

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: MARCH 15, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Meeting called to order: 7:04 pm

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Shelley Eleby

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 February 8, 2021

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Current student recognition**
 - Isabelle Gonzalez
 - Attended award ceremony where they awarded two TCCS students certificate proclamation and chromebook - Alexis Goodrich & Jackie Yabout. Two of three winners town-wide!
 - Everyone is very proud & pleased with the way they represented the school and themselves
 - Photos/video will be shared on social media
- **Enrollment update** - Current enrollment is 341 students -- 1 8th grader withdrew. Looking to fill the spot.
 - If anyone knows of anyone, please have them contact the school

- **Third Trimester/Phase 3**

- Today is the first day of the 3rd trimester
- K & 1/2 - moved to a AM/PM schedule
 - 4 days a week
 - 1 class solely remote
 - Bused kids are all in am program
 - No recess or mask breaks, just instruction
- Not accepting full remote students to switch over at this point.
- 3-8 grade schedule remains the same
 - 21 students opted back into in school program
 - Increase of days for 504 students
 - Starting today looking at attendance and teacher recommendations for students who could benefit from 4 days of school
 - After Spring Break (and quarantine week), opening up 4 days a week for all students
- The fall should be full in person for everyone
- There will be enough time to get PPE etc. before the kids are in 4 days

- **STATE TESTING**

- A meeting this morning with superintendent
 - Currently State has requested a statewide waiver for no testing
 - Federal government responded and said no waiver
 - Expects testing and data, but less accountability and more flexibility
 - Pushed off testing until 4/5
- Request every district to upload in house data regarding assessment
 - How many at, above, below grade level.
 - All grades K-8, ELA and Math
 - Federal funding is contingent on following through with upload
 - Hope is that this data upload will take the place of NJSLA, but we won't know until every district has done it.
- There is a possibility that if there is testing, some kids will take tests at home, some at school. Still waiting to hear how that will work.

- **FACULTY VACCINATIONS**

- Over 1/2 of the employees are vaccinated, partially vaccinated or have appointments for vaccination
- This will change the way TCCS reacts to positive cases

- There is a push statewide to get teachers vaccination
- Bergen County had 900 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccination. Each district was given opportunities to get their teachers vaccinated
- Dr. Irving and Mr. Gallo spoke about streamlining the process for teachers to get vaccinated at Holy Name Hospital over the next two weeks
- Question
 - How will it be handled if teachers choose not to be vaccinated? How will that impact us
 - Answer
 - Will proceed with in person despite vaccination status
 - Things may change over the next 5 months
 - Doesn't believe it will affect our choices going forward
 - Phase 3 - 4 days a week half day?
 - yes
 - For parents, is the option 4 days all in, or totally remote
 - 3-8. There will be some flexibility since it was not previously stated
 - Is the plan to go back to 100% in the fall
 - Yes, in charter meetings and superintendent meetings - that is the intention
 - Can't say whether TCCS will offer a remote option. That will be up to the Governor
 - With understanding that there will be some changes -
 - masks,
 - desk partitions,
 - teachers move to kids as opposed to students moving.
 - Hoping to have lunch service
 - A number of factors will be taken into concern, i.e. local numbers of cases
- Yet to show any transmission within the school this year
- **If you opted in - the expectation is that your student come to school**
- **SUMMER 2021**
 - Hesitant to offer programs last summer, but with TCCS's good experience in running in-person instruction, in addition to extra curricular activities:
 - There will be the option for in-person summer camps
 - Any proposals will have to include specific guidelines on how they will follow all protocols in place
 - There will be limited enrollment
 - Fed government will be provide funding to offer enrichment programs

- TCCS will have our own programs
 - Seek out vendors to do programming
 - ESY will also be running
- **2021 - 2022 CALENDAR**
 - Resolution on the calendar tonight to adopt the calendar
 - Sept 1st - First day of school
 - June 17 - Last day of school
 - Tried to be in step with Teaneck
 - Kept February break and Spring Break

