

# Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: May 09, 2022

In Person

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Meeting called to order: 7:07pm by Julie Elliot

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Julie Mithcell

## **Attendance**

### Board Members Present

Julie Elliott

Yvette Gonzalez

Xiomara Hadnot

Anthony McGilchrist

Keisha Carter

Kirk Mitchell Absent

Julie Mitchell - Absent

Doug Anderson- Absent

### Administrators Present

Ralph Gallo

Sonia Torres

Kristina Anders

Ex-Officio: Yvette Skaff

\*present for a portion of the meeting

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## **Meetings Approved 4/18202**

**Gallo Opens:**

**Welcome and Happy Mother's Day.**

**A couple of items on Director's Report:**

- 1. Full Enrolment - 351**
- 2. Today was the first day of NJSLA - went well for not doing this in 2 years. Kids did great. Just about every 3rd and 4th grade brought a charged chromebook. We will**

be testing for the next 3 week, with make up dates just in case. We are being flexible with how we are administering it.

**Torres:**

1. **Teacher Staff Appreciation Week - Great way to show appreciation. TCSCO thank you so much for providing lunch. It was great.**
2. **A couple events coming up: LGBTQ + Session, Next Wednesday last Strategic Session (last session) 5/18 at 630pm. Strategic hasn't been overwhelming but very productive. We should be receiving our deck soon. JE: One thing during the first meeting, we went through the initial plan and what we have accomplished. It was incredible to see all that was achieved. Very eye opening! We have come a long way. I was really proud of what we accomplished as a community. Other events is June 7th - Field Day. June 14th for Move Up Day. June 15th Graduation / Author's Day. 8th Grade clap out on June 20th. We have a literacy event coming up in June but it's still being planned.**

**Sanders:**

**HIB Report:**

**Comments from 1 student to another including derogatory comments related to gender including I hope you kill yourself. LH / JE: We provide support for both the victim and the aggressor**

**Gallo: Light incident in the Gym (floating lights) Someone is flying out next Wednesday to inspect the lighting. We finally got a proposal from the Resource Room project. We need to join a co-op pricing program. This will be within budget. It will be done for September. We are still shopping around to find someone to do the outdoor bball resurfacing. We have 1 quote and are seeking another.**

**Elliot: Strategic Planning has been productive. I encourage everyone to come to our last meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS: We have to do the surveys. The Governance Committee is working on a timeline.**

**We need to do a Board Policy Revisions: Read the summary.**

**Non-Sex Based Discrimination: Title 9 Requires no person on the basis of sex to be subject to dicrimination. (insert revision:**

**LUNCH Policy: (See info)**

**Curriculum Adoption: Requires each school district to incorporate K-12 (see info)**

**Face Coverings: New policy requires use of face coverings indoors for all students and staff. (See info) - Ralph to clarify, this is a stand alone policy. All policies are depending on local authority / mandate. We just got a call from DOE as #'s for covid are going up. Should we go up to orange we might be re-mandating our mask policy.**

**5141. New policy - See info**

2224.1 Title IX – Sex-Based Discrimination – New policy, regulation and for compliance with Title IX, 20 U.S.C. § 1681, and its related regulations, 34 CFR 106.1 **et seq. Title IX requires that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, except as may be permitted by applicable law. Education programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance as defined by Title IX would include the education programs and activities of a public school district. The Title IX regulations, among other requirements, require a district to notify designated persons that the district does not discriminate on the basis of sex in district-operated programs and activities, and it is prohibited by Title IX and its regulations from discriminating in such a manner. Additionally, a district must prominently display the contact information for the Title IX coordinator as specified in regulation. Moreover, Title IX and its regulations require a district to adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging Title IX violations as well as a grievance process for formal complaints under Title IX. A district must notify specified persons of the grievance procedures and grievance process, including how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal sexual harassment complaint, and how the district will respond.**

3542.2 School Meal Program Arrears – Content updated for compliance with P.L. 2020, c.29 which amended **N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21**. **Changes include the addition of content requiring the district to communicate directly with the parent/guardian concerning the arrears and not the student. In addition, districts shall not:**

- 1. Publicly identify or stigmatize a student who cannot pay for a school meal bill that is in arrears, for example, by requiring that the student sit at a separate table or wear a wristband, hand stamp, or identifying mark or by serving the student an alternative meal;**
- 2. Require a student who cannot pay for a school meal bill that is in arrears to do chores or other work to pay for the school breakfast or school lunch; or**
- 3. Require a student to discard a school breakfast or school lunch after it has been served because of the student’s inability to pay for a school breakfast or a school lunch or because money is owed for previously provided meals**

6140 Curriculum Adoption – Content added for compliance with **N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.36a (P.L. 2021, c.32)** which requires each school district to incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an appropriate place in the curriculum for students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district’s implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

5141.10 Face Coverings – New policy, for compliance with Executive Orders 251 and 253 requiring the use of face coverings in the school district by all staff, students, and visitors.

