

TMCS Board Minutes
October 27, 2020

The October 27, 2020, 6:00 pm meeting held via Zoom conference call was called to order at 6:05 pm by Tanya Blackford.

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

Attending staff members were Noelle McKay, Denise Pesce.

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

The September 22, 2020 meeting minutes were approved; motion made by Rick Prudhomme, seconded by Rebecca Schawrtz. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

Principal's Report: Denise Pesce

Budget

- The annual fund has received \$1045.00 in contributions year to date.
- The state has approved a \$350 bonus for staff that is projected to be released by the end of October.
- Denise reached out to Acadia. We are still awaiting ADM numbers and allotment amounts. We expect to know more by November so we can talk about staff bonuses and other budget issues.
- Denise is exploring COVID funding opportunities. She thinks the school may be eligible for approximately \$52,000, some of which will need to be expended by December 2020. Most of the remaining amount will need to be spent by September 2021. Some of the funds will cover past expenses.
- Right now the school hopes to have a \$41,000 surplus but that assumes \$40,000 in revenue between the annual fund and the GNAR.

Motion made to approve the September 2020 budget report as presented, by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Brad Ward. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion approved.

Return to School Report

Denise reports that the reentry to school has been relatively smooth. Most of the kids have been compliant when it comes to mask wearing and social distancing. The teachers are using the outdoor teaching spaces frequently and cohort sizing is comfortable and not overcrowded.

We have not had any confirmed cases of COVID to this point. One student is quarantining and waiting COVID test results.

- TMCS hired Claire, who is being trained by Alice Elio, to coordinate screening and follow-up with suspected cases.
- Henderson County has had approximately 22 cases of COVID but TMCS is unsure of the accuracy of the reporting. Henderson County schools are shifting how they are quarantining kids. The students only directly surrounded by positive cases are required to quarantine. In that scenario, students seated two desks over might not have to quarantine. With what we know about aerosols, Denise has concerns about that approach.

- There is a great deal of pressure to get kids in school. There is some discussion that Henderson County Public Schools may return to Plan A for grades K-5 beginning January 2021. Denise knows will have to make difficult decisions on how to proceed in the near future.

Denise is continuing to schedule parent community zoom meetings through the month of October. The meetings give parents an opportunity to ask questions following the reopening. The most recent meeting was successful and very few parents had questions or expressed concern.

EC students are brought in on remote learning days. Elementary students are seen in in the mornings and middle schoolers are seen afternoons.

Program Development

- Afterschool Programs such as PE and Sunset start this week. Cross country will begin soon.
- TMCS plans on continuing to layer reopening.
- TMCS is still awaiting chromebooks.
- Denise has a good line on hiring a new AIG teacher.

Development Report: Noelle McKay

- The fall direct mail is schedule to be sent out later during the week.
- Noelle requested a group of board members to convene to discuss the development plan for the year. The budget currently shows \$15,000 coming for the GNAR and \$25,000 in for the annual campaign, but these campaigns maybe significantly impacted or not held at all due to COVID and its social distancing and economic impacts. The following members volunteered to participate in the meeting: Rick Prudhomme, Tricia King, Tanya Blackford, Jeannette Butterworth, and Aimie Burns.

Board Discussion

Rick Prudhomme suggested the board come up with milestones or thresholds so that TMCS will be prepared to communicate any decisions going forward regarding whether to open to Plan A, remain in Plan B, or transition to Plan C if the situation worsened.

- Overarching statements and assumptions agreed upon by the board about how we make decisions will be helpful when communicating to the school community.
- Brad Ward suggested researching plans that other groups have used so we can make decisions independent from Henderson County Public schools if necessary. Denise agreed to look into some other plans before the meeting.

A recommendation was made that the board set aside time at the November board meeting to discuss criteria for decision making.

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 6:00pm.

With no further board observations or public comment Rick Prudhomme, with a second by Aimie Burns, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.