

February 2024 TRCS BOD Meeting Minutes

Call to Order - 5:34p

Members Present - Carole Greene, Dawn Shumate, Twila Wingrove, Cacey Wells, Amy Gardner. Helen Philips

Staff Present - Natalie Oransky, Sam Mauney, Kaitlin Cagle

- Mission Statement - read aloud by Cacey Wells
- Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve by Cacey Seconded by Amy; unanimous approval 5-0
- Approval of Minutes -
 - January meeting minutes - Motion to approve by Amy; Seconded by Cacey- approved 4-0; 1 abstention
- Conflict of Interest - none
- Public Comment - Parent - Angela Brooks-Livingston

To the Two Rivers Community School Board of Directors,
My name is Angela, I am a parent of a 1st grader and a licensed therapist. The subject of this comment is SB 49, the "Don't say gay or trans" bill that went into law in August 2023. As a parent and a therapist, this law is very concerning to me for several reasons. It puts unrealistic expectations on already overwhelmed school systems. It reduces autonomy for educators in individual schools and classrooms. It specifically targets a vulnerable student population, our LGBTQGEIAP+ students. From the last information I received from Equality NC and the Campaign for Southern Equality, implementation of SB49 was to happen in January 2024. Schools across the state are trying to figure out what this means for their individual schools and school districts. Some schools are overtly resisting this legislation and some are following it to the letter. The Campaign for Southern Equality has filed a federal Title IX complaint against NC Board of Education. SB 49 also instructs school counselors to violate their code of ethics in regards to confidentiality. I urge the Board of Directors to think critically about this law, and resist its implementation. With the tragic death of Nex Benedict, I'm sure students are worried and need to know they are safe, loved, and supported. This is an opportunity for Two Rivers to make an unequivocal statement about support for LGBTQGEIAP+ students. I am happy to collaborate, provide consultation, be involved in any way that would be helpful. Below are resources if needed.

<https://equalitync.notion.site/2024-Equality-NC-Education-Resources-f5b2bdca5bf34c1289afc671d1205608>
www.southernequality.org/sb49

- Governance Process - GP-6: Code of Conduct
 - Motion to reaffirm by Twila; Seconded by Cacey; unanimous approval 5-0

Staff Representative Reports

- Preparing for "Parent/teacher conferences?"
- Professional development; teachers strategizing on new ways of presenting exhibitions
- Staff have requested needs for grounds upkeep for the adventure playground; need to get community involved
- Short on substitute teachers

Executive Reports

- Chair
 - Annual Director review - Parent surveys and staff surveys have been sent out
 - Winter party update for new kindergarteners recruitment
 - Charter Renewal Site Visit is scheduled for April 24th at 12:30p
 - Boonerang - kid zone booth presence request for temp tattoos - June 16th
 - 20th anniversary planning committee interest
- Secretary
 - Board newsletter submission
- PTO Chair(s)
 - Peace feast moved due to conflict of scheduling - March 9th 4-7pm at Blowing Rock Legion Building
 - March t-shirt sales - school wide - more details coming soon
 - Working on May teacher appreciation
 - Parks and Rec change of director causing conflict; working this out
 - Farm Cafe volunteer opportunity for families during the summer
- Director
 - Arranging parent groups for site visit
 - Enrollment and Marketing - party attendance - 5 kids in morning and 5 in afternoon - nice chance to chat with parents
 - Mini posters to preschools for open houses - invitation to apply online
 - 16 families signed up for open house - 8 applications received so far with 7 guaranteed kinder siblings
 - Marketing - billboard, ads in the paper, no available prime back of the bus ads
 - SB-40 - Parent's Bill Of Rights NC Bill - lots of debate and challenging going on
 - Accounting change for Natalie - more secure payroll process with Acadia
 - CRDC - Data Collection of very detailed school information for state - completed
 - Substitutes - still a problem in finding available and qualified teachers
 - Hired another after-school staff
 - Grounds cleanup before open houses - weather an issue
 - Budget update -
 - Budget Priorities handout and discussion
 - Budget Report (condensed) handout
 - Budget Adjustments - request for authorization - handout

Current Business

- 2024-2025 Budget
 - Budget Priorities handout and discussion
 - Raises for staff - discussion
 - Natalie will bring next years budget projections including potential deficits examples to next months meeting
- Calendar discussion for 2024-2025
 - Motion to approve as presented with amended changes Carole; Cacey seconded; 6-0 unanimously approved
- Title I funding application
 - Carole motions to authorize Natalie to contract with Acadia to write the IDE and Title I Grants; Cacey seconded; 6-0 unanimously approved

- Next meeting: March 25, 2024
 - Cindy, Rachael, and Natalie will have a mini-retreat to write the code of conduct policy

Adjourn - 7:26p

Carole motions to adjourn and move to executive session; amy seconded; 6-0 unanimous

Executive Session - motion to adjourn 7:40pm