**In accordance with Executive Order No. 251, and Executive Order 253 the recommendations Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the school district shall require that all staff, students, and visitors use face coverings in the indoor portion of the school premises.**

**Executive Order 253 has declared that as of October 18, 2021, all students and staff who are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 must receive the vaccine or to subject to routine COVID-19 testing. Executive Order 253 also applies to contracted employees, vendors, providers and any other individuals working in the schools where regular visits to the schools are part of the individual’s job duties, including volunteers.**

**Additionally, Executive Order 253, specifies that individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask wearing shall produce written documentation from a medical professional (e.g. licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant, or registered nurse) to support the exemption. Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient for this purpose.**

5141.11 Vaccination and Testing – New policy, for compliance with Executive Order 253 regarding vaccination and testing.

**In accordance with Executive Order 253, as of October 18, 2021, all staff members who are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 must receive the vaccine or be subject to routine COVID-19 testing. Executive Order 253 also applies to contracted employees, vendors, providers and any other individuals working in the schools where regular visits to the schools are part of the individual’s job duties, including volunteers.**

**Routine testing for COVID-19 testing must at minimum be one to two times weekly. The board has the discretion to determine if unvaccinated employees will be required to be tested for COVID-19 one or two times a week or more often.**

**The employee is required to demonstrate proof of full vaccination. The district is responsible for tracking test results and reporting such results to local public health departments.**

**The collection of and storage of test results, examination results and proof of vaccination documentation shall comport with board policies and all federal and State laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of that information.**

5131 Conduct and Discipline – Content add on prohibited hazing including definitions, policy requirements, reporting hazing, and discipline. ***The content on hazing is required for school districts and charter schools with a high school and/or middle school.***

5141.10 Face Coverings – On Feb. 7, Gov. Phil Murphy announced that masks and facial coverings would no longer be mandated for students, staff or visitors in schools effective March 7, 2022. In addition, face coverings are not mandated for students and staff members riding school buses. However, school districts may continue to implement universal masking policies after the mandate is lifted.

**Committee Updates:**

- 1. Curriculum Update -**
- 2. Finance Committee: Met today, 5/9 6pm. Discuss a STEM grant for \$485. We discuss the coop construction monies. Discuss the new phone system also through the coop communications. \$775 a month just for service now, Will do down to \$695 a month. Discuss the b-ball playground.**

**Parent: Teacher Comment:**

**I say this with full understanding that there is a staffing shortage. Here as a concerned parent and community member. This is about an instructor whose**

concerns have been raised in the past. I don't believe he is the right person for the job. When and where can that discussion take place and when and where we can discuss the concerns. JE: Basically the Board Members aren't previewing these discussions because it concerns Personnel. I think if you have any specific concerns, the appropriate place to go is the Administration. It's not really our role. Gallo: Any time we transfer a staff member there are always specific reasons and things we take into consideration. My responsibility is to communicate with the Board. When it comes to resolving with the teachers. I ask that the public and the Board trust the process. JE: Any time we move a teacher we make sure they get full training to make sure they are equipped for the position. The staff member I am concerned about has faced remediations to hopefully improve that. Can the school share any information to ensure that the right steps are taken? Gallo: We aren't allowed to share remediation with the public. There is a lot of evaluation. There is a process. Parent: I understand that Parent: Do you have a platform where we can address our concerns, petitions? Gallo: Yes, you should always reach out to the teacher first and give them the chance to explain/defend themselves. Parent: 2 Students in this school, 1 in HS. Would like for the same situation not to repeat itself again. Parent: Understanding there is a success story with students having the same teacher for 4 years but what do we do on the not such success stories. Being subject to any teacher for more than 2 years can be a lot and create a potential risk. Gallo: When you move a teacher to another position, this is a new opportunity for them. We want to give the teacher enough time to prepare. GALLO: We only approve one year, I am now approving what we are doing for September. Parent: Do you look at the longevity of groups of kids and those specific teachers? GALLO: It's different when one teacher teaches different subjects as opposed to one teacher for a 45 min class. YSkaff: There is a stigma on Charter schools. Yes we have opening and to market the school more. To get teachers and diversity it's even more difficult. JE: Thank you all for your comments.

Xiomara: Is it possible through our survey process? Can we change our survey window to be earlier so info that is being shared here can be shared ahead of time as Ralph is making those decisions. To better assess the Parent Feedback.

**GALLO:**

### **Resolution**

2205-01 - Budget Summary : Hollway moves, Haddnot 2nds, Resolution Carries

2205-02 - SBA Financial Report (March 2022) : Hollway moves, McGilchrist 2nds: Resolution carries  
2205-03 - Acceptance of Grant: Hollway moves, Gonzalez 2nd, Resolution carries  
2205-04 - HCESC Agreement : Hollway moves, Haddnot 2nd, Resolution carries  
2205-05 - Phone System Agreement: Haddnot moves, Gonzalez 2nd, Resolution carries  
2205-06 - 2022-2023 School Calendar: Hollway moves, Gonzalez 2nd, Resolution carries  
2205-07 - Online Board of Trustees Election: McGilchrist moves, Carter 2nds, Resolution carries  
2205-08 - HIB Report Acknowledgement: Carter moves, Hollway 2nd, Resolution carries  
2205-09 - Teacher Appointments (2022-2023) : Holway moves, Elliot 2nd: Carter abstain, McGilchrist: Abstain  
Resolution Carries  
2205-10 - Instructional Aide Appointments (2022-2023): McGilchrist moves, Hollway 2nd, Resolution Carries  
2205-11 - Child Study Team Appointments (2022-2023) : Hadnot moves, McGilchrist 2nd, Resolution Carries  
2205-12 - Support Staff Appointments (2022-2023) : Carter moves, McGilchrist 2ns, Resolution Carries  
2205-13 - Administrator Appointments (2022-2023) Hollway moves, Carter 2nd, Resolution Carries

**\*Items not included in the original agenda.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:20PM**