

TWIN CITIES ACADEMY

Board Meeting

Tuesday October 9, 2018

(Rescheduled from Sept 27, 2018)

5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Krista Varley at 5:08 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Board Chair, Krista Varley; Tim Becken, Shannon Hady, Elizabeth Neilson, Alexandra Howes, Rich Holst and Tamika Rhodes via phone.

Others in attendance: Betsy Lueth, Executive Director; Brenda Reedy, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lueth added to New Business: Ex-Officio Student and gym floor update. A motion to approve the agenda as edited was made by Becken, second by Howes. Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the August board minutes by Howes, second by Hady. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Treasurer's Report

In Phil's absence, August and September doing well. Discussion ensued about the sustainability and long term capital campaigns. Trends in salary, benefits, transportation, curriculum and technology are being researched. Motion to accept August Financials by Becken, second by Hady. Motion carried.

Annual Report

This was submitted to UST, our authorizer, on September 30 when due as a draft. Discussion ensued regarding corrections to report and revamped classes and curriculum with stronger instruction due to low MCA scores. Principal Skagen has been instrumental in finding new curriculum and has provided some good ideas to improve instruction. Motion was made to accept the Annual Report with corrections by Becken, second by Neilson. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

World's Best Workforce Report

Report went out to all families. There is a new accountability system called North Star. Discussion happened regarding some corrections in graphs and kudos to our ELL for their proficiency. Motion to accept World's Best Workforce Report with changes by Neilson, second by Howes. Motion carried with changes.

Gym Floor Update

Discussion ensued regarding the damage to the gym floor, insurance coverage and replacement timeline.

Ex-Officio Student Member

Discussion occurred on creating a student leadership position on the board, sending them to board training and how to best choose the student to put in that position. The decision has been moved to Governance Committee for review. It was determined that the board would allow the student to come and participate as a public person until by law discussion happens.

OLD BUSINESS

Student Retention Rate

Report of lowest amount is from 8th to 9th grade, usually at 70% retention, this year 62% were retained. Discussion ensued regarding both highlights and items to work on. Marketing was also a point of discussion and some ideas were to push out social media on Hoot Suite or Social Pilot.

Overall Teacher Retention

Discussion ensued regarding importance of competitive salary and benefits.

REPORTS

Committee Reports

Governance

Varley and Howes are members. Briefly discussed Parent Survey.

Finance

Jemielita is a member. Meeting happens Monday before Board Meeting at 7 am

Policy

Neilson and Rhodes are members. Discussed briefly Data Practices Policy needs to be updated as well as Whistleblower Policy to meet the Assurance of Compliance requirements by October 30th.

Executive Director

There are 630 students and holding which is slightly above budget. 9th and 10th grade are the lowest numbers.

Teachers Report

The following highlights were mentioned by the teachers: recommendation letters for seniors being written, school play rehearsals starting, speech team starting, the boys soccer won their first section game with a rain out of the second game.

Neilson reported a great 9th grade class, excitement about the new camera for Yearbook and a guest photographer coming in to help with Yearbook. She also mentioned AVID and seeing an increase in organization skills by reporting that it seems to be a positive thing.

Howes reported College in the Schools has 40 students and it's overwhelming with the paperwork but she is enjoying it. She reported a different feel this year in comparison to last year to the positive.

Hady reported the Special Education Dept is doing well with retention of all teachers and a strong team. It was noted that our Special Ed Dept has a good reputation for serving a diverse group of students.

Rhodes reported on Parents in Partnership (PIP), our parent engagement group. She said there would be more details at the next board meeting. She mentioned there were some

questions the PIP would like to see on the Parent Survey and that is “how can the school support you and how could PIP assist with resources?”

Adding the Parent Report as a standing item on the agenda was discussed and encouraged.

Motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. by Holst, second by Howes. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting is October 25th at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Reedy.