****Testing question - penalty if data not updated**

****Any penalties if scores aren't where they need to be**

No - flexibility and much less accountability as it relates to performance

For renewal - Looking More at how we have responded to pandemic as opposed to testing

- **CURRICULUM/ASSESSMENT DATA UPDATE**
 - ELA Presentation
 - Able to test all grade levels
 - Thanks to all of the teachers
 - Overall, given the challenges of the year, students did well.
 - See presentation
 - Math Presentation
 - See Presentation
 - Questions
 - Any grades/cohorts that might be in trouble, or we should be concerned about
 - No. compared to last year and most grades are the same or even better
 - If a student is assigned to office hours - that student is supposed to attend office hours. It's not optional.
- **PD UPDATE**
 - 2nd class of Crisis intervention
 - 2nd class about Amistad curriculum

- Read Across America
 - Integrated that with Women's History Month
 - Pajama day for K - 2 - putting something to bed
 - Roots of Women's Rights will be integrated into curriculum

 - **It is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**
 - 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
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- **STAFFING UPDATE**
 - Ms. Angela left for a Full Time position in another district.
 - Offered Part Time position to new speech pathologist
 - Currently getting doctorate
 - Bilingual
 - Expert in speech and owns her own practice
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- **HIB UPDATE**
 - 2/8 Ms. Torres received a HIB report
 - Ms. Anders sent a summary
 - Not a confirmed HIB based on the accounts of all of the parties
 - Will submit recommendations to Mr. Gallo

OLD BUSINESS

- **NEW CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION**
 - Another resource room in the upstairs atrium
 - Have a plan for where it will go
 - Working with Friends and the architect to discuss further
 - Construction would take place over the summer

NEW BUSINESS

- **Committee Updates**
 - Curriculum committee update

- Thanked teachers
 - Rec'd presentation re middle of year assessments
 - Additions to performing acts
- Governance committee had a mini meeting last week 3/8
 - Discussed NJSBA policy updates that we will be presenting at next meeting
- Will be a statewide inter district meeting on 3/24 and we did receive a recommendation
 - Message is open to any board member
 - Potentially will be meeting with new commissioner

PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

Public Comment Resolutions

Public Comment General

- Questions/Comments
 - Calendar - traditionally we start after Labor Day and we're ending the 17th. What is the thought process?
 - Used the Teaneck calendar as the basis. They are closing the 16th
 - Didn't want to go into the next week if we have parents in both districts, so administration decided to go earlier
 - Teaneck is starting after Labor Day
 - So we can get full week off in February

Resolutions:

2103-01 - Budget Summary

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

2103-02 - SBA Financial Report (January 2021)

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

2103-03 - 2021-2022 Calendar

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

2103-04 - Personnel Appointment (Basketball)

- Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Capers. Roll call vote; resolution carries.
 - Question - Do the refs get tested for COVID
 - Mr. T. answered - I'm assuming so, There is an entire protocol through their commission. These are high school referees.

2103-05 - Personnel Appointments (Speech Pathologist)

- Moved by Capers; seconded by Holway. Roll call vote; resolution carries.
 - Question
 - P/T or F/T
 - .6 so that is P/T
 - 21 hours/ 3 days a week
 - Ms. Anders noted that there was an error in the Revision Masters step 8 and annual salary \$41,313
- Capers moves to revise the step and annual salary; seconded by Karibi-Whyte. Voice vote carries.
- Revision vote moved by Capers; seconded by Karibi-Whyte. Resolution carries

2103-06 - Personnel Appointments (Extracurricular)

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

2103-07 - Personnel Appointments (ESY 2021)

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

2103-08- Personnel Maternity Leave

- Moved by Mitchell; seconded by Capers. Roll call vote; resolution carries.
 - Question
 - Any plan for Gifted & Talented program
 - Ms. Scalici will front load the remainder of the work to put it in place. She will fulfill her obligation. The plan has already been discussed

2103-09 - Restart Plan Update

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

2103-10 - HIB Report Acknowledgement

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

2103-11 - Closed Session (Negotiations)

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

Meeting moved to Closed session at 8:29 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 9:06 pm