell has left K12 accounting and therefore will no longer be working on TTCS Business Office duties. Miriam Baker will be joining us now and taking over these duties. A budget is about to be prepared. Mainframe has been set up. They will be working with Chris and the finance committee for this. Waiting for the legislative session to end to know what to incorporate into the budget.

Request from Matt Pahl – if we could have some relevant comparison data from other schools so we can see how the mission is driving the finances.

- C. Staff: From Christie Berg - We have opened the window for the mid-year MAP tests which go from today till March 12. The teachers will inform the parents as to the exact dates and times. Istation is held monthly, as usual. We have one PreK class eager to return to school and our Kindergarten classes. We are happy to support the teachers who have chosen to return to classrooms to teach without students being present as well as those who feel comfortable returning with students!

Harry Phillips - PT conferences were Feb 12th and during that time we have been consolidating numbers of parent participation. We have found that we need to retune our GenEd teachers who might be a bit too distant from case managers for SPED. As it is no longer as easy as a walk down the hall, reviews are necessary. We are going to start a tutoring group for students who need help staying up to date with coursework – asynchronous especially. The next open house will be more MS centric since many of the other middle schools have closed their lotteries. Our teams in Future Cities received 5th place and several awards. Today with Wild Friends, students talked to the senate rules committee about outdoor classrooms. They were speaking on House bill 9. They also spoke to a Santa Fe reporter about the Wild Friends and the legislative experience. Was the Tynet training offered to the ES teachers as well? He is not sure, he put it together last minute for the MS teachers.

Miranda Gonzales – there was a very brief training early on in the year. Then it was just brought to teachers' attention again recently that it needs to be reviewed. Teachers are looking forward to parent teacher conferences remaining on Zoom because teachers are much more successful at getting 100% participation from parents. All of the conferences were very positive because all kids are growing even if not at the speed expected. Also finding that social skills have developed at a different level.

Leticia Garcia – There was a lot of hesitation about sending at risk letters over the last few weeks. It was difficult for teachers

considering we are in a pandemic. They did not feel comfortable sending those letters out. Being a not normal school year, this might not have been the best thing to do this time around.

Harry Phillips – it was very hard to be tactful in this environment. However, we are trying to lead in “holding everybody to a higher level of achievement. We don’t want anyone to think this was a ‘throw away’ year. We wanted parents to understand that the student’s results were not to the TTCS high standard of learning. We wanted to let them know that a red flag had gone up and we were not going to give them a pass. We want to support the best results from our students.

Maya Mirabal – ES and MS have sent in their science fair submissions for the virtual fair and are about to go through judging. We are also adding a Science fair at TTCS for those who could not participate in the larger one.

- D. Secretary: Matt Pahl is giving an update on legislature. The Budget did just pass, but details are too new to know everything. Something with teachers’ salaries, and a ‘hold harmless’ for schools that experienced a decrease in students from last year to this year. The next wave of federal funds, part of the stimulus package, is quite large and are true additional funds which ‘will not be touched’ as of now. There is a potential liability that is in the CARES Act funds that provided that all employees would get 2 extra weeks of leave due to COVID 19. However, because everything is remote, schools have not had to dip into this. There is a piece of this going into next year which would give more sick leave days to staff. Should be on the radar for Chris Eide and other school leaders. If a teacher is sick, they should take some time off. There is some oversight wording over a number of different items in the budget which are not normally given oversight in the budget. Senate Bill 51 which gives preference to children of staff members in a charter school is coming up. Public Charter Schools of NM is behind this because it causes a burden on families when they have to juggle multiple schools. This could make Charter Schools more competitive. It just passed the Senate. The facilities Bill 318, sets up the public project revolving fund allowing them to make loans to charter schools for buildings which leaves out negotiations with banks which are mostly

out of state keeping fund more in the education sector. It will start moving fast.

Victoria Schweizer – Bios for the Website please!

VII. Adjournment of Regular Session – Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to adjourn the regular session and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call vote: Sammi Triolo– Aye, Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, R- Aye the Secretary, Victoria Schweizer – Aye. Passed 7 – 0. Adjourned. 7:44pm.