

TMCS Board Minutes  
June 11, 2020

The June 11, 2020, 6:00 pm meeting held via Zoom conference call was called to order at 6:06 pm by Tanya Blackford.

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

Attending staff members were Denise Pesce, Noelle McKay.

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

- The agenda does not need to be improved
- The minutes from the May 26, 2020 board meeting will be approved at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on June 23, 2020.

**Principal's Report: Denise Pesce**

Update – The Return to School Parent Survey

Denise reviewed the results of the survey with the staff earlier in the week. Based on the survey the staff team created a new calendar for the 2020/2021 school year.

NC schools must open by August 17 but we have the ability to open earlier because we are a charter. The new school calendar has school opening on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Denise tried to maintain the integrity of the year-round calendar (9 weeks on/ 2 weeks off) as closely as possible but some of the breaks have been shortened. The fall break will be one week instead of two weeks. The Christmas and spring breaks are currently scheduled for two weeks.

Five additional remote learning days have been built into the calendar as mandated by the state. The state requires 1025 hours of instructional learning. TMCS has built in 1085 hours, so we have a few extra hours for flexibility. The remote learning days are equivalent to snow days, but we are not completely sure how the state intends us to use them. These hours are not counted in our total 1085 hours – they are over and above what is built into the calendar.

The calendar once approved by the board is submitted to Acadia and then to the state.

School Opening Update for 2020-2021 to include NCDPI and NCDHHS

The NCDHHS and DPI came out with guidance for the reopening NC schools. Schools will open to one of the following three plans:

- Plan A: On-site instruction requiring minimal social distancing
- Plan B: On-site instruction requiring moderate social distancing that limits density to no greater than 50% occupancy
- Plan C: Remote Learning

The state will make its determination regarding plan selection (A, B, or C) by July 1, 2020. Schools must not exceed minimum density and distancing requirements as mandated by the state, but schools do have the option of opting to use a more restrictive plan. As an example if NC chose to open in Plan A, an individual system or school could opt to reopen using Plan B or Plan C. If, however, the state chose to reopen in Plan B, individual school systems could not choose to reopen in Plan A. In this case Plan B and Plan C are their only options.

TMCS is planning for all scenarios and is anticipating that throughout the course of the year the school will transition between plans.

The DPI guidance is over 100 pages and Denise is still in the process of reviewing the document but it does appear to have good and helpful information.

### Communication within the School

Denise is planning on sending a letter out to the school community discussing the survey results and the calendar. The letter will convey that none of these plans are great scenarios but that this school year is going to look different whatever the plan. As a board we need to continue to meet as things change.

We are concerned about staff and children as well but we are willing to go back to on-site instruction at this time with precautions. We are waiting for the governor's decision July 1 and an opportunity to see how COVID-19 numbers have progressed, before we decide which plan to reopen school under.

If we open to Plan B, with lower class density and A and B group scheduling, we will make sure families with multiple children enrolled at TMCS will be on the same track.

No matter what decisions we make or how we communicate our plans we know we are going to be criticized. Nobody likes restrictions but we are doing our best to meet everyone's needs.

Denise plans on holding a parent meeting around the second week in July after Cooper makes his decision.

The school may have zoom meetings for kids so they kids can see the changes made to the school and begin to understand the procedures.

### Approval of the School Calendar for the 202-2021 School Year

A motion to approve the 2020/2021 school calendar as presented to the board was made by Ann Lentini, seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

At a future meeting the board would like to discuss how they can support the teacher's physical and mental well-being. The board could potentially run interference to help the teachers regarding the mask situation since kids are likely to be required to wear masks except outside.

### Remote Learning

TMCS is planning on offering a remote learning platform for any family who wants remote learning regardless of the reopening plan. Remote learning allows anyone who is uncomfortable with returning to school for any reason the opportunity to continue to attend TMCS.

The motion to offer remote learning to any family who feels that it is the best option for their family or student was made by Tricia King, seconded by Ann Lentini. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm.

With no public comments or further board observations Jeannette Butterworth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.