

TMCS Board Minutes
April 28, 2020

The April 28, 2020, 6:00 pm meeting held via a Zoom conference call was called to order at 6:10 pm by Tanya Blackford.

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

Attending staff members were Denise Pesce, 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 March 24, 2020 meeting minutes were approved; motion made by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Tamara Lee. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Principal's Report: Denise Pesce

Budget

Proposed 20/21 Annual Budget:

Acadia recommends TMCS prepare for possible shortfalls for next year. In similar years with tight budgets or economic recessions, the state has decreased the salary schedule, so precedent does exist. Even if TMCS reopens in July, the allotment isn't usually determined until August or September.

TMCS is also unsure how the state is going to calculate the ADM (Average Daily Membership) which is based on attendance for the first 20 days of the year. If some parents feel uncomfortable sending students back at the beginning of the school year because of the virus, the revenue for the annual budget may be negatively impacted. Hopefully the state will recognize children who are enrolled and participating in remote learning but are not present in the classroom.

Denise said in a recent telephone conference a NC State Representative who is part of the Education Task Force said they do not want to cut into the education budget but the state is already experiencing a \$450 million budget shortfall and they do not know at this time what to expect.

TMCS staff raises have been left out of the budget for the time being because of these unknowns. After the allotment amounts are released, the board can revisit staff raises with the option of offering them retroactively.

AIG is included in the budget. The state caps the AIG program at \$10,000. The budget does not have any significant programmatic cuts.

A motion was made to approve the 2020/2021 TMCS Annual Budget by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Brad Ward. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

March 2020 Budget Report:

The March budget shows a \$50,000 surplus but we expect to lose revenue this year since our fundraising potential is limited. Money is being returned from cancellation of the GNAR and \$9600 has been raised by the capital campaign.

TMCS did receive \$6000 from the state to cover a portion of the extra licensing and remote learning costs.

A motion was made to approve the March 2020 budget as presented by Tricia King, seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Attendance Issues

Any child who is currently enrolled in school is acceptable and attendance has not been taken in the last 6 weeks, per state requirements. Even though attendance is not required, TMCS is trying to stay in contact with all the kids even if they are choosing not to be actively involved in the schools remote learning curriculum.

TMCS is concerned about one particular student that they have not been able to connect with. Multiple efforts to reach out to the family and child have been unsuccessful and the child has not had a presence on social media.

Henderson County Public Schools has filed DSS reports when they have been unable to reach children. Denise plans to reach out to the family again but will follow up with a Health and Wellness check if they do not respond. A board member recommended a Health and Wellness Check since law enforcement is still going out to people's homes and DSS has greater limitations regarding in-person services.

Teachers do not feel most of the issues associated with remote learning have to do with wifi availability. The greater challenge is having parents available for children's lessons.

Every family that requested a chrome book from the school has received one on loan.

School Opening 2020/2021

TMCS is pulling together a committee in preparation for the 2020/2021 school opening. The committee will develop plans and procedures so that we can reopen with safety as a priority. Serving on the committee will be Denise, two healthcare providers, two teachers, two board members (Tricia King, Rick Prudhomme), Lori Carines, and Noelle McKay.

The committee will be working off of mandates and best practices as they are developed by both the state and Henderson County to create school policy. The committee will also be taking up the possibility of delaying opening until mid-August.

A board member suggested checking with Will Hendricks our insurance provider to see if we need any policies in regards to COVID-19 and school policies and procedures.

Grading

Per state requirements, no 4th quarter grades will be given to students. K-8th students and parents will be provided written narratives about their students' progress. 6th-8th grade students will receive a PC-19 for passing or WC-19 for unmet standards for their classes.

A TMCS parent survey was sent out to learn about parents reactions to the remote learning curriculum. We do not yet know how many have been received.

Resource Development

TMCS is in the process of refunding GNAR registration fees for those who request them. Thus far 18 have requested a refund for a total of \$687.00. The total number of registrants was approximately 70 prior to closing registration. The ability to request a refund ends April 30th, for those who did not submit a request their fees will be donations to the school. TMCS is refunding the money directly.

Of the \$11,250 pledged in sponsorships, \$1250 has been donated to the school. We are still waiting to hear back from a few sponsors, \$1500 is outstanding.

Discovery Park

The slide needs to be installed. Denise is going to have her lawn maintenance group to mow the area.

School Expansion

We have not heard from Pam Hysong, Jeannette Butteworth will reach out to her for an expansion and playground update.

Banking and Investment Policies

With the merging of First Citizens and Entegra banks the board needs to diversify TMCS accounts to insure they are below FDIC insured limits.

A recommendation from the Executive Committee to assign Denise Pesce, Tanya Blackford, Brad Ward and Cathy Chet as signers for the First Citizens, United Federal Credit Union, and TD Bank accounts was voted on by the board of directors. All voted in favor; none opposed.

The Investment Policy will be sent out to the board for review prior to the May meeting.

Staff Bonuses

Denise provided the board with a one page rationale regarding staff bonuses. The staff, as recognized by both Denise and the board, have performed exceptionally during the last few weeks and it is important for them to know they are appreciated and valued.

The board weighed the importance of maintaining staff morale against the unknowns of next year's salary schedule and possible budget cuts.

A motion was made to approve bonuses to the staff in the amount of 1%-3% depending on state funding and the state salary schedule. The percentage will be voted on by the board once the schedules and budgets are released by the state. Motion made by Rick Prudhomme, seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Lottery

A letter went out to lottery participants following the emergency board meeting. The school has not received any negative responses.

TMCS received 182 applications this year compared to 187 in 2019 and 125 in 2019.

The board entered a closed door session at 7:21 and returned at 7:25

With no further board observations Jeannette Butterworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.