

Teaneck Community Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes from Meeting: June 13, 2022

In Person

Meeting called to order: 7:15pm by Yvette Gonzalez

Open Public Meetings Act notice read by Yvette Gonzalez

Attendance

Board Members Present

Julie Elliott -
Yvette Gonzalez -
Xiomara Hadnot
Anthony McGilchrist
Keisha Carter - absent
Kirk Mitchell
Julie Mitchell
Doug Anderson- absent
Lorelle Hollaway

Administrators Present

Ralph Gallo
Sonia Torres
Kristina Anders

*present for a portion of the meeting

Approval of the minutes

Julie requested to move until the next one due to just McGilchrist - motion J Mitchell second. All in favor

MR. Gallo enrollment update- thanked everyone for their help after a difficult year. Still at full enrollment, 351 the lengthy waitlist will be opened up in July after the intent forms are reviewed. For those who did not fill it out they will get a reminder.

Graduation -Wednesday night at 6:30pm for 8th graders. We will also have our readers ceremony in the morning on Wednesday at 10am. The students are very excited and have graduation caps this year there will also be surprise performances.

Board members who would like to attend the ceremony just notify Mr Gallo how many tickets are needed. Mayor Dunn Levy will be the speaker and he had a Q & A today with the students via zoom.

Faculty speaker will be Mrs. Scalici

Ms Torres shared the clap out will be 6/20/2022 at 12pm in the parking lot.

Mr Gallo Summer 2022 camps and ESY is all set. Staffing is set for summer and we will have a returning nurse for the summer. Custodial staff is ready with a schedule of turning over the building for next year. A schedule has been created to work through construction and building needs as well as where the students will be located.

Ms. Skaff asked if the teachers will be provided a schedule to learn when the custodial staff will be in their room. Mr Gallo shared that staff cannot just show up over the summer. Windows of time can be shared and teachers have to notify administration of when they plan to visit.

MR. Gallo shared that training for the Rutgers collaborative one complete project was chosen to focus on scheduling for next year, Ms Skaff MR Gallo and Ms Anders will be sitting down to review the schedules and then it will be shared with staff. The goal is that teachers go into the summer with their placements. Ms Skaff shared that it was nice to discuss something other than COVID and it was very successful.

The next goal to work on is looking at the lunch program for next year with a focus on the times to eat and recess. Ms. J Mitchell asked if that was a result of student feedback on not having enough time to eat. Mr Gallo shared that no it was more driven by the teachers and needs to manage time and cleaning. The goal will be to maximize the time.

Ms. TORress shared that she was at a virtual job fair. IT included 10 minutes per candidate and it was quick because they had to review resumes and provide questions. More time was added if there was interest toward the applying staff. Many of the questions toward her were to review the differences with charter and public. Many applicants were available after for the 1st grade position.

A demo was held with the candidate being presented tonight and the staff were very responsive. Ms Torres shared details of the demo. She felt it was nice to see the students interact with the candidate.

Ms Anders shared that there was a great candidate for part time social worker when asked why moving from supervisory is in the past she shared that direct contact with students is where she wants to be. She did a demo with the first grade students and she

accepted the position three hours ago. It was shared that there is a possibility of a full time position. Another special education position had a candidate demo with the 6th- 8th grade students toward the end of the day. She was wonderful with them and she had creative ways of engaging the students. She is a Teaneck resident and THS graduate and we are hoping that she will accept.

Ms. J Elliot asked when the teacher can come in and prepare for classrooms, when will the new hires start? They will start at the end of August for training and if they want to come in earlier accommodations are made. Ms Torres shared that in the past it has worked out with enough time.

There are two other candidates for the special education positions and the candidates are hopeful.

Ms. Skaff asked how the part time social worker will be spread out. Ms Anders said her goal would be to have her here when the Care Plus social worker is not present but it will have to be worked out.

Instructional aide positions are three vacancies and we have four good candidates.

J. Elliot asked if that applicant pool has gotten better, Ms. Anders stated yes and she is trying to get as many as possible.

Three HIBs were shared with BOard. Two were confirmed. Discussions have begun in regards to what to do going forward.

Ms. Elliot asked if it seems in her perspective there are more, are we getting more reports. MS. Anders shared that she believes it is getting more reports. One was an aide who reported and another reporting to parents through the anonymous bully box. Ms. Anders feels that social media is playing a large role in it as they are referring to where they get it from. Ms Elliot asked if it is a broad based problem or groups of kids. Ms Anders shared that we have repeat offenders. Ms Torres shared that the term monkey is being used in pompton lakes.

Ms. Hollway said it is not in a condescending way and some are not. MS Anders shared when providing consequences they don't see the impact.

Ms. J Mitchell, is there a number of times before exploitation.

Ms Hadnot asked whether the discipline policy reflects repeat offenders. MS Torress shared it is on the policy.

Public comment: do you believe kids are not reporting out of fear of the consequences or fears of getting more bullied? Ms. Anders shared that throughout this year something was reported by the students and the witnesses got mad and they wanted to drop it.

MS Hadnot shared that this may be a result of the students feeling comfortable to report.

Many of the work being put out toward LGBTQ+ curriculum and how to report and what to report on.

Ms Anders shared that she does over hear students standing up for the correct behaviors.

Public comment asked if there is someone on the committee who monitors social media. Mr Gallo shared the feedback of the tik tok challenges earlier this year and how it was shared with the community. With the security advances we have been talking closely to the police department.

Ms. J Mitchell shared that the police department is most likely monitoring and it is a moving target.

J. Elliot feels that we have worked with the high school department? Ms Gallo shared that there have been conversations with other administrators in town.

