

TMCS Board Minutes

March 5, 2015

The rescheduled February meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President April Hatch. Attending board members and staff were: Mary Murray, Deb Phillips, Myra Watkins, Cathey Chet, Tanya Blackford, Dan Poeta, Kelly Stike, Laresa Griffin and Denise Pesce.

Agenda was approved; motion made by Dan, seconded by April. Motion carried.

Minutes were approved; motion made by Myra, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.

Principal Report: Denise

Denise will be meeting with Acadia in April. Report was approved by the state to increase enrollment to 200. This should increase revenue by approximately \$70,000.

Calendar – state allows school to do calendar by days or by hours of instruction. We are already logging about 80 additional hours of instruction time, not required by state. Half-days of winter have been converted to full days. No other time needs to be made up.

New website underway; lots of work still to be done by staff. Great marketing tool, very streamlined. Plans are to launch by end of school year. Set up has been done by Randy Chet and his graphic designer, Bill. Tanya and Denise met withleanor Ashton , formerly with Evergreen Charter School, to discuss experience with marketing and website needs.

Team met with Frank Kelsch and Luther Smith to discuss possibility of expansion. They believe we can expand on our current campus. We will need six more classrooms for elementary and middle school is dependent on ability to add more students. They would like to do a study on the feasibility and design of an expansion. Price would be approximately \$10,000. They will also give cost estimates of separate items. We are looking at a total price of about \$1.5 million or more. Capital campaign needed to start. We are at a tipping point now and need to either jump forward or start cutting back. We would to expand maybe one or two grades at a time, not all at once. Suggestion was made by Dan to start now and think about removing middle school as years go on and other grades expand. Argument points were that there are no other options for middle school in this community. Maybe ask Frank to split study cost of \$10K over two budget years. Comment was made that we need to commit to the study in order to be able to get a resolution. Then we could always table the idea if we need to wait for a later year. The fundraising costs need to be added in to the final cost of the project – we cannot deny this will need a hire to happen. Motion was made by Mary to set aside \$10k to do the study. Laresa seconded. Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION: Denise does not want to renew the contract with Derek Dennis, our science teacher in middle school. Not a good fit for this school. Issues are a lack of organization, communication, substance in teaching. Position will be listed again. Denise will meet with him again tomorrow.

Ladelle Shannon is resigning and going to French Broad River Academy to be Assistant Director of their new girls' school.

Principal Survey: Results were glowing; most positive of any survey this school has sent out. April spoke with Denise about a couple of negative comments (#11 – advanced placement and #17 – ongoing issue that has been resolved – child's behavior).

Principal Raise: after discussion of available funds and options, 3.5% was recommended. April made motion, Laresa seconded. Motion carried.

Other concern was about our accounting firm and their recording methods. We are under contract with them (unsure of length of time). Question raised about possibly benchmarking other charter schools for their accounting firms. Denise says about 80% of all charter schools use Acadia. State funding and other sources are in constant flux and numbers are always changing due to dates and receipts. Denise feels like we should stay with Acadia and stated that we can bring Darryl in anytime to meet with the board and explain accounting practices.

Question on field trips: had zero budgeted in the beginning but as field trips were taken and paid for, it's being added in that line item.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising Committee – no meeting/no report

Communications Committee – no meeting/no report

Public Relations Committee – no meeting/no report

Future Planning Committee – team meeting with Luther and Frank in Principal's report

Nomination and Board Training Committee – no meeting. Denise and Mary are discussing new members.

Executive Committee – no meeting/no report

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Laresa, seconded by Mary. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laresa M. Griffin

TMCS Board Secretary