

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: July 30, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting called to order: 7:04pm

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Shelley Eleby

Attendance

Board Members Present

Doug Anderson	Kimberley Capers	Shelley Eleby
Julie Elliott	Yvette Gonzalez	Xiomara Hadnot
Lorelle Holway	Julie Mitchell	Renee Karibi-Whyte (first hour)

Yvette Skaff (ex-officio)

Administrators Present

Ralph Gallo	Sonia Torres
-------------	--------------

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- TCCS September 2020 Reopening Plan
 - See <https://bit.ly/tccs-7-30-reopen-plan>
 - Community Questions and Answers:
Please refer to recording for complete questions and answers. The following is the sum and substance of the questions and answers:
 - Will K-2 classes be live streamed for those who want to stay at home?
 - No, but there will be a virtual component for those students.
 - Can the student (family) choose to study only from home
 - yes
 - If the parent is working during virtual class time will the student miss the teaching
 - The teaching time is meant to be viewed at the time it's streamed

- If a child has allergies and exhibits symptoms, will they have to stay at home?
 - Not if parents provide a doctor's note
 - Same is true if they have asthma and can't wear a mask. A Dr.'s note must be provided.
- What does a parent do with children who come on different days and work, how will that work?
 - Still working out the schedule.
- If children with documented skin issues, can they use soap instead of sanitizers?
 - That we be taken into consideration and the administration will consult with the nurse.
 - Water fountains may become hand washing stations.
- Scheduling two full days instead of half days. What is the rationale?
 - It is the most manageable thing to do for our school. We don't have the option of spreading out in different buildings etc. Administration felt this was most appropriate for Phase 1. Will maybe reconsider as time goes on. This was the agreement made the committee
- Restroom breaks. How will they be handled? Same for students in the hallway?
 - Students will always be with the teacher. Only time students are moving is for PE. A teacher will escort them.
 - Working on a bathroom plan.
- Will school be providing COVID testing?
 - Not for students. Administration is asking for staff to be tested prior to start of school.
- Lunch can K-2 bring snacks in their bag?
 - Will be discussing that plan.
- From the previous study, what was the opt in rate for students attending school?
 - 90% said they plan on sending children to school.
- Do the students who have the resource room have 4 hr days?
 - Yes, 4 hr days.
- Will all the lessons that are streamed be recorded?
 - Plan right now is to go live.
 - Will be researching further.
 - Expectation is that since every student has a computer, they should log in at the time of instruction.
- What happens if you start as remote, can you switch to in-person?
 - No.
 - Asking parents to make a decision for phase 1.
 - Need to know to prepare the classrooms.

- During the spring parents had to teach kids. What will it be like this time?
 - Fully remote option is very different from what it was last spring.
 - There will be some form of independent work.
 - There will be training for teachers and parents.
- How often will bathrooms be sanitized on school days?
 - Depending on the schedule.
 - Will be increased cleaning. More than daily.
- Will busing start right away?
 - If eligible. You will be receiving info from Teaneck Transportation Dept.
- Speech Therapy - how will students receive it?
 - Related services are going to continue to be conducted remotely.
 - If an assessment needs to be done, the provider will come into school to do so.
 - Contact Ms. Anders for further information.
- When do we find out our student's days?
 - Must be known 4 weeks before, so Aug 11th will be the last date.
 - Will try to discuss it with the committee and special education department and get that information out by mid next week.
 - For K-2 - can't give the same guarantee. Will try to coordinate with siblings days
- Will bathrooms be equipped with no touch soap and water?
 - Will revisit and let you know. Definitely for no touch for soap
- Description of a virtual classroom and how it would work?
 - For grades 3-8 - same instruction as in the classroom. That's the best the administration can give right now.
- Please shed light on recess.
 - Only K-2
 - Supervised in small groups outside socially distanced.
 - Opportunity to get outside and take their masks off.
- Why didn't you choose K-2 or K-4 to come in 4 days/week?
 - That's not the case for this year.
- What is concern with eating in school?
 - Restaurants aren't allowed to do indoor eating, so the administration is not comfortable to allow children to have indoor dining.
 - Also, it's impossible to socially distance given the building size.

- The administration would love to have everyone back, but it's impossible because we must socially distance and to do so, the classes must be broken in half.
- Will parents be responsible for attendance?
 - No.
- If virtual, will children be able to ask questions?
 - Not sure.
 - In the afternoon they will be able to speak with the teacher and get clarification.
- Will there be social distancing on the busses?
 - We don't have control over the busses. It will be handled by the Teaneck Transportation Dept.
- What is the plan for tech support when in the virtual environment?
 - There will be some sort of a helpline with at least Mr. Gallo assisting.
- Will kids each have a water bottle by their desk? How will they hydrate?
 - Will consult with Nurse
- Is the 1:30 - 3:30 time period required or office hours?
 - Technically not required. No new instruction for grades 3-8 then. Lower grades may have appointments during that time.
- Do teachers have the option to be virtual or do they have to be in the building?
 - Teachers are expected to be in school unless there is a medical situation.

Shelley wants to thank the committee for all of their work. She explained that the school has been placed in an impossible position as a charter school and is mandated to open. There is a state mandated plan. She understands that it is not ideal and there will be struggle. She requested that everyone be afforded a little grace.

NEW BUSINESS

- Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar
 - 1st day of school is being amended to September 8, 2020
 - The last day of school is being amended to June 24, 2021
 - February and April breaks remain
 - Changed return of snow days to the three days before last day of school
- Committee Updates
 - The Governance committee met twice, July 21st and yesterday, to discuss the policy updates which we will be presenting shortly.
- Policy Updates - 1st Reading of each policy

- Transportation Safety - File Code 3541.33
- Visitors - File Code 1250
- Operation and Maintenance of Plant - File Code 3510
- Health Examinations and Immunizations - File 5141.3
- Illness - File Code 5141.2

PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

Public Comment Resolutions

Public Comment General

Resolutions:

2007-013 - Revised School Calendar (2020-2021)

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

2007-014 - 2020-2021 Reopening Plan

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45