

TMCS Board Minutes
July 21, 2020

The June 21, 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, Tamara Lee, Ann Lentini, Rick Prudhomme, Rebecca Schwartz, Brad Ward.

Attending staff members were Wesley Arnold, Emily Dill, Jessica Freeman, Kristen Galloway, Noelle McKay, Denise Pesce.

Reopening Recommendation

A recommendation was made by the Executive Committee to reopen the first quarter of the 2019/2020 school year in remote learning with some in-person orientations for students. The decision was based on current local and state COVID metrics, the safety interests of the students and staff, and the decision of Henderson County schools to reopen in remote learning. The board will reconvene prior to the end of the first quarter to reassess plans moving forward.

- A board member asked how much time would we need to mobilize into Plan B from Plan C? Denise said we will need a minimum of two weeks prep time because parents would need to be surveyed to see who would like to return to on-site instruction and who would want to remain in remote. The school will also need time to divide students into cohorts and create schedules that take into account households with multiple students.
- The board suggested scheduling the board meeting to decide what plan to pursue during the 2nd quarter for September 22, 2020. This date will allow enough time for the school to mobilize into another plan, if required, in time for the second quarter.
- Denise said when they do return she may consider dividing classes into three cohorts and opening up more slowly with a two weeks in remote/one week in on-site instruction plan.
- A board member asked why the Executive Committee recommended a plan review at the end of the first quarter instead of six weeks into the school year like Henderson County? A six week decision would put us transitioning into another plan one week prior to fall break which would be inconvenient. Pushing the decision back to the end of the quarter will also put us closer in line to Henderson County's decision making timeline.

With no changes made to modify the motion or alternative motions offered, the board voted to approve the motion from the Executive Committee. Membership voting recorded as:

Blackford	Aye
Butterworth	Aye
Schwartz	Aye
Ward	Aye
Prudomme	Aye

Cowan	Aye
Lee	Aye
Lentini	Aye
Burns	Aye
King	Aye

The motion passed.

Remote Learning

A board member asked about the details of the in-person orientations. Denise has not yet developed the logistics of the orientations but she will be working with teachers on the planning and will report back to the board as plans develop.

The staff has been working on a remote learning plan since the end of May. The 15 point plan discusses connectivity, attendance, curriculum, and professional development under remote learning. Six teachers representing various grade levels worked on the plan which was submitted to the state July 19th.

- The school has purchased on-line software which will be user friendly for students and parents.
- A plan in-line with state regulations has been developed for keeping attendance.
- The school still needs chrome books for two classrooms of students (1st and 2nd grades) so that every child will have their own chrome book to use at home. Kindergarten may make use of the school's iPads.
- All chrome books will be programmed with shortcuts and home screens for uniform accessibility and ease.
- Next week Denise plans to send a letter out to the school community about what remote learning will look like. The school community needs to anticipate a more robust plan with greater expectations.

The Task Force

Denise drafted a letter that will be released tomorrow that describes how the school will reopen and will include a handbook developed by the task force committee.

Rick Prudhomme served on the committee and commented that having medical professionals on the committee made the meetings very multi-dimensional. The meetings were exhaustive but very productive and helpful.

Denise said we owe a special thanks to Amy Bracken, Alice Elio, and Julie Baker who are healthcare providers who served on the committee.

Comments

Cathy Chet says that teachers are very interested in holding orientations and making a use of outdoor spaces.

A suggestion was made to share class lists among grades so students could make connections. Classrooms can create opportunities to celebrate among the students.

With no further board observations or public comment Rick Prudhomme, with a second by Jeannette Butterworth, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.