Mr. Gaollo shared that there have been workshops and presentations. We will continue to provide resources to support this area.

Mr. K Mitchell asked if we have had race related assemblies. Ms Anders shared that there was a presentation virtually last year. Ms. Mitchell shared that there should be racial based workshops. He also discussed how it is shocking when you leave a small school let alone Teaneck because outside of this town is not the same.

Mr. Gallo shared that there will be a goal to target in the upcoming school year that also ties into the strategic plan.

Security updates will start after July. The number of cameras will be doubled, basketball resurfacing, and other facilities. This will begin on the 21st the day after school ends. The gym lighting has been repaired. The original electrical contractor was very supportive in correcting it at no cost to us.

Ms. J Mitchell the doubling was to fill voids? It is a combination of outdated cameras and increasing the scope of what can be seen. Mr Gallo shared that they work with local police and homeland security and they review everything and that signage will be added outside.

Public asked if there are rope ladders on the second floor. Mr. Gallo shared that you cannot access the windows well and that was not recommended after the security guidance that was given. The goal is to be consistent. Ms J Mitchell shared that she has observed the drills and the results are outstanding.

Ms. Hadnot brought up that in the past the FBI has provided training with actual shooting footage. Mr. gAllo brought up that in the past but it may be something that will be added to August training.

Mr. K Mitchell asked about the added police officers. Mr Gallo shared that there was only an increased present. MS Hadnot shared that retired police officers are available and Mr GALlo shared that it is something that is brought up at directors meetings. IT will be included in the summer and possibly added to next year.

J ELliot presented strategic planning meeting results that were not very well attended. Last meeting he went through what the challenges were and he slowly made it more and more specific and as a group we went through five goal areas and they reneged form more assemblies to more field trips and life skills training and financial literacy. Matt Lee did send an update and he will do a final presentation to the board over the summer and the review of findings will be shared under the board link on the website. Over the next five years, the leadership team will implement the plan. All the things on the previous plan were met and it was amazing how much was accomplished with what was met. MR Gallo shared some things are immediate and some things may take time. Mr J. Elliot shared that COVID was unexpected but even part of the existent strategic plan.

J Elliot- staff, student and parent survey. Anthony McGilchrist will be presenting a thorough report at the next meeting. Board still has to complete their survey and Mr. Lee will assist with that. PReemptive results shared that leadership got rave reviews. Discipline being consistent was brought up. Students do not like dress code, they want a pool, and they want more recess.

J ELliot revised reading of the policies was presented for second reading.

Committee updates: Finance et right before meeting. Check REgister was reviewed and the rent was paid for the year. April financials were reviewed. The biggest thing in that report was that TEaneck didn't provide APRil check until May.

School safety grant was discussed and what it will be used for. Some will be used for security camera updates. ARC Homeless 2 grant will be refused because we do not have any homeless students.

Attorney is raising rates 3.6% per hourly rate.

The Auditor's contract is going up to \$24,000 because our audit was more challenging than anticipated.

Care Plus was also discussed in a contract where money is coming from ERSA III funds. Mr. Gallo shared that CARE Plus is a secondary support in addition to our part time social worker. Ms. Anders reviewed how it addresses wrap-around services.

Northern Regional Education Services which we use each year and the parts we will continue to use are the transportation appointments.

Salary for new $\frac{7}{8}$ math teacher MASTER +30 Step 6 and part time social work MASTER + 45 Step 9 .

Mr. Gallo shared the Board Election results and how the online voting system is effective and maybe should be added to our bylaws.

Ms Hadnot requested previous board members to come back for a workshop. Transition meeting will be held over the summer.

2206-01 - Budget summary Moved by: Holloway / Second by: J. Mitchell/

Discussion: None / Resolution Carries

2206-02 - SBA Financial Moved by: Hadnot/ Second by:McGilchrist /

Discussion: None / Resolution Carries

2206-03 - NJSIG : Moved by: McGilchrist/ Second by: K. Mitchell/

Discussion K. Mitchell - is that the full amount we need? It will be combined with PReschool Charter School security GRant . Resolution Carries

2206-04 - ARP Fund refusal Moved by: Holway / Second: K. Mitchell /

Discussion Hadnot what happens if a student ends up suddenly homeless ? The deadline has passed is must be denied because no identified homeless students. Resolution Carries

2206-05 - Contract approval (Legal) Moved by: J. Mitchell/ Hollway Second

/ Discussion none / Resolution Carries

2206-06 - Contract (Auditor) : Moved by: Holloway/ Second by: Hadnot/

Discussion none / Resolution Carries

2206-07 - MEntal Health SErvices Agreement: Moved by: K Mitchell / Second: McGilchrist/

Discussion none / Resolution Carries

2206-08 NRESC Agreements Moved by McGilchrist: Second byHollway / Discussion none/

Resolution carries

2206-09 Board Calendar Moved by McGilchrist: Second by Hadnot/ Discussion/ Asking about the dates. Resolution carries

2206-10 HIB reports Moved by Hadnot: Second by K. Mitchell / Discussion none Resolution carries

2206-11 Personnel Appointments (Summer) Moved by J. Mitchell : Second McGilchrist. Discussion: X. Hadnot what curriculums are being worked on? Health curriculum and ELA curriculum the moving staff will be working together curriculum /Discussion Resolution carries

2206-12 Personnel Appointments (2022-2023) Moved by: Holloway Second Hadnot / Discussion none Resolution carries

2206-13 New and Revised Policies Moved by McGilchrist: Second Holloway Discussion none Resolution carries

8:42pm Meeting adjourned