School Board Meeting Minutes

TCIS Mission

Twin Cities International Schools will prepare all students for future success in both school and life. With a rigorous standards-based curriculum that challenges every student, we hold our community to high expectations in the pursuit of excellence. We help our students persevere and overcome obstacles that may get in their way. Through involvement in the community our students develop the character traits needed to become active and engaged citizens who will be ready to meet dynamic global challenges.

TCIS Vision

Twin Cities International Schools (TCIS) recognizes that all children are unique and bring their special qualities with them as students. We welcome and value students from all cultures and embrace the background, skills, knowledge and creativity each brings, while allowing them to retain their unique cultural heritage. TCIS works as a community to provide a safe, supportive, engaging and collaborative learning environment. Working together with students, parents, teachers and staff, TCIS prepares students for a lifelong love of learning and academic success.

Date	Time	Location
4/16/26	4:00 PM	TCIS Board Room #200

Role / Representative	Name	Attendance
Board Chair (Community)	Mr. Warsame Shirwa	Present
Treasurer (Parent)	Mr. Abdirazak Botan	Present
Director (Community)	Mr. Jimmy Engler	Present
Director (Parent)	Mr. Yusuf Samatar	Present
Director (Teacher)	Ms. Heidi Tesfaye	Absent
Ex-Officio (Executive Director)	Mr. Abdirashid Warsame	Present
Ex-Officio (Director of Finance & Operations)	Mr. Ismail Ahmed	Absent
Ex-Officio (Principal and Director of Academics & Assessments)	Ms. Kelli Smith	Present

Visitors Present
• Ms. Bethany Griffith, Board Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Board Chair called the April 2026 school board meeting to order at 4:02 PM. He acknowledged a quorum was present.

2. Open Agenda

Subject	Open agenda for comment or questions.
Discussion	The Board Chair acknowledged the Open Agenda. No public comments or questions were posed to the Board.

3. Agenda

Subject	April 2026 Agenda					
Discussion	Board members reviewed the April 2026 Agenda.					
Motion	Approve the April 2026 Agenda.					
	Made By:	Mr. Jimmy				
	Seconded:	Mr. Yusuf				
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

4. Minutes

Subject	Regular Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2026					
Discussion	Board members took time to review the minutes from 3/26/26.					
Motion	Approve the March 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes					
	Made By:	Mr. Jimmy				
	Seconded:	Mr. Abdirazak				
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

5. Business Items Arising from March 26, 2026

Subject	Business Items Arising from March 26, 2026
Discussion	All business items arising from the 3/26/26 board meeting are included in the agenda.

6. Finances

Subject	**6.1** July 2025 – March 2026 Year-to-Date (YTD) Report
Discussion	Mr. Abdirashid, Executive Director, and Ms. Kelli, Principal and Director of Academics and Assessment, presented the YTD Report.

	The following was noted: ● The budget is based on an ADM of 899. This number could decrease in May as some families may leave school early for summer travel plans. ● The school's working budgeted surplus for the year is $35,717. ● The projected cumulative fund balance is $5,591,303 or 31% of expenditures at fiscal year-end. ● Projected "Days Cash on Hand" for the projected fiscal year-end is 82 days. This is above the 30 days minimum bond covenants. ● Projected Debt Service Coverage Ratio at fiscal year-end is 1.26. Above 1.10 or 1.0 with 90 days cash on hand meets minimum bond covenants. ● 75% of the year is complete with revenues tracking at 73% and expenditures tracking at 71%. The fund balance is tracking at 31.4%. ● A few of the line items are tracking above the 75% benchmark, but those are due to the expenses being front loaded (i.e. textbooks/curriculum and technology equipment). No questions or comments were posed regarding the YTD Report.

Motion	Approve the July 2025 – March 2026 YTD Report				
	Made By:	Mr. Abdirazak			
	Seconded:	Mr. Jimmy			
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.				

7. Authorizer Updates

Subject	Updates and Important Information Regarding Authorizer (PUC)
Discussion	There was no Authorizer Representative present at today's meeting. No updates to report.

