

TMCS Board Minutes  
May 26, 2020

The May 26, 2020, 6:00 pm meeting held via a Zoom conference call was called to order at 6:05 pm by Jeannette Butterworth.

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

Attending staff members were Denise Pesce, Noelle McKay.

The meeting agenda was amended to move the "Sexual Abuse and Molestation Policy" from the Consent Agenda to the Principal's Report.

The April 28, 2020 meeting minutes were approved; motion made by Aimie Burns, seconded by Rick Prudhomme. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

**Principal's Report: Denise Pesce**

The Mountain Community School Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy

Much of the policy had been rewritten with direction from the state.

According to the policies parents would be carbon copied communications between teacher and student. Google accounts will be used for internal emails between kids and teachers. Denise will check with Dave to make sure that if guardians are accepted into the google account that they will have access to emails as well.

The following changes were made to the policy

- Under "Reporting Procedure" the names Denise Pesce and Tanya Blackford would be stricken, leaving "school Principal" and "School Board Principal" as designees. This change will prevent the policy from having to be frequently updated due changes in those positions.
- On page 2 under "Social Media and Electronic Communications" the word "students" is substituted for "consumers".
- On page 2 under "Social Media and Electronic Communications", the sentence in the second paragraph should read, "The following are examples of appropriate and inappropriate electronic communication except in the case where permission is granted by the administration".
- On page 2 under "Cell Phone Use" strike first paragraph.
- Throughout the document replace the word "participants" with "students" and replace the word "organization" with "school".

"The Mountain Community School Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy" was approved with changes; motion made by Brad Ward, seconded by Jeannette Butterworth. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Budget

The financials are currently showing a \$51,000 surplus but we anticipated finishing the school year with a much lower surplus. We will have less revenue coming in from the GNAR and from the Annual Campaign.

Within the budget, the areas where we have exceeded revenue Acadia will apply to the budgeted areas that are showing a loss.

COVID money is in the bank but has not yet been pulled down. Acadia has not accounted for all the expenses.

Additional COVID funding will not likely be available to TMCS because we are not a Title 1 school. The county has received 6 million but we have not heard back on how that money will be used.

A motion was made to approve the TMCS April Financial Report by Brad Ward, seconded by Jeannette Butterworth. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

### School Opening for 2020/2021

We anticipate we will be both in-class and in remote learning off and on throughout the year. The staff has been working on refining remote learning. Remote learning will have one point of contact and it will be streamlined to be easier for parents, kids, and teachers. The Remote Learning Plan is due to be submitted to the state by July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A task force comprised of teachers, parents, and health care providers have been meeting to develop a plan for reopening. We are moving forward with plans even though we do not have guidance from the state.

If the school re-opens to on-site instruction we are not having a full classroom of kids be present every day. Each class will be divided into an A and B group that will meet on a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday with every other Friday schedule. There will be staggered start and stop times, procedures for moving throughout the building, handwashing stations, teachers taking temperatures, and limited movement throughout the school.

Teachers will be wearing masks. The task force is still working out what will be required for students regarding masks.

During the school year TMCS will not offer field trips. There will be no visitors or parents allowed in the building. One kid will be allowed in the bathroom at the time.

The committee still needs to decide what the procedure will be if we have symptomatic children. We are working on answering the question: What is the process for quarantining and who is included in the quarantine?

### Building Updates

The school will be outfitted with touchless soap dispensers, TP holders, faucets, and toilet and urinal flushers. HAJOCA estimated the hardware will cost \$20,000 (they are providing a good rate). Installation is approximately \$2500. Masks for staff that filter 81% of particulates and can be reused cost

approximately \$1000. Additional money will also be needed for decals and hand sanitizers which are currently being priced out.

The touchless equipment is from Kohler and has a 30 year battery so less maintenance will be required. This will be important because we cannot hire a janitor throughout the day. Assistants will likely help with the cleaning process during school hours.

We are also considering touchless door openers and trying to use more outdoor spaces for classrooms.

We need to complete these updates regardless of when and how we return to school. They will serve us well going forward during flu season and will help us get ahead of what is likely upcoming regulations.

Money from these updates will come from the general budget until those funds are expended and will then come out of reserves.

A motion was made to authorize payment for expenses not to exceed \$30,000 for COVID related upgrades by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Ann Lentini. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

#### Communication to Community and Board

If we open in July, in-person instruction cannot happen, we would be limited to remote instruction. If we begin in August, we may be able to offer on-site instruction or we may still, either based on circumstances or state mandates, be required to offer remote learning.

Denise is going to put together a video to update parents about remote learning and the updates that are being made to the building. We also want to survey the families to determine how they feel before the decision is made to reopen school in either July or August. We also need to know how many families will require remote learning regardless if on-site instruction is offered.

At this time all staff are willing to come back. Ten staff members preferred returning in July to remote instruction and 7 did not express a preference.

The board brought up concerns that students, especially younger students, may have a difficult time establishing relationships with their teachers. Cathey Chet suggested that meeting with the students a few at a time, or at packet pick-up, or even once a week can be helpful in establishing those relationships.

Parents will need time to prepare for childcare scheduling whether on remote learning or on an A or B schedule.

Planning the school calendar is difficult because we don't know what the state will allow. But we need to begin process even if our plan has to be changed once the state provides recommendations and mandates.

Denise will plan on getting the survey and video out by the end of the week. The board will meet again in two weeks on June 9<sup>th</sup> to make a decision on school openings.

#### Committee Reports

The investment policy, banking, and resource development reports were held until a future meeting.

Board Discussion

A question was asked regarding how attendance would be counted at the start of the school year. Denise said they will be expected to keep stricter attendance but that she did not know how they would count kids beginning in remote learning.

With no further board observations Rick Prudhomme, with a second by Jeannette Butterworth, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.