



TESFA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Global Minds with Minnesota Hearts

Board Minutes

6:00 p.m. March 22, 2021

Meeting Location: 1555 40th Avenue NE, 2nd Floor, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Mission

Through a global-minded education, we empower and prepare all students with the empathy, knowledge, and skills to take risks and pursue goals that contribute meaningfully to their community.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER - Abby Hendricks @ 6:01PM CST

Present: Pat Exner (Joined @ 6:13PM) , Amir Orandi, Jonas Beugen , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl

Absent: None

2.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS : None

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by: Pat Exner , Amir Orandi, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah X, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed

Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl X

Yea: 6 Nay 0



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4.0 COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT:

5.0 APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consists of routine matters of business taken as one motion. Board members may request to remove from the consent agenda any items they believe warrants board discussion or a separate vote. These consent items include:

- Personnel Items - Hire LTS Chris Glover March 1st - May 28 for Distance Learning
- February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Executive Director recommends the School Board approve the Consent Items as found above.

Motion by: Pat Exner , Amir Orandi , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah , John Groenke X , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed

Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi X, Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl

Yea: 6 Nay 0



6.0 Monthly Financials -

6.01 Approval of February Financial Report and Payment of Bills

Motion by: Pat Exner, Amir Orandi, Abby Hendricks, Beth Al-Qudah X, John Groenke, Mohamed Selim, Megan Kufahl Mohamed

Seconded by :Pat Exner, Amir Orandi, Abby Hendricks, Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke, Mohamed Selim X, Megan Kufahl

Yea: 7 Nay 0

7.0 Presentations and Discussion Items

7.01 School Board Election

- By-laws and board composition
 - Current By-Laws
 - 7 Member Board
 - 3 Community, 2 Teacher, 2 Parent
 - Many boards are now 5 Members
 - Law requires at minimum 1 community, 1 teacher, 1 parent
 - Stay with 7? Consider Changing to 5?
 - By-laws may be amended by board vote
- Timeline
 - Must be posted to community at least 30 days before election
 - Solicit candidates on website and newsletter (by April 15)
 - Election Date May 25 - (voting closes at 3PM)
 - Ballots sent to families May 20 (early voting starts May 20)



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7.02 Teacher Salary Scale 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

- 2021-2022 based on parameters previously approve
- 2022-2023 proposal for consideration discussion
- Initial placement on salary scale

Rationale: Based upon the belief that recruiting, retaining and developing superior teachers is the most important factor in creating and maintaining a high performing school. It is important that we continue to address our salary in order to: (a) Attract the strongest teacher candidates, (b) retain our high-performing teachers.

7.03 First Reading of Policies for Review

- 220 Board Self Evaluation
- 420 Student and Employee Infectious Disease
 - Recommended: Title change
 - Might want to add the universal precautions
- 709 Student Transportation and Safety
 - change grade k-6 to All grades
 - Change the bus routing language to , normal routes, delayed routes, special events

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.01 Approval of Revision to School Calendar

- Recommendation - (current calendar attached)
 - May 13 & 14 currently staff development days become instruction days
 - May 26 & 27 currently instruction days become staff development days
- Drivers of the Change
 - MDE changed the MCA test window, Math test is now May 17-21
 - Our planned move, teachers need more than one day to pack for move

Motion by: Pat Exner X , Amir Orandi , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah X , John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed



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Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl

Yea: 7 Nay 0

8.02 Approval of the adoption of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) as the school programmatic focus beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

Rationale: After thorough review of the options there is consensus amongst the staff that this is the best direction for the future of the school. Based upon interviews with 38 parents representing 68% of our students there is strong support for this change.

Motion by: Pat Exner , Amir Orandi , , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah , John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed X

Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah X, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl

Yea: 7 Nay 0

8.03 Approval to change the school name to Twin Lakes STEM Academy effective 7/1/21

Motion by: Pat Exner X , Amir Orandi , , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah , John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed

Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi X, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl

Yea: 7 Nay 0



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Rationale: After thorough review of the options there is consensus amongst the staff that this is the best direction for the future of the school. Based upon interviews with 38 parents representing 68% of our students there is strong support for this change.

8.04 Approve Reviewed/Revised Policies

- 703 Fund Balance - revise 3/22/2021
- 790 Check Signer Policy- revise 3/22/2021
- 807 Health & Safety- reviewed 2/22/2021

These policies reviewed in February -

Motion by: Pat Exner , Amir Orandi, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah X, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed

Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi, , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl X

Yea: 7 Nay 0

9.0 APRIL AGENDA ITEMS

- Board Development Document (training)
- Final FY21 Final Budget Revision
- Preliminary FY22 Preliminary Budget Adoption
- NWEA MAP Winter Results

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Pat Exner , Amir Orandi , , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah X, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl Mohamed



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Seconded by :Pat Exner , Amir Orandi , Abby Hendricks , Beth Al-Qudah, John Groenke , Mohamed Selim , Megan Kufahl

Yea: 7 Nay 0