

Taylor Road Middle School – Governance Council Meeting

Virtual

Minutes – February 11, 2022

**Members present:** Martha Patorgis, Katherine Bridges, Michael Sinco, Kristie Face, Franca Marsh, Marcy Morantz, Julie Ray and Principal, Kelly Parker

**Members absent:** Steve Akinboro, Payal Chhabria, Lea Anne Moxley

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am

**Approve Agenda:** Approved by Marcy Morantz and second by Michael Sinco

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved by Franca Marsh and second by Marcy Morantz

**Flexible Funds Expenditure: Ms. Patorgis**

- The boxes for the AU students - the shipping costs needed to be factored into the overall cost
  - Mr. Edler needs to order one additional box
  - Total cost of the boxes: \$1, 113.14 - approval for this expense and to purchase one more box for the AU students – vote to approve - YES
- Coach Sinco asked the funds amount – Ms. Patorgis mentioned \$19, 113 has been appropriated
- PBIS: spending additional funds
  - Looking to purchase items that last long-term and will be utilized for rewards for the students – large outdoor games (examples: giant chess, giant jenga)
  - Total for these outdoor games: \$3000 – vote to approve – YES
  - Buy permanent signage above the classroom doors with the teachers’ names listed
  - Purchase banners for TRMS
  - PBIS team will be coming up with other ideas
  - Ms. Marsh mentioned that Ocee ES just purchased signs for teachers
- Mr. Parker – said we’re bringing back the Citizenship breakfast at the end of March 2022. Needs SGC approval for drinks – under \$500 (we are linking this to the 3 PBIS expectations: be proactive, be respectful, be responsible) – approval - YES

**Public Comment: anyone**

- Coach Face - asked to discuss Field Day 2022. Current 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have not had an opportunity to experience Field Day at this school
- Field Day has always been a tradition at TRMS and we want to make this year as fun and as memorable as possible for all students
- Asking for the largest inflatables and a dunk tank (Ms. Patorgis softly volunteered Mr. Parker for the dunk tank). Wait....what?! Hahaha! 😊
- The three days scheduled for Field Day (May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>), the cost is \$3,000 for the largest inflatables (x2) and one tank. What does the team think about spending this amount of money to support the students experience for Field Day?
- Also, this is an excellent opportunity for other departments to earn money by selling cotton candy, sodas, chips, ice cream, etc. Vote on the approval of spending 3k – YES

### **PBIS Update: Katherine Bridges**

- Committee had a duty day last week (Fri, 2/4/2022)
  - Talked about data from surveys related to the program; identified some areas that need improvement; identified some areas in which have improved
  - In the afternoon, the team divided and worked respectively in their sub-committees - student rewards and teacher rewards

### **Student Advisory Group: Ms. Patorgis**

- Cultural diversity – very memorable experience for Ms. Patorgis – students were divided into 2 groups and the focus was to name the top 3 challenges at TRMS with regard to student-to-student relationships; teacher to teacher relationships; and student to teacher relationships relationships/interactions
- Tapping into the students’ voices is extremely important; so to have the opportunity is important to listen and try to understand
- Ms. Patorgis further explained as she went in to observe classrooms, she asked all of the students: ‘if they are experiencing bullying’... and all the students raised their hands – we must change the dynamics
- One 7<sup>th</sup> grade student asked Ms. Patorgis: ‘what do they do in detention?’ The student suggested: ‘what if the students reflected on what they did wrong and how they could improve their behavior?’ – this may be something to consider for future detention times

### **Superintendent Advisory Council: Ms. Morantz**

#### **Ms. Morantz:**

- Dr. Matthews, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, talked about safety (in general) and all the ways safety, attendance, student code of conduct, restorative practices, community town halls, student discipline, check and connect site, and increased supervision will impact schools. Specifically, this topic related to during transitions when they’re in the hallways
- Received valuable information from Q&A with Dr. Looney – and anyone bring up topics of concern at this meeting – there was a lot of talk about cell phone usage in school
- Ms. Morantz mentioned she knows and understands TRMS has always had a no cell phone policy - for example, if something happened, students need to be able to get in touch with his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Milestones testing will be administered this year
- Had a brief Covid 19 update (no details)
- Controversies over books – Forsyth County is dealing with this same issue
  - This is related to a list of banned books - Toni Morrison and other beloved authors have weighed in on the situation – Ms. Morantz explained she is passionate about books and spends the majority of her volunteer time in the library – she feels parents need to take more responsibility for what their kids are reading and censor the books at the home level
  - Issue is coming before the state legislature – Ms. Morantz would love to see some sort of action to see if the legislature is going to move forward and implement censorship books in schools – this is her issue of passion

