

**Twin Cities International Schools
School Board Meeting**

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 4:00 pm on Google Meet.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Ms. Marian Aden
Parent Representative Abdirizak Botan
Community Representative Mohamed Mumin
Community Representative Abdi Elmi
Teacher Representative Mr. Cyprian Marubi

ABSENT:

Chair Mr. Warsame Shirwa

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ex-Officio Members Mr. Abdirashid Warsame and Mr. Ismail Ahmed

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Andrew Grice, Ms. Kelli Smith, Board Clerk Ms. Justie Vavra and Accountant Mr. Mohamed Egah

1.0 Call to Order

Chair opened the meeting at 4:02 pm. The Chair acknowledged a quorum was present, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2.0 Open Agenda

Chair acknowledged the Open Meeting.

3.0 Approve Agenda

Mr. Mumin motioned for the Agenda to be approved. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

4.0 Minutes from the Previous Meetings

4.1 Minutes from the Previous Meetings of November 19, 2020

Mr. Cyprian motioned for the Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2020 to be approved. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes of November 19, 2020

No Business Arising from the Minutes of November 19, 2020.

6.0 Audit's Report

Mr. Andrew Grice presented the Auditor's Report.

Mr. Botan motioned for the Audit's Report to be received. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

7.0 Treasurer's Report

7.1 Revised Budget

Mr. Mohamed Egah shared the revised 2020-2021 budget.

Mr. Cyprian motioned for the revised budget to be received. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

8.0 Authorizer's Report

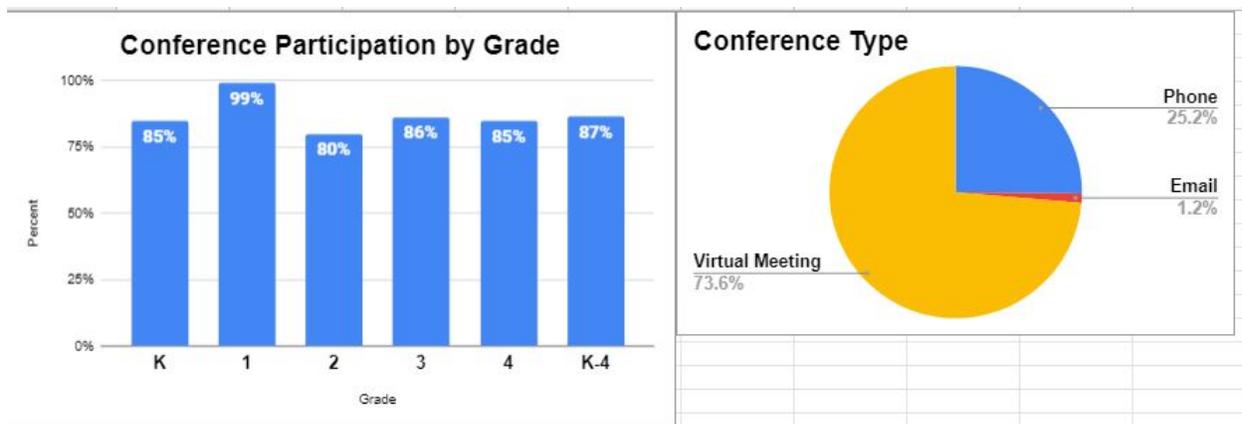
Item Tabled

9.0 Director's Report

Mr. Abdirashid and Ms. Kelli reported:

December Director Notes:

1. Enrollment - K-4: 587; 5-8: 468, Total: 1055
2. TCIS Administration is proposing a one-time stipend payment to all employees of \$500 to be paid with the December 31, 2020 pay period. This stipend payment is in lieu of a 0% COLA raise for this year, taking into consideration the final audit numbers and fund balance goal, as well as faculty meeting all of the challenges this pandemic has presented for providing continuous learning for our students. This amount will be added into the revised budget for approval.
3. TCIS will be closed from Friday, Dec. 18th, 2020 @4pm through Monday, January 4th, 2020 @7am for the winter break.
4. TCIS is currently implementing plans to address a winter math and literacy assessment for all students in line with our PUC contract goals and as adjusted due to distance learning. The logistics of virtual MAP testing for all TCIS students proved challenging so coaches and administration will be utilizing other forms/assessments of measuring student growth. These goals should have data ready to be reported to the board by the February board meeting.
5. Currently, MDE is moving forward with the in-person testing requirement for the ACCESS for ELs and MCA/MTAS assessments. It is unknown how quickly a new federal administration can work to provide a waiver option to states for those spring assessments. We are working on plans to facilitate in-person ACCESS testing first, which could begin as soon as Feb. 8th, 2021.
6. PUC GOAL UPDATE: K-4 Winter Parent Conference Data:



