

TMCS Board Minutes
March 26, 2019

The March 26, 2019, 6:30pm meeting held at TMCS 613 Glover St, Hendersonville, NC was called to order at 6:34 by Tanya Blackford.

Attending board members were Tanya Blackford, Aimie Burns, Jeannette Butterworth, Cathy Chet, Tricia King, Tamara Lee, Ann Lentini, Rick Prudhomme, Rebecca Schwartz, Brad Ward

Attending staff members were Denise Pesce , Brad Hallmark, and Noelle McKay

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

The January 29, 2019 meeting minutes were approved; motion made by Rebecca Schwartz, seconded by Rick Prudhomme. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Principal Report: Denise Pesce

Budget

Denise is meeting with Acadia Northstar to finalize the 2019/2020 annual budget. We are anticipating an increase in costs associated with providing health insurance and retirement benefits, leaving only a \$15,000 surplus. Because the budget will be very tight, Denise wants to confer with Acadia on the details. The 2019/2020 budget will be revisited at the April 2019 board meeting.

The February 2019 budget was presented to the board. TMCS currently shows a \$65,719.83 budget net surplus.

Motion made to approve the February 2019 budget as presented by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Brad Ward. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

EOG Re-test Policy

TMCS received our 10 year charter renewal but was asked to meet in in Raleigh with the Charter Advisory Board to discuss why TMCS's EOG scores were not equal to or greater than Henderson County EOG scores in certain areas. As a result, the school is revisiting the school's EOG testing policy.

The EOG scores that were in question by the Charter Advisory Board occurred during a year when TMCS did not offer retesting. In other years when TMCS has offered retesting a large percentage of students who chose to participate passed and the schools scores were comparable if not better than Henderson County's results. If students improve their EOG scores during retesting the improvement will be reflected in the school's overall grade but not in our growth measurement.

Currently, Henderson County students who are retested for the EOG attend two weeks of summer school prior to retesting. Any policy created by TMCS will be required to include remediation prior to retesting.

The TMCS EOG retesting policy will offer, but not require, retesting for students who made a 2 on their verbal and/or math tests. Students who receive a 1 on their EOGs will not be offered a retest unless a parent requests a retake or if teachers feel the student has the ability to improve from a 1 to a 3. During the summer TMCS will offer a ½ day of instruction and ½ day of test taking strategies. On the third day students may retake the EOG.

Motion made to approve the TMCS EOG retesting policy as presented by Rick Prudhomme, seconded by Rebecca Schwartz. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

NC State redefinition EC criteria

NC is in the process of changing the eligibility requirements for identifying children with learning disabilities. The state is moving from a discrepancy model (the difference between intellectual scores and cognitive scores) to a RTI (Response to Intervention) Model. In the RTI model a child must first not respond positively to two interventions before they are identified with a disability. This model, which will be implemented during 2020/2021 school year, will require MTSS training for the teachers.

The TMCS EC department feels the RTI model is a better system and one in which the school has already made significant steps to pursuing. TMCS's process for identifying EC students and developing IEPs already follows a tiered process and emphasizes instructional inclusion. In the RTM model eighty percent of students are expected to have their needs met by the school's core curriculum. Currently in the state of NC, every student with an IEP receives the same level of funding regardless of the nature of their disability.

Open Enrollment

The school currently has 152 applicants registered for the 2019/2020 enrollment lottery. Demand has increased from 2018, when the school received a total of 145 applications for enrollment.

Personnel/Management

TMCS has hired Barbie Britton as the new AIG teacher. She works in the school two days a week. She comes to us with terrific references and we are excited to have her.

Michelle Dickenson the Kindergarten teacher is retiring at the end of the school year. Denise will be posting for the Kindergarten position.

School Calendar

The school calendar was presented to the board. A correction was made moving the Thanksgiving break from Nov. 21-22 to Nov. 27-29.

The 2019/2020 school calendar has 1107.5 instructional hours built in, the state requires only 1025 hours. The surplus 82.5 hours may be used as embedded snow days.

A motion to approve the 2019/2020 calendar with changes to the Thanksgiving break was made by Rebecca Schwartz, seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

School Expansion

We are still waiting to hear from Pam Hysong on the status of our USDA Community Facilities loan application.

Development Committee

Annual Campaign – the spring direct mail was sent over break. The school will hold the carrot campaign again this year. We are encouraging 100% school participation with the goal of raising \$25,000.

GNAR – the GNAR has 14 sponsors this year for a total sponsor donation of \$11,500. We will be needing many volunteers for the event and we encourage everyone to donate their time and to register teams early to ensure their spot.

Some promotion is done through the school but the event is also promoted more widely through eblasts which are sent out by Daphne Kirkwood to past GNAR participants and participants from other races in her database.

Discovery Park

NC State landscape studio students presented their results to a TMCS group on March 6. Their presentations were very impressive and thoughtful. They put special thought and research into including plants that are native to our area and require less maintenance. They are still finalizing some of their designs and estimates.

When the designs and estimates are completed Tricia King will begin developing a master plan that incorporates all the individual student plans. The committee will also work on scaling the project size and cost and developing areas that will be prioritized for development.

Tricia met with Jim Perry to begin looking at what will be necessary for grading and site prep.

With no further business, public comments, or board observations Jeannette Butterworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.