

TMCS Board Minutes
January 29, 2019

The January 29, 2019, 6:30pm meeting held via teleconference was called to order at 6:33 by Tanya Blackford.

Attending board members were Tanya Blackford, Aimie Burns, Jeannette Butterworth, Emily Cowan, Erin Hill, Tricia King, Ann Lentini, Rick Prudhomme, Rebecca Schwartz, Eric Thomas, Brad Ward

Attending staff members were Denise Pesce and Noelle McKay

The meeting agenda was approved; motion made by Rebecca Schwartz seconded by Jeannette Butterworth. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

The December 4, 2019 meeting minutes were approved; motion made by Erin Hill, seconded by Rick Prudhomme. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Principal Report: Denise Pesce

Admission Policy and Lottery Procedure

Updates to the Admission Policy and Lottery Procedure have been presented to the Board of Directors. TMCS will be using Lotteries, an on-line company who will conduct the lottery process live and on-line. They manage the lotteries of about 50 other charter schools. The TMCS website directs interested families to the Lotteries website to register. The school will be able to send communications to registered families. The drawing will be held on Facebook live.

A motion was made to approve the changes to the Admission Policy and Lottery Procedure as presented to the Board of Directors by Rick Prudhomme and seconded by Eric Thomas. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Employee Grievance Procedures

The Employee Grievance Procedures included in The Mountain Community School Policies and Procedures was updated to include the language “in a timely manner”, regarding the timeframe in which the Board of Directors will need to respond to a grievance.

A motion was made to approve the changes to the Employee Grievances Procedures as presented to the Board of Directors by Rebecca Schwartz and seconded by Brad Ward. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Parent Grievance Procedures

The Parent Grievance Procedures was presented to the Board of Directors. Language has been included to address the timeframe of appeals and dispute resolutions for students in the Exceptional Children Program.

A motion was made to approve the Parent Grievance Procedures including language that “The appeal must be addressed to the president of the Board of Directors, and will be addressed by the entire Board, or a committee appointed by the Board of Directors in a closed session meeting with all involved parties, in a time manner” by Emily Cowan and seconded by Tricia King. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Budget

December budget reports were presented currently showing a surplus Of \$71,000 with a surplus of \$47,000 expected at year-end.

Motion made to approve the financial report from 12/1/2018 – 12/31/2018 by Jeannette Butterworth and seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Charter Renewal

TMCS has been recommended for a 10 year charter renewal. The State Board of Education will review it in February with a vote for approval anticipated in March.

Audit Compliance

The State has completed and approved the audit with one finding. The schools theft and burglary policy was required to be valued at \$250,000 but instead, last year, had been valued at \$25,000. This was likely a clerical error. The insurance policy has been increased and rectified with the insurance company. The audit is available to any Board member for review.

Personnel/Management

Barbie Britton has been hired for the AIG vacancy. Barbie hold a regular education certification as well as an AIG certification from Texas. She has been hired to provide AIG instruction at TMCS for 3rd through 8th grade beginning in February 2019.

School Expansion

USDA Rural Development has been closed during the government shutdown and during that time loan processing was discontinued.

Pam Hysong returned to work earlier this week and reached out to TMCS. She is reviewing our Environmental Assessment and will send it to the state Environmental Coordinator when completed. Once she has finished underwriting the loan she will send it to the state office.

TMCS has communicated with the architects to let them know about the delay and that we will wait until the loan is obligated to continue to pursue work on the plans. We do not expect any more invoices for architectural services until work resumes.

A Cost Estimator was recommended by the architects to better define costs associated with the project. By identifying the costs in advance we can make cost-saving design changes early in the process. The estimated cost for and estimate is \$5000-\$7000.

The Board will be consulted before a decision is made to contract with any entity regarding the Cost Estimate process. The Board, however, will not require approval for the use of funds for the purposes of using a Cost Estimator.

Development Committee

Discovery Park

Students and professors from the landscape design studio with NC State University visited the site and held community charrettes this past Saturday, January 26. The studio has already begun working on plans. A report based on the compiled information will be provided next week.

TMCS submitted a Letter of Intent to the Glass Foundation for \$50,000 for Discovery Park. The Glass Foundation approved TMCS for submission of a full application which is due December 15, 2018.

GNAR

Noelle requested updates on GNAR sponsorships. The first GNAR committee meeting will be held February 13 at 3:00pm.

Board Members

Cecily Timmons's letter of resignation was presented to the board.

Tamara Lee's application for board membership was presented to the Board. She is community volunteer, lawyer, and has board experience. She has a son who will be entering Kindergarten next year and she is excited about the expansion.

A motion was made to approve Tamara Lee to the Board of Directors by Erin Hill and seconded by Tricia King. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Denise will set up orientation with Tamara. The board intends to actively seek additional members to accommodate the increased work load during the expansion period.

With no further business, public comments, or board observations Erin Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeannette Butterworth. The meeting was adjourned 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.