

# Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

## Minutes from Meeting: JANUARY 11, 2021

### VIRTUAL MEETING

---

Meeting called to order: 7:03 pm

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Shelley Eleby

#### **Attendance**

##### Board Members Present

Kimberley Capers

Shelley Eleby

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 December 7, 2020**

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

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Mr. Gallo spoke about the unrest in the country and gave a reminder that Mr. Blanco, the school social worker, is available should any student have a need to speak with someone to address any need.
- **Enrollment update** - current enrollment is 342 students -- Full Enrollment.
- **2021-2022 Lottery**
  - Occurred earlier today at 4pm.
  - Everything went smoothly and efficiently.
  - There were 306 applicants for 45 spots.
  - 21 spots reserved for siblings.
  - Notifications regarding results were made by the computer system. The waiting list will also be maintained by the system.
  - March 15th is the deadline for acceptance. If a student's paperwork is not in by then, TCCS will move to the next spot on the waiting list

- **Reopening Plan/Hybrid Instruction Update Presentation**
  - Will return to Hybrid next Tuesday, January 19th
  - See presentation: <https://bit.ly/tccs-hybrid-updates-jan21>
    - Questions:
      - If your child was already in hybrid instruction, might their cohort change?
        - Tried to keep the same cohort for those who were already in hybrid.
      - How is TCCS going to control the possibility of transmission during basketball?
        - There will be a minimized amount of competition. Most will be intramural. It will also mostly be a skilled based activity. Mr. T. will be speaking with coaches and adhering to the COVID guidelines with the assistance of Nurse Rhoda
      - Will TCCS be issuing Chromebooks like last year?
        - Students will receive a TCCS issued chromebook like before.
        - If any student has any problem with their chromebook, please let the administration know because the new shipment of chromebooks came in.
        - There will also be a resolution later regarding a grant that allowed TCCS to purchase an additional number of chromebooks
      - If a student was fully remote in September and the parent already filled out a survey in October regarding hybrid or remote for marking period two, does the parent have to fill out the survey again?
        - No, the decision made in the survey will stand, unless you want to switch back. In that event, fill out the survey again.
      - How are in-person special services looking?
        - Very similar to the way they normally look, but with safety protocols.
        - They are transforming the Spanish room for speech therapy & occupational therapy. Only one type of therapy will be happening at a time.
        - Special services department sent out a survey regarding students opting into hybrid instruction.
        - During instruction, the teacher and student will have on masks, but students will have a clear mask for articulation skills. TCCS also purchased child sized face shields in the event that the mask has to be removed or pulled down during instruction.
        - There is also a plexiglass divider between the teacher and students.

- Tomorrow is the last day to make your program choice, hybrid/remote for next Tuesday

- **Arts Updates**

- Thank you for everyone who participated in the December Arts in the Park program
  - TCCS collected and donated approximately 15 bags of items to Never Alone Again Resource Center, which is a resource for families affected by domestic violence. TCCS hopes to continue to partner with them for community service. It's located around the corner from school, across the street from Stop & Shop. Theresa Johnston is the owner and was very thankful.
- The date for the January Arts program is the 21st and it is a virtual open mic night. Sign up on the website and showcase your talent to the community. You can sing, do comedy, perform poetry, dance or something else.
- Spring Musical - Ratatouille musical
  - Inspired by a group on Tic Toc and then became a much larger production.
  - The performance was a fundraiser for the Broadway Actors Fund.
  - There will be in-person rehearsals following guidelines, but it will be a video performance sent out virtually.
  - Email was sent from TCCS musical address
  - Tonight is the deadline to sign up.
  - Virtual auditions are this week.
  - Backstage, background design and costume design opportunities are also available

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **COVID-19 Testing**

- A representative spoke at the last meeting
- Today Mr. Gallo received the December testings results:
- Testing took place 3 Tuesdays in December
  - 12/ - 45 people tested with 1 positive
  - 12/22 - 45 people tested with 3 positive results
  - 12/29 - 46 people tested with 1 positive result
- In January, testing will take place on Thursdays throughout the end of the month
- Mr. Gallo encourages everyone to get tested, especially this Thursday.
- Mr. Gallo has been tested every week and has received his results within 2 days
- Pre Registration is preferred, but not mandatory
- Testing is FREE

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Board Retreat**
  - Scheduled for January 25, 6-9pm
  
- **Committee Updates**
  - Curriculum committee met in December
    - Smart assessment discussed
    - The Gifted and Talented (TAG) program was discussed
  
  - Negotiations committee last week:
    - Met to go over last contract and plan for upcoming round of negotiations with teachers union

## ***PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS***

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

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

- Questions
  - Can we share information about the resignation of tMs. Tofte with students?
    - Mr. Gallo expects that Ms. Tofte will be sharing with the kids tomorrow. This is a public meeting though, so the information is already on the website.
  
  - Please describe what the criteria for the TAG program
    - The criteria and protocol will be presented by Ms. Scalici at a later date

### **Resolutions:**

#### 2101-01 - Budget Summary

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

#### 2101-02 - SBA Financial Report (October 2020, November 2020)

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

#### 2101-03 - Revised 2020-2021 School Reopening Plan

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

#### 2101-04 - Acceptance of Grant

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

#### 2101-05 - Personnel Appointment (Substitute - Jessica Almiron Romero)

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

2101-06 - Personnel Appointment (Winter Sports Coaches)

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

2101-07 - Acceptance of Resignation (Sharodka Tofte)

- Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Capers. Roll call vote; resolution carries.
  - What's the plan post resignation?
    - The administration will post the position and be creative in house if it comes to that. There are 30 days to plan. Hopefully TCCS can hire and there can be a transition period.
  - Do you expect there to be quality candidates available given the time of the year?
    - Mr. Gallo explained that it depends and that he knows other schools are looking for teachers and that teachers are looking for positions.
    - Also, educational services are available on a short term basis, but replacement is preferred.
  - A parent made the comment that she was an excellent teacher who will be missed by her student.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:57pm**