

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: October 5, 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

Julie Mitchell

Renee Karibi-Whyte

Yvette Skaff (ex-officio)

Administrators Present

Ralph Gallo

Sonia Torres

Kristina Anders

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

- Moved by Mitchell, seconded by Anderson; Voice vote; motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Enrollment update - current enrollment is 342 -- Full Enrollment.
- 10/12 Hybrid opening/Building updates
 - See presentation- <https://bit.ly/tccs10520update>
 - Questions - (Summary Only - Please see recording for full audio transcript)
 - If in-school (hybrid) students want to rehear the lesson in the afternoon, can they listen with their remote classmates?
 - Not without any previous permission from the teacher. Hope is to keep the remote classrooms small.
 - Why do virtual students get 30 min of class, as opposed to the 45 min that hybrid students get?
 - It's not actually that much different because of transfer of teachers, set up, etc. Hybrid students will probably have a 35 min lesson.
 - On virtual days the full remote students will get preference on office hours. Mr. Gallo anticipates the lesson will be very similar for hybrid and remote.

- What percentage of students are fully remote?
 - Approximately 40%, but some families have requested full remote since the release of the cohorts, so the numbers may change.
- What is the advantage of independent working and will there be enough work to fill that time in the morning for remote students?
 - It does have some structure with real assignments.
 - It is new and the school will monitor and will learn as we go and customize if necessary.
- Realtime instruction streaming. Are the classes going to be taught live?
 - There will be direct instruction from the teacher in 30 minute blocks.
 - It will not be live streamed. Other schools have found it to be too much to manage while teaching.
- Will homeroom start at 8:30 or whenever screening is complete?
 - Homeroom is from 8:30 - 8:45. The expectation is that students will be at school by 8:30 and be brought to the homeroom.
- What about seasonal allergies? Will students be sent home?
 - No, it's important to communicate with the nurse, if the issue can be documented, it will be taken into consideration.
- Will students in grades 3-8 have a mask break?
 - No, but the hope is during PE if they are able to go outside they will be able to have a break.
- Do siblings have to social distance from each other.?
 - No. They should be in siblings group coming and going, but they will be socially distant from other sibling groups.
- Will students have snack time?
 - Only k-2. It will take place outside of the building, during recess time or mask break.
 - 3-8 graders should have no food in school.
- Are parents expected to bring school supplies on the 12th?
 - Be on the lookout from your teacher. In the next couple of days there should be communication from the teacher.
 - For specials leave supplies at home.
- Approx how many students are there per classroom?
 - Between 6 & 8, depending on the grade level. The numbers will change if families decide to change to full remote.
 - Still way below the minimum # of students allowed per classroom.
- If students stay home for a non-COVID reason, do they need to be tested before returning?
 - Mr. Gallo will check with Nurse Roda. Maybe a doctor's note is necessary.
- Is it OK to donate supplies to the classroom, i.e. clorox wipes?

- The school will be happy to accept. The administration wants the most sanitary conditions possible.
- If a student is home sick, can they watch virtually from home?
 - Yes, communicate with the teacher and the student can be granted access.
- How will students receive related services like speech therapy, or occupational therapy?
 - The services will be delivered virtually. Ms. Anders and providers will be contacting families.
- When will school schedules be sent to parents?
 - By Wednesday
- Will parents be made aware about any positive COVID cases in the school?
 - The school will follow state guidelines on releasing information. There are some privacy issues that must be adhered to.
- Will fully remote students check-in in the morning and then go into virtual learning in the afternoon?
 - Yes.
- If students are in school in the morning, will they need to log back in after lunch at home?
 - No. The expectation is that they will be working independently or doing homework.
- Will teachers be moving around in the classroom during instruction.
 - The teacher will remain mostly in the front near the board where they are doing instruction. Students will be stationary at their desks. There are spaces for one-to-one interactions for the younger students.
- When hybrid students are not in school, when are they in virtual learning? Morning or afternoon?
 - Lessons are from 1:30 - 3:30 on virtual days.
 - On the full virtual days, there will be assigned specific times for Specials.
- Are students continuing with the same teachers?
 - Yes, except K-2 - students who are fully remote will have different teachers.
- What will recess look like in the winter?
 - The hope is to be outside as much as possible, in coats etc. When it's very cold, the administration is looking at options to social distance in the gym/cafeteria. Students will have to wear a mask during that time though.
- What will be done with the non-working chromebooks?
 - Technology dept. will need to see those devices. The hope is that they will work once in the school building. If not, when new devices come in, they will be swapped out.

