

## Taylor Road Middle School – Governance Council Meeting

Virtual

Minutes – December 10, 2021

Members present: Martha Patorgis, Katharine Bridges, Kristie Face, Franca Marsh, Marcy Morantz, Michael Sinco, Payal Chhabria, Michal Gabay (Guest), Steve Akinboro, Tom Hazay (Guest); and Principal, Kelly Parker

SGC meeting was called to order at 7:47 am

### **7:47AM - Action Items:**

Marcy Morantz, moved to accept the agenda for the December 10, 2021 meeting. Franca Marsh seconded the motion.

### **Flexible Funds Expenditure - Patorgis**

- As a committee the focus should be on teacher morale. The funds that are being requested fit this focus

### **Public Comment**

- No one commented

### **7:58AM - Informational Items**

#### **SGC Flexible Funds Update - Patorgis**

- \$44, 500
- 4 different requests – SCG committee will need to vote – district has broken down where we are able to spend the funds
  1. Special Populations – 2 curriculum task boxes – for our AU students - building independence for these students \$1, 712 for 2 boxes
  2. For teachers – furnishings and items to create a ‘relaxion station’ - \$14,000 (a living room space for the teachers to relax)
  3. Paint the mural in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Hallway – depict the many wonderful cultures of the TRMS community (community collaboration) \$300 will cover the supplies
  4. Allotting \$3,119 – related to and linked to the One Well Project – for the 2<sup>nd</sup> well and build a rain barrel
- \$19, 131 TOTAL of the above requests
- Akinboro – requested to pick up the cost for the mural
  - \$16,131 after deducting the mural
- Franca Marsh – mentioned she is fine with all of the above requests; however, her question is: can we use the rest of the money to pay the salary for another teacher? Answer: Unfortunately, no from Ms. Patorgis. Also, if we don’t use our money, we lose it and we want to be more proactive.
- Patorgis – Committee vote: Do we allot the funds for these requests? United ‘Yes’ - all committee passed the vote

#### **PBIS Committee Update – Bridges and Face**

- Completed and calendarized teacher rewards
- Student rewards – Glow Party, Games, Movies on Friday, 17 December 2021

- Subcommittee working on events for next semester
- Subcommittee preparing for a teacher refresher on PBIS
- Ms. Patorgis wanted to remind to have the Admin Team award points to TRMS teachers as well

### **Cultural Diversity Committee/Tiger Talk – Patorgis**

#### **Marsh –**

- Last time committee met, formed a student committee called Tiger Talk
- Staff was impressed as to how talkative the students were – a topic up for discussion: whether we should implement a book of poems into the meetings (The Rise to Resist) – discuss as a group
- Competition for the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mural - is now complete

#### **Tiger Talk – Patorgis**

- Premise of this group is to determine what is going on at the student level – does race play a factor, background, etc.
- Adults would work through such conflicts and allow the students the opportunity to understand and provide solutions
- Ms. Pompey and Ms. Bryant-Butler are the 2 TRMS teachers leading this committee
- The goal is to turn Tiger Talk into a student leadership group – then they will bring back situations or conflicts back to the leadership group – this will help to increase pride and be an integral part of the TRMS community
- Meeting again next Tuesday – the students set the agenda – Ms. Patorgis keeps the minutes

#### **Gabay –**

- Brought up the anti-Semitism event that happened at TRMS this past week and wants to bring more information to the group
- Had a very meaningful conversation with Mr. Parker
- Asked about how many students are part of this committee – Ms. Patorgis replied 15 students

#### **Marsh –**

- Asked Gabay to expand her request to bring ‘more information to the group’ - could you tell us a little more about what you want to bring up to the group?

#### **Gabay –**

- We have a very large Jewish community in the TRMS community – many of us are ancestors to Holocaust survivors
- It’s important to bring more awareness to all students not just this committee
- Saying hateful words comes out of ignorance – that is why we need to educate all students about the impact of saying hateful words
- Would enjoy the opportunity to bring this situation and awareness to the TRMS students

#### **Bridges –**

- Wants to provide clarification in Social Studies – this topic is built into the curriculum
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade spends a week on the Holocaust in October – topic also is taught in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and expands to other Middle Eastern topics
- suggested more lessons/topics/discussions could be incorporated/concentrated on this topic – we would welcome guests to come in and speak/discuss details about the events; or if there is a particular family story in which could be shared

**Gabay –**

- Is willing to speak about her family story to TRMS – many Israeli people in the community would also like the opportunity to speak

**Patorgis –**

- Has asked more families to be a part of the education process in January to speak to our students and staff about cultural experiences so our students have a better understanding of others

**Hazay -**

- Wanted to thank Mr. Parker for acting quickly to address the situation that happened at TRMS
- Many of us are focusing on how to move forward – not wanting to have any more negative focus for our students and community due to religion, race, gender, etc.
- We are a very diverse community – and want to have students understand our differences
- Concerned with our general atmosphere within our schools – would like to know how we can best support our schools to prevent both physical and verbal events

**Parker –**

- We must let the adults know what is happening – students and parents must be willing to tell what is going on
- We must take the time to investigate all facets before we react too soon, but we have to give the proper people time to research and take appropriate action if needed
- Trust is extremely important – we will continue to make sure the students are protected

**Superintendent Advisory Committee**

**Morantz –**

- Revisited grading policy – board approved first read – had further questions on the inclusions which need to be addressed – board will take a 2<sup>nd</sup> read
- Tiered system of emotional supports - crisis intervention/threat interventions
- ELA textbook adoption K – 12 proposed materials are available for viewing on [fultonschools.org](http://fultonschools.org) website - looking for public comment through end of January – will be to the board for approval in March
- Attended large Q/A session with Dr. Looney to review other topics – they did revisit the calendar issue with late start days - starting in Spring - they will have early release days in the alternative to late start days

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance – Patorgis**

- Dance went great and the students had so much fun

**Set January agenda**

**Meeting adjourned 8:34AM by Patorgis**