

TWIN CITIES ACADEMY

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2019 (Rescheduled from January 31, 2019)

5:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rich Holst at 5:04 pm

Attendance

Members present: Rich Holst (via phone), Alexandra Howes, Elizabeth Neilson, Phil Jemielita (via phone), Tamika Rhodes (via phone at 5:11 pm)

Others in attendance: Betsy Lueth, Executive Director; Ms Hodge, UST Liaison; Brenda Reedy, Recording Secretary

Reading of Mission & Vision

Read by Holst

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the December minutes was made by Jemielita; second by Howes.

Discussion: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Add to Action Items the acceptance of Krista Varley's resignation from the board. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Howes; second by Neilson. Discussion: None.

Motion carried with approved changes.

Public Comments

None

Action Items

Discussion: Acceptance of the resignation of Krista Varley from the Board. It was mentioned that TCA appreciates the work she has done and she would be welcomed back any time. A motion was made by Howes; second by Jemielita to accept Krista Varley's resignation. Motion carried.

Old Business

Would like to find additional legal and marketing public to serve. There were a couple feelers, one was a former Asst Supt of White Bear Lake schools who is retired; another a lawyer from 3M. Outreach is working on these two. It was also discussed adding a parent or two.

New Business

None

REPORTS

- **Committee Reports**

- **Governance**

- No meeting, the plan is to meet during Conferences on Saturday February 9.

- **Finance**

- ***November and December Financials***

Jemielita mentioned that we are our “normal boring selves”. He noted that the concern with financials is for the long term not the day to day. A motion was made by Howes to accept November and December Financials; second by Neilson. Motion carried.

- ***Long Term Sustainability Discussion***

Enrollment is set. Expenses were up 5% but Revenue increased only 3%. Not sustainable for long term and need to find sources of revenue. Cafeteria plan is being sought out for health plan for more staff choice, to be competitive, and supportive. Very forward thinking in terms of Charter Schools.

- **Policy**

- ***Unpaid Meal Balance Collection Policy***

This is a change by MDE from a procedure to a policy. It is TCA’s policy not to turn any student away for a negative balance. Parents are alerted to low balances in several ways, in person, phone, mail and email.

- ***Review Lead Testing Policy***

This was completed at TCA and we are fine. We are now required to have a protocol on file and are expected to have this done every 5 years. A motion by Howes to accept this procedure; second by Neilson. Motion passed.

- ***Discussion on Pledge of Allegiance Waiver***

Neilson has noted there is a statute that one time per week it is required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance unless a waiver not to do so has been filed. Waiver must be completed yearly. Discussion: Jemielita asked why we would file the waiver and it was said the Pledge has never been required in TCA history due to social justice issues. A motion was made by Howes to complete the waiver; second by Neilson. Motion passed with 4 yay and 1 nay vote.

- **PIP**

- Rhodes gave an update on the March Equity Conference being held.

Speakers of diverse backgrounds will be on a panel discussion. May is the final PIP event rounding out the year with the Pancake Breakfast.

Discussion about the January dance event was that it was phenomenal and fun!

- **Directors Report**

- Applications are up, last year there were 61 Sixth Grade applications and this year there are 128. Ninth Grade applications are up too, 23 last year and 35 this year. Retention this year from Eighth Grade to Ninth is at 46-50% which is a boost from last year’s numbers as well.

- **Teachers Report**

- Howes and Neilson said teachers are catching up after the second “winter break” from the snow and cold days, conference prep is in full swing and getting a good start to second semester!

Motion to adjourn at 5:43 pm by Howes; second by Neilson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Reedy