- If at home and the student is having issues with the school issued chromebook, feel free to use personal devices. Those will not work at school though.
 - Do 1st graders need to trade tablets?
 - No.
 - Can students leave chromebook in school?
 - No. It is the student's responsibility to bring it back and forth. There are no charging stations at school.
 - If two siblings in different grades can they be dropped curbside?
 - Depending on the grades of the siblings the days of school may not overlap. Please check the schedules.
 - K-2 parents need to escort to screening, not an older sibling.
 - Can you choose to change from remote learning now?
 - No, you must stay remote until the end of the semester.
 - There will be a window where you can change your preference to hybrid in the end of October/Early November.
 - That will be for a start on November 30th, the first day of 2nd semester.
 - Once you opt for remote, you are remote for the entire semester.
 - Is TCCS looking into having lunch at school?
 - No. Will see how it works for the next couple of weeks. The school is taking it slow and will re-visit the situation.
 - It will depend on how many students in school vs. remote
 - Homework can be done on any device.
 - Can you bring a younger child to screening for your K-2 grader?
 - Mr. Gallo will check with Nurse Roda.
 - 1 parent per student at drop off.
 - Will there be a Basketball team?
 - Looking at statewide guidance. There is one yet relating to indoor sports.
 - Already looking at the possibility of a team, but without spectators.
 - May be adding some other indoor sports like cheerleading.
 - When will the lottery information be released?
 - November 1st.
 - Can students bring drinking water?
 - Mr. Gallo believes so. Personal water, no sharing.
 - Can you join a team if you're a remote student?
 - Yes.
- Personnel Update
 - 5/6 Science Teacher has been hired
 - Sharodka Tofte
 - 7 years teaching experience and special education experience

- She will start as soon as resolution passes.
- Week of Respect

This week is Respect Week. Today was “wear blue” day. Tomorrow is super hero day. The purpose is to stress that TCCS has a Zero tolerance against bullying! Please send photos of your students participating so they can be placed on the website..

OLD BUSINESS

- Arts in the Parking Lot
 - Took place last Wednesday, September 30th.
 - Thank you to Mr. Keitel and Ms. Abbie who put the event together.
 - Outdoor socially distanced art and community activities.
 - Bash that Trash - was last week’s event.
 - Great to be together as a community. First time since February.
 - Everyone wore masks and sat in their assigned areas.

NEW BUSINESS

- Committee Updates
 - Curriculum committee met 9/24.
 - Talked about how virtual learning was going
 - So far it has been pretty positive
 - Discussed Back to School Night
 - Discussed Math assessments which have been completed. Looking forward to report by Mr. Adam.
 - QUESTION
 - Where can people give feedback on how hybrid/virtual learning is going?
 - Xiomara Hadnot said she is open to receiving any feedback.
 - Mr. Gallo will talk about making a button on the website.
 - Ms. Torres and Xiomara will receive the feedback and disseminate the information.

PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

Public Comment Resolutions

Public Comment General

[Resolutions:](#)

2010-01 - Budget Summary

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

2010-02 - CEP SOA

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

2010-03 - School Self Assessment (ABR)

- Moved by Hadnot; seconded by Karibi-Whyte. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

2010-04 - Personnel Appointment (Home Instructors)

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

2010-05 - Personnel Appointment Sharodka Tofte (Teacher)

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

2010-06 - Personnel Appointment (Soccer Referees)

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

2010-07 - Personnel Appointment Extracurricular)

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47pm