

TMCS Board Minutes  
August 25, 2020

The August 25, 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, Ann Lentini, Rick Prudhomme, Brad Ward.

Attending staff members were Noelle McKay and Denise Pesce.

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

The July 21, 2020 meeting minutes were approved; motion made by Jeannette Butterworth, seconded by Aimie Burns. All voted in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

### **Principal's Report: Denise Pesce**

#### Reopening

The school is currently in its third week of the academic year and all is going well. TMCS offered in person orientations that unfolded according to plan and had a great response from families. All the children arrived in masks and tents were used for the orientation meetings.

#### IEPs

The EC team has decided to provide in-person interventions for the EC students. They feel in-person interventions are especially important since these children are at a greater risk for falling behind. All kids have been tested for their assessments.

#### Technical Issues

The use of Chromebooks and platforms are going well over-all. Some of the parents are challenged by the process of getting oriented to google classroom. A few of the families are requesting paper packets because they don't have good connectivity. The school is trying to assist with connectivity by contracting with Verizon to provide hotspots. Denise is still working on finalizing the contract. The school is also working on repairing and replacing broken chrome books.

#### Communication

- Denise plans on having a school-wide community meeting once a month. The first meeting will be held September 1. The goal is to keep the lines of communication open school-wide. Denise is sending a letter out to parents to update them and let them know about the school community meetings.
- We want to communicate some fun stories as well to the community. TMCS needs to add some lightness to our fall school year and communicate all the great things we are doing.

### School Grounds COVID updates

Plexiglass dividers are being used in the EC classroom and around some of the teacher's workspaces. The last phase of the building update is the installation of touchless water fountains which are expected to arrive in three weeks. The board had authorized \$30,000 for building updates associated with COVID, plus the school received \$6,600 in government funds for COVID responses and another \$6,000 to be used for devices. The school has thus far spent approximately \$33,000 for updates.

### Planning for the Second Quarter

- Based on our screening, there has been no evidence of COVID or COVID exposure in the school community thus far. Area positivity rates are vacillating between 8-12%. The local demographic that has had the greatest increase in cases is the 25-35 year old age group, which represents the age group of the majority of our parents.
- Alice Elio and Julie Baker are health care providers who have served on the school's COVID-19 Task Force. Denise has been conferring with them on the decision making process for deciding how to continue in the second quarter. The process should be science-based and should review the outcomes for schools that have already reopened to onsite instruction like Imagine and French Broad River Academy. Denise is inviting Alice and Julie to the next board meeting so the board can ask questions about COVID and COVID related responses in the community. We need to be able to communicate to parents how we are going to reopen.

### Teaching Team - Adjusting to COVID

- Teacher Assistants are doing a variety of different tasks including dedicating their time to the EC program.
- Cathey Chet reported that the first week of school was really hard but the second week was better. Kids are getting better about logging on. Grading is challenging because of the time that elapses between submission and returning graded materials to the children. The online programming is new to most teachers and involves a curve learning – it can feel like learning to teach all over again. Many of the children are doing well but some of the outliers are starting to fall behind and the more advanced kids sometimes get bored during zoom meetings. There is down time between lessons which aren't filled in normal ways and they are missing out on community opportunities such as recycling.
- We are beginning to offer some onsite opportunities. Dave is offering Frisbee golf and Anthony is providing afterschool activities. Tamara is also considering offering an art club.
- Outdoor instruction is emphasized. The school has sit-upons and six tents. The teachers have autonomy on how much time they spend outside.

### Budget

- The audit is schedule for September 15<sup>th</sup>. After the audit is completed we will have a better understanding of how the year ended financially.
- Teachers have the ability to apply for small rotary grants.

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

### Compliance Issues

The board was asked to sign, scan and return the following forms to Denise.

- Confidentiality Agreement
- Conflict of Interest and Nepotism Policy
- Sexual Abuse and Molestation Prevention Policy

**Resource Development Report: Noelle McKay**

- GNAR Report: \$2,750 of sponsorship funds were donated to the school. \$1380 in registration funds were donated, and \$1257 in funds were refunded. Thank you notes were sent to people who actively donated their sponsorship and registration.
- Annual Campaign: Denise and Noelle have spoken and we do intend on continuing with the Annual Campaign and will make a fall ask. More than ever, because of additional expenses associated with COVID and having to cancel the GNAR and spring campaign, we could benefit from donations. We will try and make the ask light-hearted.
- Grant: TMCS submitted a grant application for \$10,000 for the purchase of chrome books to the Community Foundation of Henderson County's COVID Response Fund.
- A suggestion was made to recruit new board members through the annual campaign.

With no further board observations or public comment Jeannette Butterworth, with a second by Rick Prudhomme, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Noelle McKay.