

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: April 13, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting called to order: 7:05pm

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Shelley Eleby

Attendance

Board Members Present

Doug Anderson

Kimberley Capers

Shelley Eleby

Julie Elliott

Xiomara Hadnot

Lorelle Holway

Themba Johnson

Julie Mitchell

Renee Karibi-Whyte

Yvette Skaff (ex-officio)

Administrators Present

Ralph Gallo

Sonia Torres

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- **Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2020**
 - Made changes to Attendance, adding Lorelle Holway and other corrections given by Renee Karibi-Whyte
 - Moved by Karibi-Whyte, seconded by Johnson; Voice vote; motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Enrollment update - currently enrollment of 333 students. The one open position was filled today by a 6th grader.
- Distance learning update
 - Still learning at home. 1st day back from Spring Break
 - Town hall held last Thursday. Ralph thanked Themba and the curriculum committee for having the idea. The presentation is currently online and able to be viewed.
 - Today is the first day of the revised distance learning plan. There have been some questions about logging in, but preparation by teachers paid off. Ralph thanked teachers for their hard work.
 - Communications have been sent out with suggested student schedules. They are also posted on the website. Everything is in one central location to make it easier..

- So far it seems that the distance learning plan has gone better than expected, but there is a learning curve. Ralph believes it was a positive step in the right direction.
- Duration for the plan is up in the air. No further information on that until this Friday when the governor will be making a statement on topic. TCCS will work with whatever the governor says.
- Received permission for zoom, ect. from all but 23 students
- Digital attendance - 270 parents logged in. There will be follow-ups to parents who haven't logged in. Parents are able to log in to submit attendance for days in the future, not the past.
 - Themba Johnson asked - Will there continue to be attendance reminders?
 - Yes, to parents. Can't send reminders about attendance to kids because of the system.
 - Themba Johnson asked - Will schedule etc. be sent to students, as well as parents?
 - Yes , but it is all on the website. Ralph can send a general reminder to students.
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 - Renee Karibi Whyte - The schedule on the internet doesn't have all the information that the emails have. Maybe a resource page with all of the information can be made.
 - Renee Karibi Whyte - Differentiation of education. What are we doing for those students?
 - Mr. Gallo said there are looking at what they can do to pinpoint the bare minimum with Ms. Torres and Ms. Anders. Where it comes to adding additional work, they will be working on it.
 - Ms. Anders said it will be on a case by case basis if kids are having trouble with the work at home. Ms. Torres said parents should reach out to the teachers if there is an issue
 - Andrea Schulman - Pearson Realize can't shorten the assignments. Can't cut them in half which is done at school for those that can't handle 30 questions at a time.
 - Mr. Adam about differentiation and Pearson Realize - You can change everything you do on it. You can add, take off, etc. It can be tailored. All the teachers are aware. Mr. Adam has asked for less questions and more questions because of the percentages.
 - Themba Johnson - Ms. Nicole's lesson was excellent today.
 - Some parents were overwhelmed. Mr. Gallo understands but hopes people see the efforts being made. Mr. Gallo said live instructional classes can be recorded. Not mandated.
 - Themba Johnson commented that the lessons must be recorded

- Went over next year's budget line by line
- Curriculum Committee update by Themba Johnson - Committee met on April 3rd. Sent in the report. Went over a number of things that were implemented this week by the administration. Will touch base again if we continue with distance learning. Kindergarten work moved online. Committee wanted to make sure parents could access all in one place.
- Governance Committee update by Renee Karibi Whyte - sent out survey to board for review. Sent parents survey and teacher survey and added two COVID-19 questions.
 - How satisfied are you with the school leaders' response to the crisis. Same question for parents and teachers. Will send to test link.
 - Yvette Skaff asks whether the question is broad or breaks down each administrator.
 - Renee Karibi Whyte responded that it could be done. She will add each administrator in a separate question.
- Mr. Gallo explained that the State issued an executive order that no staff can be formally evaluated during distance learning. He will give the language to the Governance Committee.
- Julie Mitchell asked if there were any thoughts about how to communicate with the student government to effectuate the student survey.
 - Maybe not the best year to do it . Ralph and Renee Karibi Whyte ok with a pass for this year.
- Communication Committee update by Julie Mitchell - Is there anything the communication committee needed to do for the remainder of the year?

FRIEND'S UPDATE

- Discussed Arthur Wale donating money for teachers and the need to figure out how that was going to work.
- Mr Wale is also committed to money for scholarships for current high school seniors.
- Also discussed insurance for the gym should it be rented and how to rent it
- A representative from TCSCO was there - also discussed the playground

OTHER BUSINESS

- Board Elections - Mr. Gallo raised a question about board elections for June. Is there any guidance?
 - Too early to say, but will refer to the board attorney who said if at all possible proceed with election at their normal time.
 - From Governance perspective they will see if we can do electronic ballots etc, and if people interested in running
 - Can we do a nominations committee in a digital format?
 - How can voting be done in a fair way

- Are people interested and willing?
- Shelley Eleby asked whether Governance should write a temporary amendment to hold people over to next school year. Given that it is already mid-April. Is there enough time to realistically pull it off?
 - Julie Mitchell stated there may be people interested for a number of different reasons.
 - Renee Karibi Whyte said that it can't hurt to put out feelers. If there is no interest, we can explain why it's postponed. Maybe the communications committee can start that?
 - Yvette Skaff thought there might be interest
 - Andrea Schulman thought there would be interest
 - Renee Karibi Whyte stated we will come up with a path and figure it out. She will get in touch with Shelley Eleby about it. Probably Renee Karibi Whyte and Kimberley Capers will serve as committee.

PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions:

2004-01 - Budget Summary

- Moved by Elliott; seconded by RKW. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

2004-02 - SBA Financial Report (February 2020)

- Moved by Johnson; seconded by Elliott. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

2004-03 - 2020-2021 Budget

Moved by Johnson; seconded by Holway. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

2003-04 - 2020-2021 School Calendar

- Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Holway. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

2004-05 - Closed Session

- Moved by Capers; seconded by Johnson. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

Meeting went into closed session at 8:40pm

Meeting Adjourned at 9:52pm