

Turquoise Trail Charter School  
Governance Council Meeting Minutes  
May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Members Present:** Victoria Schweizer, Wendy Flood, Sammi Triolo, Alexandra Rodriguez, Amber Romero, Ruth Center, Matt Pahl.

**Members Not Present:** Hannah Mazur

**Staff Representatives Present:** Chris Eide, Christie Berg, Harry Phillips, MirandaGonzales, Leticia Garcia, Maya Mirabal

**Also Present:** Francesca Margaritondo, Dylan Wilson, Bill Zunkel, Miriam Barker, Dora Perea, Roberta Cole, Rebekah Runyan, Nasiba Turner, Raz Bhandari, Tammie Padilla, Danielle Garcia

- I. **Call to Order – Open Session 5:35pm.** It was determined there was a quorum by Board President, Sammi Triolo. Meeting called to order.
  - A. **Roll Call** – Introductions made.
  - B. **\*Approval of Agenda:** Small Change, minutes are from April and May, not just April. Motion made by Amber Romero to approve the agenda with two amendments and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl - Aye, Ruth Center - Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood - Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.
  - C. **Approval Minutes from Business Meeting:**
    1. **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Business Meeting:** Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the minutes as is and seconded by Amber Romero. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl - Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo - Aye. Passed 7 – 0.
    2. **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Business Meeting**  
Motion made by Amber Romero to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez - Aye, Amber Romero - Aye, Matt Pahl - Abstains, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood - Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo - Aye. Passed 6 – 0 with 1 abstained.
- II. **\*VOTE - Consent Agenda**
  - a) **\*BAR's**

	BAR#	Fund Description	Type	Amount	Purpose
a.	2021-0075-D	24301 – CARES Act	Decrease	\$ (267)	Final Allocation
b.	2021-0076-T	24154 – Teacher/Principal Training & Recruiting	Transfer	\$ -	To Transfer into function 1000
c.	2021-0077-I	24146 – Charter Schools	Transfer	\$ -	To transfer funding into 2XXX function
d.	2021-0078-I	21000 – Food Services	Increase	\$ 45,000	To account for increase in revenue and expenditure
e.	2021-0079-I	23000 – Non-Instructional Support	Increase	\$ 16,950	To adjust budget for increase in child care
f.	2021-0080-T	24301 – CARES Act	Transfer	\$ -	To transfer between functions
g.	2021-0081-I	28144 – Medicaid	Increase	\$ 46,950	To increase revenue based on actuals
h.	2021-0081-I	11000 – Operational	Increase	\$ 29,960	To increase revenue based on fees, donations, etc. received.

b) \*Disbursements – April 2021

c) \*Checks over 50,000 – 1 Santa Fe Public Schools = Check #15089 - \$87,433.

d) Financial Reports

The Board Treasurer explains the consent agenda to the board. No questions nor discussion. Recommendation from the finance committee: do pass as presented. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to approve the consent agenda as is and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez - Aye, Amber Romero - Aye, Matt Pahl - Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer - Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

**III. Public Forum: None.**

**IV. Presentation of Reports:**

a) Head Administrator: Recaps the past year for the Board. Not one incident of COVID spread on our campus thanks to dramatic overplanning. Using the PED guidelines and going above and beyond. School design work was launched this year. We are a finalist for 2 grants. We are launching a school within a school, the Academy of Extraordinary Events which is now being duplicated by other schools.. We have gained renewal of our lease and launched a successful PodCast. As a result of listening to our educators, we are bringing on a director of academics,

who will also be a dedicated administrator for our Academy. We've named two of our educators as instructional coaches this year. It has been a memorable, successful year. As we finish, we are in a similar place as last year.

