

**TTMS Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes: Monday, September 13, 2021**

**Present (via Zoom):** Nathan Riordan, Eric Aasness, Meghan Mull, Jodi Ryznar, Teresa Rao, Ken Hanks, Sven-Erik Nielsen, Jami Sweeney

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Guests joined via Zoom

**Visitor Comments**

Shana: Given the situation, moving forward is there talk about following a different protocol that may involve shorter quarantine than 14 days, consider testing/shorter quarantine periods. Will cover in Director's report.

**Approve Consent Agenda**

*Motion:* Meghan moves to approve the consent agenda. Jodi seconds; No discussion; All vote in favor. Motion passes.

**Director's Report/Q&A (Jami)**

COVID: what happened last week.

- 7<sup>th</sup>: positive case in Sycamore, class went remote that day, followed by cases Friday in Red cedar and Alder and another in Sycamore
- When we get a positive case reported, call the Health Dept, complete online forms for contact tracing, DOH gets a snapshot, triage and gets in touch with school
- Friday call from DOH, complete obligation to follow recommendations of DOH (14 day closure) in consultation with epidemiologists. Anything over two cases is considered an outbreak. They are balancing the importance of keeping kids in school in the decision. Recommendation: quarantine for 14 days, with no testing needed.
- No cases since. One other positive test over the weekend that was not related to the school, as this person was away prior to the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- We can up the amount of air in the space to turnover fresh air, in addition to the already in-place high volume HEPA filters. We are looking into options, but we think it is maxed out. The Delta variant takes less viral load
- What we will see this week are more edited guidance from DOH about how to mitigate for Delta.
- This is consistent with what other schools are facing.
- We have applied for the State program that allows us to get tests onsite, rapid testing onsite for people with symptoms. Can use two ways: 1) screening or 2) diagnostics (we would use it as diagnostics). Cutoff is for 3-4 years old that are able to be tested, which informed the decision to use as a diagnostic tool rather than screening.
- Question: Is there any way, without hardship, to ask that families test kids before returning to the classroom. Or can we switch to KF94 masks.
  - It is turning out that cloth masks are not as effective. Testing is not mandatory and we are not requiring test results because in 14 days the virus will have run its course.
  - Today is the sweet spot for getting tested as the course of the virus goes.

- Question: Do we know if the cases across classrooms are connected?
  - We don't know for sure. And confidentiality prevents us from sharing details. The epidemiologists do know the details and are using that data to assess and recommend.
  - DOH gave us kudos for the work that we are doing for mitigation already. If fans are used, they must be used to blow air out of the building
  - There are guidelines and there won't be a time ever that we do not follow the DOH guidance.
- Question: Are there basic guidelines for out-of-school activities...how do we keep COVID out so that kids can stay in school.
  - One of the great things about this school is that people have been responsible. The DOH does say there are trends and to be more careful. Vaccination is helpful. Watch the data on cloth masks.
  - There is a new variant on the horizon and we need to stay vigilant and mindful of the community.

Enrollment: 173 students, some space in Primary. Technically we are full, but we will be having some Toddler kiddos moving up and given the events of the last week, we need to be careful of bringing new people into the building. Opportunity points: 1) fill a couple more spaces in Primary (when safe) 2) Upper EI.

- Question: We are hearing from students that Jami does an aardvark impression.
  - Apparently Jami does, indeed, do an incredible aardvark impression.

### **Board & Standing Committees Update**

Board Update: Since this is the first meeting, we want to walk through our focus areas for the coming year. We are focusing on stabilization for a sustainable future. In summary, the Board is focusing on 1) Supporting the wellbeing of staff, students and the community as a whole, 2) Staffing needs, 3) Financial resources, 4) Elementary class enrollment and 5) Board recruitment and membership. In addition to the focus areas, we are also going to be working on the annual performance evaluation for Jami in the Spring, review of the Board bylaws, 2022-2023 budget, State of the School update to the community in the Spring, and incorporating some Board education into our meetings.

- Question: What is the Line between the school executing operationally and the Board...how much of it is the Board and how much is the school?
  - Opportunity for a Task Force. This is not meant to overstep; more how can we support the community?
  - There are several areas where the community can use the support of the Board: marketing and communication for example.
- Ask: Board volunteers to lead the charge in the focus areas.
  - Teresa volunteers for the Wellbeing area.
- We have moved to an every-other month Board meeting to give us time to work on these areas in between meetings.

Finance Committee (Eric):

- Balances: cash in bank \$897,922 net income August loss of \$64,491, we don't anticipate that as ongoing, revenue in summer is lower. Anticipate a \$5,000 loss in September.

- Financial position going forward, don't anticipate big losses as long as enrollment stays up. Summer is always a loss because teacher salaries are year-round and we don't pull tuition.
- Question: what percentage loss is \$5,000 and what does that mean?
  - During COVID times, that is a pretty small number. We have a solid reserves amount, in part thanks to some PPP funding. About 3% loss.
  - Exploring some savings here and there including changing banking relationship but we are pretty well as lean as we can get.

#### Board Development & Recruiting Committee (Sven Erik):

- Number one priority is recruitment. The environment out there right now is difficult for recruitment. Looking right now at about 16 possible candidates at this time.
  - Call to action: All folks on the call please feel free to join the Committee or the Board! Looking for specific experience in legal, financial, real estate, Montessorian, but not limited to these areas.
- Committee meets the third Tuesday of every month. Anyone can join 😊

#### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (Jodi):

- Committee has not met yet!
- Stay tuned for announcement of when the Committee meets (looking into the schedule).

#### **Executive Session**

Executive Session was held this evening.