

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: October 13, 2021

Special Virtual Meeting

[Meeting called to order](#): 7:05pm by Julie Elliott

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Julie Elliot

Attendance

[Board Members Present](#)

Julie Elliott
Yvette Gonzalez
Xiomara Hadnot
Anthony McGilchrist
Keisha Carter
Kirk Mitchell
Julie Mitchell

[Administrators Present](#)

Ralph Gallo
Sonia Torres
Kristina Anders

*present for a portion of the meeting

Special Closed Session

Announced in Harold special meeting

First order of business approve min (3 sets)

Yvette gonzalez moves

Keisha moves

All approved

Ralph:

Shared with everyone the agenda for today. 1 of the requirements for renewal application requires board resolution. We are requesting an expansion. Enrollment expansion, subsequent amendment to our Charter from 36 K to 45 K and moving those kids up. When we did our last request it was capped at 2nd grade. Requesting to continue adding 9 students per year. Request will only run until 7th grade

because renewal lasts 5 years. So it stops at 8th and then renews again. We aren't adding grade levels, just additional 9 students per year and following through what we started 4 years ago.

Julie Elliott question: Some controversy about the lottery. Ralph Gallo answered: This isn't part of our Charter. It's officially part of our requirements. We run a waiting lottery with preference to economically disadvantaged families. Has worked really well with our online lottery system. Has worked out in our favor to increase opportunities for us and the families. It will be reflected in the application. They ask about our admission processes but won't change. Julie Mitchell question: If I understand it's business as usual just asking for adding more kids per grade. Ralph Gallo: Yes, just allowing the kids to continue to the other grades. Just continuing it but we need a former board resolution because it's renewal season and that's how it works.

If nothing else I will let you Julie talk about Board Goal.

Julie Elliott: Took first stab at what we used last time and updated a bit. A lot of it is the same. #1 goal is student achievement. Basically what we have used in the past. For when the teachers come in and give us the statistics: Adam, Ms Gail. Usually we get a report in Sept. This year we didn't do it and so I added it. In November we will get that report from Start Strong. That is the only specific change on the goals.

I put the last one in because it was pre-covid. I added that we as a board are providing the necessary support to the administration and students in and when they have to quarantine. Goal #2: After the Charter we have to come up with a 5 year strategic plan. They run a series of workshops within our community to gauge where we are now and strengths and weaknesses. I put that because it's specific and measurable.

Goal 3 in the past we have wanted to support PD - for the moment it's still an important goal.

Historically we have had 3 goals and we can sit together to pair it down. We as a Board haven't communicated as effectively with the community, the # The attendees to meetings reflect that. One of our goals this year is to improve how we communicate to the community, i.e. parents. I propose we submit this to the Charter renewal as a DRAFT with an asterisk that we are in the process of scheduling our retreat. Before we do that I wanted to see if you have any comments.

Xiomara are we utilizing our self evaluation data? JE: Yes. Seems what ppl have identified as issues now seems a bit less relevant. I added that note to the student achievement to add more technology.

Xiomara: Will that be available to us to review together? JE: Yes. JM: Is it worth adding some language in adding health and safety to the student body. JE: Yes, I think so. The things I identified as an issue, a teacher mentioned they wanted more consistency and disciplinary issues. I think Health and SAFety is a District goal RG: TY for bringing that up. That is covered in SAL but it's not a board goal at the moment. We will report on it at the end of the year. It's more of a District goal. JM: Good as long as it's a goal. JE: Support the administration in efforts to maintain health and safety.

It's due on Friday. We aren't approving it tonight - just please review and send me any comments by 12p on Thursday, 10/14/21. We will sit down as a board to discuss this at much greater length.

Ralph - once you get any feedback please update the document I sent to you and I'll send it to the Charter by Friday 2pm. Get it there by tomorrow night. Keisha question: we are submitting this as a preliminary or just make changes for ourselves RG: This stays with application and knows that during the retreat this may be fine tuned and goes on record that this was discussed with potential that it

may change. Later in the year you will review again and that gets reported in the annual report. DOE gets whatever changes are made.

JE: We received guidance from NJSEA saying we didn't have to set goals so it will be ok if we submit changes.

Xiomara: Is it in our favor to discuss additional intervention, Gallo: Falls under initiatives with funding and PD. I don't think you need to be so specific, It's more along the lines of us showing we have a PD plan - we do reference SEL and covid response and everything else.

JE: I think it's better to be a bit more general.

Gallo: My only suggestion is if you want to focus on making it timely, one of the bullet points could reference as it pertains to this that would be a good look. JE: I would do that.

JE: I am open to changes big or small changes:

JM: Have we decided about the retreat

JE: In the process of confirming and it will be virtual and in the evening and no sooner than December.

Gallo: That sums up NB - OB is we will be following up charter with NJEA. No specific dates as to when things are happening but atleast the ball is rolling. Is there anything else you want to add to Julie about strategic goals?

JE: It's in our benefit to organize but NJSBA does most of the work. We will have workshops.

Present Resolution:

1. Charter Renewal Application Submission : JE reads BE IT Resolved: Julie Mitchell moves .
Second Carter Keisha : resolutions carries
2. NJSBA Strategic Planning Contract : BE IT Resolved: Moves Gonzalez / Second McGilchrist:
resolution carries

Before we go, Julie sent me a really nice article: good news US NEWS REPORT: ranking of 80K schools based on state by state. Mentioned # of Teaneck School Out of all schools in Teaneck TCCS ranked highest. 8th out of NJ and 15th elementary schools. This is amazing news. She mentioned before that 1 of our board goals is about celebrating achievement. It's great for us to look so good in relation to the home district. Thank you for taking the time tonight to get organized for the DOE next week. Do you need to follow up with Board members that are participating? I have a question, there were diff levels of a half day and a full day. They reference that we do not need a quorum. Julie, Xiomara and Lorelle - 10am - 1045am - if you could look at your calendar please. Did they give you sample questions? I have sample questions that we can share. I also shared some with the Staff as they will get interviewed as well. JM: We need a prep session before this. JE: I do remember # of English language learners. We just approved someone to help with that as before we didn't have one. KA: We have 3 above Kindergarten

Meeting adjourned 7:37pm by Julie Elliott