One week ago, I received notice that the New Mexico Labor Relations Board was in receipt of a petition to attempt to unionize Turquoise Trail Charter School again. This was the first that I had heard of the real potential to take up this effort again, as no one had approached me to discuss issues at school that would otherwise precipitate such a dramatic action. Because of the structures that we set up over the course of the year to facilitate conversation and collaborative problem solving, I believed that if there were issues that needed to be addressed, there were more than enough opportunities to do so. For me, this came out of the blue, and I still do not understand the actual issues or reasoning for taking this action. In fact, the faculty survey data showed an 11-point increase on the questions: "When the school makes important decisions, how much input do staff have?" as well as "For your school leaders, how important is staff satisfaction?" Only about 20% of respondents responded negatively to each of those questions, so I believed that we were making progress.

Last year, I asked the faculty and staff to give me and us a year to begin to solve challenges together and not have an outside organization attempt to do so. We had several challenges this year, as would be expected during a year such as this, but we addressed our challenges through Leadership Committee, through individual conversations, through comment at GC meetings, through faculty and community surveys, and we arrived at solutions that I believe were truly representative, such as the school calendar for the upcoming year. When the faculty requested pay for additional days of PD, we made changes to the budget and found it. When the faculty and staff voiced discomfort with returning to the building, we took a phased approach, taking into account every single educator's personal feelings and beliefs. We did not force people to come to school, unlike in surrounding districts and schools. We engaged and listened to teachers with regard to structuring student schedules and plans. We conducted surveys of faculty and

staff throughout the year and have been transparent about the results and action steps. We funded two teacher leadership fellowships that were stipended. Twice during the year, I met with each teacher and EA individually to hear concerns and what is working. From February, I convened over 20 volunteer members of the faculty and staff to engage in human centered design regarding the reshaping of our schools.

From the moment I began interacting with the school community here, I heard that teachers needed to be listened to and collaborated with, so I set up structures that would make TTCS the most collaborative school that I had ever seen or heard of. I challenge anyone in our school community to find another school as collaborative as us. If anything, we have been too collaborative, as I have received comments and requests for “top down” leadership.

Unionizing the schools would cost the school and the faculty and staff money and would diminish our ability to work together, instead allowing a union representative to be the voice for faculty and staff. As a person who has spent a decade working to further teacher leadership and teacher voice, I believe that unionizing would limit that work at TTCS. In addition, every year and in every state that I worked in, teachers unions worked against charter schools. In New Mexico just a few years ago, they promoted legislation that both limited the number of charter schools in New Mexico and would have put a moratorium on new charter schools here.

In short, we are an intensely collaborative organization, especially compared to all other schools. Our survey data show that faculty and staff are feeling more and more valued and heard, and faculty and staff are facing the decision around whether to fund an enemy of charter schools to upend all of that. My personal opinion is that this is not a good decision for us and I hope that our faculty and staff agree. This is no way to end what has otherwise been a memorable year. Turquoise Trail is an incredibly important place

for New Mexico and even the country in this time. The Board President thanks him for his words and acknowledges the passion that is heard in them. Also thanks him for everything he has done over this very difficult year.

b) Business Office: Rebekah Runyan finalizing different forms for PED for the final budget and the awards for next school year. Working on closing the current year and setting up the new year.

c) Principals/Teacher Reps Reports: Harry Phillips – Supports Chris Eide and his leadership, intentions and efforts. Feels the school is always stronger as a single team. Several teachers finished the Ed Connective program. Mr. Phillips recognizes each by name. Testing for Middle School is largely complete. Many of the students are ready to be promoted and data will help support students who need it. Final grades are due this Friday. The Demonstration of Mastery is well on its way of being 100% complete. The newer students are finding this to be a bit more of a challenge, but are catching on. In person students are touching up murals and are using a \$500 gift to build outdoor classrooms to be tested. Looking for funding for permanent outdoor classrooms. Two weeks ago, teachers were encouraged to come back on campus and this has been a largely positive experience for the children. They are asking for support and participating more in class. Middle School promotion meeting just happened and the ceremony will be on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Motorama. Next year's middle school schedule has already been started. Looking at a block schedule.

Christie Berg: The discipline issues in ES are heating up, due to coming back to in person and redirection is being well received. Looking forward to the end of the year, but there is still a lot to do.

Leticia Garcia – testing is finishing up. Excited about the specials teachers doing an end of year activity for each cohort. They will have a field day experience.