8. Director's Report

Subject	Director to Present Updates to the Board
Discussion	Ms. Kelli, Principal and Director of Academics and Assessments, shared the following: • Enrollment Update: District (903) (K-5 578; MS 325) • MCA Science Testing for Grades 5 and 8 only took place on March 31 and April 1. • There was an early release day on Thursday, April 2nd to allow staff to participate in a professional development training on Structured Literacy. • The East African Book Fair was held on Saturday, April 4th. Families and community members came together to read, learn about literacy initiatives in MN, and celebrate stories! The event had great attendance and a lot of positive feedback was received. • Students in grades 3-8 took the MCA Math Assessment on 4/7 and 4/8. • The MCA Reading Assessment (MCA IV) is new this year and will take place next week. The results will be released in October 2026. • The quarter 3 Leading for Success staff meeting was held on April 8th. • Staff are participating in a "Secret Staff Spirit Month" to help create a fun and engaging atmosphere during statewide testing. • Star Scholars for quarter 3 will be announced at the assembly on 4/17. Students will also be recognized for perfect attendance. • There will be no school for students or staff on Monday, April 27th.

	• There will be a celebration on Saturday, May 30th from 12-4 PM to mark 25 years of operation for TCIS! This event will include food trucks, bounce houses, carnival games, dunk tank, cultural dancing, and alumni recognition for previous students and staff. Attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase TCIS clothing and take tours of the school building. Fliers will be shared with the school community and tickets will available for purchase. • There will be a student recruitment event on May 9th to help new families learn about TCIS and its offerings. A parent academy meeting will be held the same day. Mr. Abdirashid, Executive Director, explained that due to the economic situation and shortage of workers, TCIS would prefer to maintain its current vendors. This would lead to a two-year extension of Vendor RFPs and Contracts from 2026-2028. **Any other Business:** Academic Goals Achieved: Preparing and administering statewide MCA assessments in math, reading and science. Non-Academic Goals Achieved: East African Book Fair, Star Scholar Assembly, and Structured Literacy training for staff.

Motion	Receive the Director's Report.					
	Made By:	Mr. Abdirazak				
	Seconded:	Mr. Jimmy				
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

Subject	**8.1** Board of Directors Election Date (2026)					
Discussion	Board members discussed the election date of May 16, 2026. The election would be held from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM.					
Motion	Approve the Board Election Date and Time for 2026.					
	Made By:	Mr. Yusuf				
	Seconded:	Mr. Jimmy				
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

Subject	**8.2** Updated 2026-2027 Academic Calendar	
Discussion	Ms. Kelli explained that there were a few updates to the 2026-27 Academic Calendar. Administrators wanted to include the Community Events for next year (i.e. Curriculum Night, Art and Science Fair, East African Book Fair and Literacy Event, etc.) The last edit was for staff to have a professional development day on April 23, 2027, so students would not have school. This changed the students' last day to June 10th, 2027.	
Motion	Approve the Updated 2026-2027 Academic Calendar	
	Made By:	Mr. Abdirazak
	Seconded:	Mr. Jimmy

Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

9. Governance

Subject	**9.1** School Board Meeting Calendar for 2026-2027					
Discussion	Board members reviewed the meeting schedule for 2026-27. Ms. Kelli mentioned that Thursday, February 18th is during Ramadan, so the Board may want to adjust their meeting time that day. Board members discussed and agreed to change the meeting time to 11:00 AM. Due to the information regarding the State of the School not being available until the fall of each year, Mr. Abdirashid recommended that only the Board Elections be held in May. This would allow the Board to hold the Annual Meeting in the fall when statewide testing information is available.					
Motion	Approve the School Board Meeting Calendar for 2026-27 with the edit of moving the meeting time on 4/18/27 to 11:00 AM and only holding Board Elections on 5/22/27.					
	Made By:	Mr. Abdirazak				
	Seconded:	Mr. Yusuf				
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

Subject	**9.2** Final Policy Readings: 215 and 415					
Discussion	The Board Chair reminded the Board that these policies are a final reading.					
Motion	Approve policies 215 and 415 as final readings.					
	Made By:	Mr. Jimmy				
	Seconded:	Mr. Yusuf				
Vote	**Yea**	4	**Nay**	0	**Abstained**	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously.					

Subject	**9.3** Board Goals: Academic and Non-Academic Goals
Discussion	All Academic and Non-Academic Goals were discussed during the Director's Report (i.e. The East African Book Fair, Parent Academy, and Statewide Testing (MCAs).

10. Adjournment

Subject	Adjourn the April 16, 2026, School Board Meeting.	
Discussion	The next board meeting will be held on 5/14/26.	
Motion	Approve the adjournment of the April 16, 2026, school board meeting.	
	Made By:	Mr. Abdirazak
	Seconded:	Mr. Yusuf

Vote	Yea	4	Nay	0	Abstained	0
Decision	The motion passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 4:45 PM.					