

# Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

## Minutes from Meeting: FEBRUARY 8, 2021

### VIRTUAL MEETING

---

Meeting called to order: 7:03 pm

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Renee Karibi-Whyte

#### Attendance

##### Board Members Present

Doug Anderson

Kimberley Capers

Julie Elliott

Xiomara Hadnot

Yvette Gonzalez

Lorelle Holway

Julie Mitchell

Renee Karibi-Whyte

Yvette Skaff (ex-officio)

##### Administrators Present

Ralph Gallo

Sonia Torres

Kristina Anders

---

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 11, 2021

- Moved by Hadnot, seconded by Elliott; Voice vote; motion carried.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Enrollment update** - Current enrollment is 342 students -- Full Enrollment.
  - Currently have 274 students on the waiting list
- **COVID-19/Instructional Program Updates**
  - Reiterated that the intent is to maintain in-person instruction, that is therefore the reason for the surgical approach to handling positive cases
  - COVID dashboard is now on the website
  - Parents will still get notification if there is a positive case
  - Reminder - The week after the break will be a full remote week following a hybrid schedule.
  - Hoping to increase the number of in-person days, but will determine that based on the numbers of cases.
  - 3rd Semester starts on 3/15 - Parents can opt-in to in-person instruction. Look out for notice.

- Question - Any local guidance that you're following regarding COVID?
      - Not really. There is State guidance, but a lot is left to the school.
    - Question - Anything to indicate our rates as a school are different from the community at large?
      - Not really. TCCS has had three positive cases. Not an apples to apples comparison though.
    - Question - Will there be random testing going forward?
      - No. There isn't any random testing. Disclosure of positivity is dependent upon the family.
- **NJSLA 2021**
  - Administration has been told to anticipate that testing will proceed. There has been some conflicting information in various meetings that Mr. Gallo has attended, but guidance from DOE is that they anticipate schools conducting standardized testing and they will allow remote testing.
  - The State will not give the same emphasis on the scores as has been in the past.
  - Mr. Gallo will get more guidance on remote testing and how that would work.
- **Staffing Updates**
  - 5th & 6th grade teacher finished working last week
  - There will be a resolution this evening to have Dr. Nan Kurz hired as the permanent 5th & 6th grade science teacher
  - Black History Month integrated into the curriculum K-8 across the subjects
    - Question?
      - Will TCCS be integrating the 1619 project into the upper grades
        - The curriculum committee will discuss at the next meeting
- **HIB/SSDS Update**
  - On January 29th the report was submitted.
  - There were no incidents, no in school detentions or out of school detentions

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Board Retreat**
  - Took place January 25, 6-9pm
  - Went through last year's self evaluation and looked for areas of improvement
    - Want to start to build into board meeting a time to discuss some topics more thoroughly
    - Board goals:
      - 1) Successful negotiation of contract
      - 2) Supporting the development of the new strategic plan for school
      - 3) Develop policies for recognizing teacher success

- 4) Committee meetings
  - Standardize committee meetings schedule
  - Determine how much information needed on committee reports
  - Development of ad-hoc committees to support current committees
  - Establishment of a new board member/mentor committee
- Mr Gallo discussed the TCCS strategic plan -
  - The last plan was the 5 yr plan through 2020
  - Met the goal of getting a gym and expanding enrollment
  - TCCS is due for another strategic plan
  - Want to see how TCCS can change for the future in a better way
  - Fall is a natural reset point. Mr. Gallo is excited to start next year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Committee Updates**
  - Curriculum committee met last week 2/1
    - Hybrid instruction discussed
    - The Gifted and Talented (TAG) program was discussed. Ms. Scalici presented about aligning it with State requirements
    - Discussed mid-year assessments and the data and efficacy of them
    - Special education data from Achieve data was discussed. There was protection of the identity of classified students when presenting
    - Students progressing nicely, better than it was thought
    - Discussed the expansion of 1 & 2 grade classrooms
    - Changing mixed groups for 1 & 2nd grade
      - In reaction to pandemic and expansion
      - Thinking of keeping them separate - with 3 1st grade classes and 3 2nd grade classes
      - Thinking of building another classroom and moving the resource room upstairs
      - Discussed keeping class size down to 15 for 1st and 2nd and incorporating in looping. Same teacher for 1st and 2nd grade
      - Discussed staffing and logistics of building another classroom. On track to make this a reality
      - Is there anything the board will have to do
        - Amendment or resolution???
        - Mr. Gallo will let the Board know if necessary

- Finance committee met last week
  - Discussed audit with the auditor
  - Finances in very good State.
  - No findings in the audit
  - General fund balance is a comfortable amount
  - Will have to find a new auditor because they are no longer doing them
  - Discussed hiring Dr. Nan as the 5th & 6th grade teacher
  - One large payment once a year which is for non certified employees
    - Well within budget
    - Also discussed revised budget
    - Receiving a lot less money than projected, but it is ok because costs have gone down and TCCS has received grants, etc.
    - Discussed stipends. Tom made spreadsheet with each stipend
    - Currently under budget for stipends.
      - ESEA grant for special service programs
    - We have fewer special education kids. Therefore, as a result TCCS is allocated less money. Calculation is the pupil rate plus additional funds for special services
      - Question - While discussing long term strategic planning, in anticipation, are we planning with that in mind.
        - Yes looking at that when looking at staffing and related services. Trying to keep everything budget appropriate. Current numbers are real, not anticipated
    - Negotiations committee has started to meet with the association. Hopefully all will go smoothly

## **PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS**

### ***Public Comment Resolutions***

### ***Public Comment General***

- Questions/Comments
  - None

### **Resolutions:**

#### 2102-01 - Budget Summary

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

#### 2102-02 - SBA Financial Report (December 2020)

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

2102-03 -Revised 2020-2021 Budget

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

2102-04 - Acceptance of Audit

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

2102-05 - 2019 Form 990

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

2102-06 - SEMI Waiver

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

2102-07 - Personnel Appointments (Basic Skills Program)

- Moved by Hadnot; seconded by Capers. Roll call vote; resolution carries.
  - Question - Have we ever thought that existing staff members might give a lackluster performance in order to receive this additional financial incentive. Questioner made clear that they don't believe that is occurring, just wanted to see if 3rd party services instead of staff members have been considered
    - There's no real correlation between those teaching basic skills and who are actually teaching the students. We would definitely look into it if it was suspicious. Prefer this approach of teaching your own, instead of referring to outside programs like Kumon.

2102-08- Personnel Appointments - Dr. Nan Kurz

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

2102-09 - Restart Plan - Policy Update (Illness)

- Capers moved for amendment of policy update to address siblings in the new protocol; Hadnot seconded. Voice vote carries.
- Moved by Anderson; seconded by Mitchell. Roll call vote; resolution carries.

Mr. Gallo needs some time to decide on the weather to determine school closure tomorrow given the anticipated snow. He will notify the community later this evening.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:18pm**