- Coach Sinco mentioned – ‘you spoke about the Superintendent talking about transition in between classes...he went on to say there are numerous problems at Hooch regarding this matter – issues he hasn’t seen before in his time at CHS – he wants to know what is happening at TRMS?
  - Ms. Patorigs weighed in said teachers are out in the halls between classes – she isn’t aware of any fights – hasn’t dealt with any issues - kids are going to their lockers so of course there’s going to ‘clumping’ of students – the students still ‘horseplay’ – but we carefully investigate – our resource officer (Officer Tony) is on top of investigating issues she reassured the group
- The other issue is cell phone usage – Coach Sinco brought up the QR code on soccer flyer he created when he came to TRMS to discuss future soccer players...spoke to the TRMS PE teachers and was told ‘no cell phones’ allowed – not even to scan the QR code unfortunately
  - He feels phones are ubiquitous among young kids – is it really an issue we want to fight?
  - Phones are becoming an ever-so present item in our lives – have we taken a hard dive – or is this policy still needed?
  - Ms. Patorgis answered and said this ‘no phone’ policy was enforced 3 years ago because of social media issues – she used the example she often uses on students...‘If I see it again, the phone will be mine’.
  - The students will then quickly apologize and put the phone away. Ms. Patorgis went on to explain...middle schoolers have a challenge with appropriate phone use, they are still trying to figure out who they are and who they are with their peers. Two different dynamics. We aren’t asking teachers to collect phones before class begins.
  - Mr. Parker weighed in – he and his admin team have asked students to keep their phones in their lockers – hasn’t been a big issue here at TRMS – there may be a one off where a student texts their parents in the bathroom asking to be checked out – and we are surprised in the front office – but we set the standard that ‘you don’t need your phone...you’re in middle school’
  - The admin team is wanting to send the message: the cell phone policy is not rigid...but we discourage cell phone usage
- Ms. Marsh – agrees with the ‘no cell phone’ policy but wants to circle back to the hallway transitions during class change
  - Disagrees with the idea that ‘fights aren’t happening in the hallways’ – said she saw a video of a fist fight from a TRMS student – one fight was by the bus lanes – and one was inside the building - she said she specifically hears stories from her son that there are a lot more fights between classes at TRMS
  - Ms. Patorgis – said overall we have fights, but she reiterated she hasn’t seen an ‘increase’ in fights
  - Mr. Parker weighed in on the topic – based on the data from 2018 – 2019SY – our physical altercations are much lower now than back then – even in a normal year, we are down in number of fights
- Coach Sinco – Wanted to circle back to the Superintendent talk – schools are getting extra police officers– will TRMS be getting an additional police officer – question to Mr. Parker – and his reply: ‘no, we aren’t getting an increase in resource officers– from what we understand, the increase in personnel must be based on group fights and we don’t have group fights at TRMS

- Ms. Patorigis – wanted to be sure the SGC team is aware that Officer Tony is on top of supervision – kids know that we are taking their negative behavior seriously – we are checking the security cameras between classes and on a daily basis

**SGC Elections - Ms. Patorgis:** – sending out information from district so Ms. Baker may post on TRMS website for teacher and parents – Ms. Morantz, Julie Ray, and Ms. Marsh is rolling off – Definitely going to re-elect!

**Teacher Morale Update – Ms. Bridges:**

- Ms. Bridges said the team is continuing to work on teacher morale – ordered everything for the new teacher ‘relaxation station’ – based on teacher rewards (PBIS)
  - Grand opening for this room is in March – during Teacher workday
- Group is creating a bi-monthly get together for teachers to come and visit/get to know each other during an informal happy hour

**Principal Update – Mr. Parker:**

- Budget approval – the process starts at a 0 number
- **Strategic plan- Mr. Parker:** went back to the 3 rocks – Relationships and Routines; Tier 1 Instruction; and Interventions

**Budget Highlights:**

**Funding Priorities: 3 rocks**

- Relationships and Routines (#TheTRWayForward; PBIS)
- Tier I Instruction (Professional Learning)
- Interventions (Professional Learning)

**Cost Center:**

- Total Amount Earned FY23
- \$10, 623, 589
- (\$422,000 increase)

**Significant Changes from FY22:**

- Gaining positions
- Enrollment above 1200 (1220)

**Personnel:**

- \$10,125,966
- 95% of total budget

**Non-Personnel:**

- \$450, 417
- 5% of total budget

**Additional Fiscal Updates:**

**Charter Dollars:**

- Total Amount Earned FY22: \$44,500

**Charter Dollar Expenditures:**

- Teacher Support
- PBIS Rollout
- Diversity Celebration

**Rollover Dollars:**

- **Total Amount Expected FY23: \$45,000**

**Rollover Dollar Expenditures:**

- Instructional Materials and supplies

## Questions?

- Coach Sinco - said it would be interesting to see how the budget breakdown besides personnel – about 60,000 that goes to coaches and department chairs that he doesn't have control over – custodial supplies is about 15,000 – ended up with about 91, 000 for instructional supplies that he does have control over
- A small amount of flexible funds is available for a principal to use for the building
- Ms. Bridges – asked how schools gain additional counselors – Mr. Parker said - based on # of student population for counselors
  - With the effect of the pandemic we need an extra counselor

Coach Sinco approved the budget

March 18<sup>th</sup> next meeting

Coach Sinco asked if there is still an issue with teacher retention – would like to see quality teachers be retained and focus on how to do that – add to the agenda – Ms. Pat – said we have a teacher support committee – what are we doing to keep teachers

8:35AM – meeting adjourned