Maya Mirabal – Middle School is happy to have some normalcy. They are happy to be in class with the teachers and able to reach them more directly. Looking at block schedules for next year. Nod to Harry Phillips for getting students taken care of

and covering everything. Something normal is awesome.

- d) Marketing Committee: None
- e) Recruitment and Volunteer Committee: None
- f) GC Executive Team: From the secretary: the strategic planning meets many times a week about school expansion.

From the president: GC survey has been completed. Retreat coming up soon and dates being looked at for this. Annual goals will be reviewed from last year and set for next year. In the policies, the GC has voted to formally move to use Robert's Rules as their operating procedure. Requests the board finishes their training online as soon as possible. The president is reaching out to everybody on the committee as the new person in this position.

**V. \*VOTE – Title III Application:** Chris Eide explains the application and it is shown to the board as well as shared in the packet. Gives some details on which purchases are being made and why. Rebekah Runyan: we are in consortium agreement with Monte Del Sol. Motion made by Matt Pahl to approve the application as presented and seconded by Alejandra Rodriguez. Roll call vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl - Aye, Ruth Center - Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

**VI. \*VOTE – Paid holidays for the 2021-22 school year (for 12-month employees):** Chris Eide explains what these are and how they are chosen. Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to approve the dates as presented and seconded by Amber Romero. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero - Aye, Matt Pahl - Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo - Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

**VII. \* VOTE – Policy 267.** The draft has not been edited from the last reading. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to approve the policy as presented and seconded by Ruth Center. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Nay, Ruth Center – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 1.

**VIII. \*Open Meetings Act Resolution:** The board president and secretary explain the need for this resolution and what updates were. Motion

made by Amber Romero to approve the open meetings act resolution with recommended changes and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer - Aye, Wendy Flood - Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo - Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

**IX. \*VOTE-2021-2022 Budget:** Chris Eide briefly goes over the budget. Maya Mirabal – Pay increase looks like the 1.5% not the 5.1%. Rebekah Runyan explains why it looks like this and shows how it does include the entire 5.1% pay increase. Ruth Center – is there enough for computer and tech updates? Rebekah Runyan – yes with ED Tech and ESSER II, CARRISSA funds there is enough. Matt Pahl – comments on page 15, the money there is to find the permanent home for the Middle School should the board be asked about it. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to conditionally approve the budget pending final approval by PED and potential budget changes from the PED and seconded by Victoria Schweizer. Toll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Nay, Matt Pahl - Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood - Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 6 – 1.

**X. \*VOTE-TTCS GC Vice President:** Wendy Flood – the recruitment committee collected nominations. Victoria Schweizer received 5 nominations and Hannah Mazur received 1, but has declined the nomination. Victoria Schweizer speaks to the board. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to vote for Victoria Schweizer as Vice President and seconded by Amber Romero. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo - Aye. Passed 6 – 0. New Vice President is now Victoria Schweizer.

#### **XI. Executive Session**

**A.** Closed Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H)(8) -Acquisition (lease) of real property; TTCS MS Site Expansion Proposal.

Motion made by Victoria Schweizer to enter Executive Session inviting Chris Eide into the meeting and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez - Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. passed 7 – 0. Executive Session entered at 7:05pm. Motion made by Alejandra Rodriguez to exit executive session and seconded by Victoria

Schweizer. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez - Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. passed 7 – 0. Executive Session exited at 7:27pm. No actions were taken during executive session.

**XII. \*VOTE** - TTCS support for Foundation to acquire property for Middle School Site expansion. Motion made by to Alejandra Rodriguez for TTCS to support the foundation and seconded by Amber Romero. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0.

**XIII. Adjournment of Regular Session** – Motion made Alejandra Rodriguez by to adjourn the regular session and seconded by Matt Pahl. Roll Call Vote: Alejandra Rodriguez – Aye, Amber Romero – Aye, Matt Pahl – Aye, Ruth Center – Aye, Victoria Schweizer – Aye, Wendy Flood – Aye, the President, Sammi Triolo – Aye. Passed 7 – 0. Meeting Adjourned 7:33pm.