7. Updates to MN SAFE LEARNING PLAN as of 12/16/2020: Governor Tim Walz announced yesterday that he recognizes the importance of having students, especially our earliest learners and those who are elementary-aged, back in schools, and will thus begin to allow school districts to bring students back in a phased approach beginning January 18, 2021. He also announced:

- All staff who are teaching in-person, whether as part of an in-person or hybrid learning model, must wear both a face covering and face shield when interacting with students.
- Staff will be provided an opportunity to take a COVID-19 test every other week, which will be facilitated by a Minnesota Service Cooperative.

- Staff who may have been exposed to a person who tests positive for COVID-19 will not need to quarantine if they are not experiencing symptoms.
- Social distancing requirements (i.e. 6 feet) will no longer apply to elementary-aged students.
- There can be no more than three (3) grade bands (i.e. Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade) in an elementary school when beginning to phase back into a face-to-face model.
- Staff must be provided at least two planning days before transitioning back to the new instructional model (Executive Order 20-82).
- For elementary schools only: All student meal times and specialist lessons must be held in the classroom or outside (weather permitting).
- Physical education classes may continue to be held indoors, outside of individual classrooms, so long as students and staff are wearing face coverings.
- Schools must continue to provide a distance learning instructional model option for students through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Important Dates Related to Model Changes:

- January 4, 2021: Distance Learning resumes after Winter Break. Parent Survey begins.
- January 13, 14 and 15, 2021: **IN PERSON Planning Days for All K-8 Staff**, No School for ALL K-8 Students. (Teachers will be encouraged to post asynchronous activities for students who want to complete extra work (i.e. iXL, Raz-kids, etc...))
- January 25, 2021: Kindergarten, Grade 1, and 2 will return to school in-person.
- February 8, 2021: Elementary & Middle School students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 will return to school in-person.
- February 22, 2021: Middle School students in Grades 6 (possibly 7 & 8*) will return to school in-person.

*Students in Grades 7 & 8 will remain in the Distance Learning instructional model until further notice. Future instructional model decisions will be based on the state's Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. District officials are working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health and local public health officials to consider all options. Information will be communicated as it becomes available.

8. **The FFCRA is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2020.** Therefore, federal employment accommodations under the FFCRA **will no longer be available** to TCIS employees. TCIS has adjusted its **TCIS-ECRP** to still allow some accommodations to address time off due to COVID-19 isolation and/or quarantine orders:

- TCIS has amended the TCIS-ECRP to allow employees to use any or all of their current PTO/Vacation time to facilitate a documented positive COVID-19 test result for the employee only, a documented close contact quarantine order, or

need to care for a minor child due to a documented child care or school facility being closed due to COVID-19 should the employee be unable to work, regardless of what instructional model your position requires.

- The TCIS-ECRP also allows employees to use any banked time with documented positive COVID-19 test results for the employee only or documented close contact quarantine order should the employee be unable to work, regardless of what instructional model your position requires.
- Banked time usage for an employee unable to work due to caring for someone with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis (outside of the close contact order) must be accompanied with an approved FMLA leave.
- If PTO/Vacation and banked time has been exhausted and an employee is required to follow an isolation or quarantine order and is unable to work, the time off will be unpaid but not documented as misconduct.
- Banked time may not be used in the event that an employee is unable to work, due to a child care or school facility being closed due to COVID-19.
- This updated TCIS-ERCP will expire on June 30, 2021.
- *Any modifications and/or changes to this policy will follow future federal or state employment guidelines and will be communicated to all staff accordingly.*

Mr. Abdi motioned for the Directors Report to be approved. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

10.0 Other Reports, Discussion, and Action Items

10.1 First Policy Readings for the month of December 2020

10.1.1 490 Suspected Misconduct Policy

10.1.2 506 Discipline

10.1.3 902 Use of School Facilities

Mr. Cyprian motioned for Policies 490, 506, and 902 to be approved as first readings. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

10.2 Final Policy Readings for the month of December 2020

10.2.1 427 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers

10.2.2 504 Student Dress and Appearance

10.2.3 902 Use of School Facilities and Equipment

Mr. Abdi motioned for Policies 427, 504, and 902 to be approved as final readings. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

10.3 Board Training Plan

We will have more details next month.

10.4 Contract Goals Review

Academic and Non-Academic Goals

Both the academic and non-academic goals were presented during the director's report.

11.0 Adjournment

Mr. Cyprian motioned for the meeting to adjourn, noting the time at 10:14am. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.