

TRCS Board Meeting Minutes
Board Retreat, August 15, 2022

Members Present: Melissa Thomas, April Flanders, Cacey Wells, Connie Root, Helen Phillips, Carole Greene, Twila Wingrove, Tara Stollenmaier (present for second half)

Non-Voting Members Present: Natalie Oransky (Director)

Absent: Dawn Shumate

Retreat called to order by Melissa Thomas. Meeting began with introductions of new and returning members.

Natalie presented background information on restorative justice, and the school's partnership with Triad Restorative Justice. Adopting a restorative justice framework is a "paradigm shift" at the school. There are three goals:

1. Nurture healthy relationships in school
2. Create just and equitable learning environment
3. Repair harm and transform conflict

The first two were focused on last year, and the third goal will be the primary focus for this year's work.

Natalie introduced the practice of restorative justice circles. Using a circle, the Board members discussed what skills and values we bring to our work as Board members at Two Rivers.

Missy reviewed Board member expectations, including board responsibilities and expectations regarding communication.

Missy presented results of the parent feedback survey that were related to Board:

- most parents reported no contact with BOD
- over half indicated they agreed we were engaged in effective leadership; a very small percentage "disagreed"

Natalie requested that the evaluation of her position be broadened to acknowledge the range of responsibilities that the Director has. Under the current process, many of those responsibilities do not get discussed or considered.

ACTION: MELISSA THOMAS MOVED TO ELECT EXECUTIVE OFFICE MEMBERS FOR THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR. APRIL FLANDERS SECONDED.

- Chair: April Flanders nominated Missy as Chair. Connie seconded. 6 yes-1 abstention.
- Vice-Chair: Discussed. Decided to move vote to next meeting.
- Treasurer: Missy nominated Cacey. Connie seconded. 6 yes-1 abstention.

- Secretary: Twila volunteered, Missy nominated her, April seconded. 6 yes, 1 abstention.

Otter Dash

Carole is leading the organization of a 5K and fun run community event, called the Otter Dash. It will be held on May 27th, 2023 at the Greenway.

Fundraising

April updated the Board on fundraising efforts:

- Wine-tasting and a raffle: Vidalia will host this fundraiser on September 14.
- T-Shirt: April has redesigned the shirt and connected with a local screen printer. Order requests will go out soon.
- April and Helen plan to work together to begin discussing real estate options for the school

Missy added that the annual fundraising letter will go out next month. And that she'd like the Board to develop 1 or 2 new events this year with the plan to execute them next year.

Donor Software

Missy led a discussion about Bloomerang, which gave the Board a demo last July. The software can help the school move toward better tracking of donors and fundraising efforts. Most of the discussion centered on whether the school was ready to make this step at this time. Missy gathered questions from Board members. She will reach out to Bloomerang with these questions and present the additional information and the next Board meeting. The Board will vote at that time.

Missy introduced committees and membership was discussed:

- Fundraising/Strategic Planning/Marketing: April will chair; Tara, Connie, Helen will be members
- Buildings & Grounds: membership is still being formed
- Policy: Twila will chair, Missy will be a member
- HR: Cacey and Missy will be members
- Academic Standards: Connie and Cacey will be members

Missy reviewed the Board's strategic goals for the year:

- Develop high to mid-level plan for obtaining land and building permanent structure
- Create sustainable plans for 'passing torch' to new chair annually
- Approve TRCS policies packet and develop schedule for review
- Determine which committees will be needed each year and recruit members
- Charter renewal—determine when it is due and plan for tasks as necessary