

TMCS Board Minutes
July 23, 2019

The July 23, 2019, 5:30 pm meeting held at TMCS 613 Glover St, Hendersonville, NC was called to order at 5:37pm by Tanya Blackford.

Attending board members were Tanya Blackford, Jeannette Butterworth, Cathy Chet, Emily Cowan, Erin Hill, Tricia King, Tamara Lee, Rick Prudhomme, Rebecca Schwartz, Brad Ward.

Attending staff members were Denise Pesce and Noelle McKay.

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

Jeannette suggested the May 7, 2019 minutes be amended to include, "Board agreed to review current financial reports at the next board meeting." The May 7, 2019 meeting minutes were approved with changes; motion made by Rebecca Schwartz, seconded by Erin Hill. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Principal Report: Denise Pesce

Budget

Denise presented the preliminary budget report for the end of fiscal year 2019. Accounts have been closed but the budget report will be reviewed by the auditor in October. TMCS is expecting an approximate \$39,000 budget surplus.

Motion made to approve the June 2019 budget as presented by Tamara Lee, seconded by Rebecca Schwartz. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

No budget information has been provided yet from the state of North Carolina because legislators have not finalized their budgets. Allotments and the teacher's pay scale will be available once their budget is confirmed.

TMCS has a new account representative with Acadia Northstar. Denise met with Robin Millete with Acadia and requested current updates be available for monthly board reviews. Robin has been very responsive to request for updated reports.

Enrollment

As of the first day of school TMCS had 200 students enrolled; maximum enrollment for the school is 201.

Two weeks prior to the start of the new school year only 16 kids were enrolled in 6th grade. Lori made calls to families to fill empty slots. Final enrollment for middle school was as follows: 6th grade – 18 students, 7th grade – 27 students, 8th grade -20 students.

Denise felt the new lottery system affected their ability to fill slots. Using the new lottery system families had a narrow window of time (4 days – 48 hours depending on the timing) to respond if their name came up to fill a vacant position. We are not sure who received messages or if messages were received regarding vacancies. The personal one-on-one connection Lori has made in past years has been beneficial to keeping families engaged. TMCS is very pleased with the on-line lottery system during the actual selection process and will continue to use it for upcoming enrollment, but will disengage the system after the selection is made and follow up with families and the wait list independently.

Discussion followed on why there was a drop in 6th grade enrollment, what draws people to our middle school program, and how we market middle school to the community. The board agreed to table the discussion until the September board meeting.

Criminal Background Checks

Denise connected with Henderson County schools to learn about their screening process. Henderson County completes a monthly screening on all their employees. The company Henderson County uses can complete a screening in less than 5 hours and is less expensive than the company currently used by TMCS. Denise is going to look into using the same company as Henderson County Public Schools.

A motion was made to complete an annual criminal background check on staff, board and key volunteers by Rick Prudhomme, seconded by Erin Hill. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on whether TMCS should complete screenings more often on a monthly or possibly quarterly basis. Denise had some concerns regarding cost and time requirements for administration. In order to evaluate our scope of risk versus cost and practicality, Denise will reconnect with Henderson County to learn more details about the monthly report costs and processes. The board will revisit the discussion in August following Denise's update.

Policies

Denise provided copies of the following policies to board members for their signature: Confidentiality Agreement, Board Code of Conduct – Conflict of Interest and Nepotism Policy, Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy.

Personnel/Management

TMCS staff completed a two day training on Trauma Resiliency. Staff learned about how trauma affects students both emotionally and socially. Trainers will be working with teachers and kids in the classroom during the year. A parent session on the topic will also be offered.

Board Development

Eric Thomas resigned from the TMCS board. He accepted a new position and will have difficulty making meetings.

A board training workshop is being planned for the future.

Jeannette Butterworth was approved to be part of the Charter School Advisory Board that governs all the charter schools in NC.

School Calendar

The TMCS pool party will be held at the Elks Lodge, Friday July 2th from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

The United Way Day of Action will be held at the school August 16th. An email was sent to the school community requesting volunteers.

School Expansion

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

With no further business, public comments, or board observations Rick Prudhomme made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeannette Butterworth. The meeting was adjourned 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.