

TWIN CITIES ACADEMY
Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by board member Chris Rider at 5:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Angela Davis Drew, Chris Rider, Krista Varley, Beth Gillis, Anna Schneck, Scott Lindholm, Steve Cerkenik

Others in attendance: Betsy Lueth, Principal; and members of the TCA High School Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the November 2015 and December 2015 minutes was made by Beth Gillis and seconded by Krista Varley. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Krista Varley and seconded by Beth Gillis. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Merger Approval and Next Steps

Principal Lueth informed the board that the school must soon submit two forms to the Secretary of State. They pertain to the merger of the middle school and high school into just one school with one name, Twin Cities Academy. The staff is working with attorneys to complete this process.

2015-2016 Revised Budget Proposal

Principal Lueth advised the board that the fund balance will be above 20 percent. The school is in a healthy position. There was discussion about the construction of the new school and the cost of the the adjacent baseball field and softball field. Principal Lueth informed the board that instead of having a traditional spring fundraising event as the school has done in the past, it's time to do something new. There are currently no parent volunteers available to organize the event and silent auction that TCA has done in the past. Some board members then agreed to take on the task themselves and brainstorm on an alternative fundraising event.

OLD BUSINESS

Principal Lueth said the MPCA report is now in.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Board member Steve Cerkvėrnik said all is in order. Principal Lueth added that the middle school has spent 49.2 percent of its budget at the halfway point of the year. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report for November 30, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Motion was made by Steve Cerkvėrnik and seconded by Anna Schneck. Motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Governance Committee

Chris Rider reported the committee has started working on developing a gender inclusion policy for TCA with input from students. The committee is also working on updating teacher and parent surveys and the merger of the middle school and high school boards. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd.

Facilities Committee

Principal Lueth said the school is considering the option of an unisex bathroom at the new building as construction moves forward. It would be on the second floor of the new building. She is seeking ideas on a unisex bathroom and giving thought to privacy issues as well as keeping it open enough so that the staff can supervise it. The gym at the new building is now fully enclosed and slab has been poured for the floor. By the end of the week the entire building should be enclosed. Construction continues to be on schedule overall and still under budget.

Marketing Committee

Principal Lueth shared that was good attendance at the first School Choice Fair for Charter Schools held at St. Paul College on January 23rd. Many parents stopped by the TCA table to ask questions about the middle school and high school and to set up shadow dates, learn about upcoming open houses, and fill out applications. A few TCA parents, students and teachers were there to represent the school and provide answers to questions. About 35 schools were represented.

Principal/Executive Director

Principal Lueth provided an update on the applications that have come in for the next school year. She stated many more have been submitted compared to last year at this time. Applications for the 9th grade are up substantially. TCA already has 40 applications for the 9th grade not including the current class of 8th graders currently at the middle school. Parents of those 8th graders will be asked to fill out a form indicating if they are returning to TCA for 9th grade at the upcoming parent/teacher conferences.

Teachers

French teacher Cassandra LaFleur reminded the group of the upcoming fundraiser for the French Club students who are about to visit France in March. Pieology restaurant in Highland Park is donating a portion of their sales to TCA if customers identify themselves as being connected to school. The French Club is also hosting a fundraising breakfast on 2/13/16. There was also discussion of the upcoming parent/teacher conferences that will require a 6-day work week for the teachers, but allows more families to participate.

A motion to adjourn was made by Anna Schneck and seconded by Steve Cerkenik. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.