

TMCS Board Minutes
October 22, 2019

The October 22, 2019, 6:30 pm meeting held at TMCS 613 Glover St, Hendersonville, NC was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jeannette Butterworth.

Attending board members were Tanya Blackford, Aimie Burns, Jeannette Butterworth, Cathy Chet, Emily Cowan, Tricia King, Tamara Lee, Ann Lentini, Brad Ward.

Attending staff members were Brad Hallmark, David Hart, Noelle McKay, Denise Pesce.

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

Changes to the September 17 board meeting minutes include changing the call to order to 5:45 pm and adding the following statement, "The formal board meeting concluded at 6:05pm. The board continued to participate in a board retreat led by Tom Hiller which adjourned at 9:02pm."

The September 17, 2019 meeting minutes with changes were approved; motion made by Brad Ward, seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Board Discussion: Middle School Retention Ideas

The Middle School retention issues experienced during this past school year were a greater issue than they have been in the past.

Denise feels the main issue this past year was with the lottery. Every year TMCS loses a few kids to the 6th grades at other schools. But because of the way the lottery was set up, families on the waitlist had an extremely short period of time to respond to an opening before they were removed from the list entirely. As a remedy, enrollment began earlier this year and Lori Cairnes will be connecting with families early in the process so they can remain involved on a personal level.

Middle school staff are also continually discussing enrollment and how they can promote the middle school to the community.

Denise will check with other schools regarding their middle school retention rates, but she thinks TMCS likely loses fewer students than the average charter school.

Some board members asked if there weren't some things that could be improved on such as AIG, academic challenges, sports, and band. There was acknowledgement that some students are lost each year to French Broad River Academy but TMCS is not in a position to compete with this school. In order to challenge students, English I might be able to be offered in the future.

Discussion also took place about marketing what we do well. Elementary students and parents are not as aware of all the Middle School activities including field trips, sports, and learning opportunities as they could be.

Next steps include having the Middle School staff to meet with Denise Pesce and Noelle McKay to put together a marketing plan.

Principal Report: Denise Pesce

Expansion

Our loan is still processing with Pam Hysong at the local USDA office. We are waiting to hear from her. Denise has reached out several times without a response.

Discovery Park

The grass behind the school is beginning to come up from the hydro-seeding. We will be getting together volunteer groups to assist with site work in the future. Noelle and Tricia explained that Phase I, which included the site work, fence, embankment slide, and boulder scramble have absorbed the Glass Foundation Grant in its entirety.

Phase II will include development of the path, Phase III the playground equipment and nodes, Phase IV additional nodes, Phase V the pavilion addition. All these phases will require fundraising.

Budget

The budget is currently showing a surplus of \$60,928, but final budgets have still not been approved by the state of North Carolina. A question was asked about the amount of money spent under "Instructional Supplies-016", Denise explained these funds were expended at the beginning of the year for chrome books.

Motion made to approve the September 2019 budget report as presented by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Tricia King. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting Scheduling

A suggestion was made to move board meetings from 6:30 pm to 6:00pm. All board members in attendance were comfortable with the new time frame.

Resource Development

Board members were asked to sign up for sponsorship asks for the 2020 GNAR. Board members will be emailed sponsorship information and forms.

With no further business, public comments, or board observations Brad Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ann Lentini. The meeting was adjourned 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.