



Email: info@tworiverscs.org
Web: tworiverscs.org
Phone: 970.384.5200

MINUTES

TRCS Board Meeting, January 27, 2022

Hybrid - Online on Zoom and In-Person at TRCS, 195 Center Dr., Glenwood Springs, CO

Board Meeting facilitated by Angela Roff on Zoom and In-Person

The Mission of Two Rivers Community School is to be an exemplary K-8 school founded upon the belief in academic Rigor, curricular Relevance, and authentic Relationships.

Board Attendees Present: Jocelyn Kochevar (in person); Angela Roff, Sally Camacho, Ashley Thomas, Christy Chicoine, Lexie Clark-Kimmel (on Zoom)

Board Attendees Absent: Josh Mattson

Other Attendees: Jamie Nims, Head of School (in person); members of the public (in person and on Zoom)

I. **Call to Order:** Angela called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

II. **Public Comments**

1. Scott Black, TRCS K & 1st grader parent, shared thoughts about ending the mask mandate. It is now in the hands of the school board and Mr. Nims, kids are at low risk of contracting Covid. For the last week, there was a 55% drop in Covid cases based on Garfield County's website. There is hindering of the learning process especially with the younger kids' speech. Parents should have the freedom to choose if their children wear masks or not. He requests this be discussed before the next board meeting and not put it off for another month.

2. Lindsey Lewis, TRCS 3rd grader parent; Lindsey asked the board to please address the mask mandate, either tonight or add to the formal February agenda. The mask mandate has failed given the past weeks have shown the highest number of Covid transmissions. There are a number of learning styles, and the children are hindered by being forced to wear a mask. Parents, students, and faculty who would like to have a vaccine have already done so, therefore; we should remove masks. "We cannot be fear based and I don't accept this as the new normal. Our children have sacrificed enough."

3. Brandy Hutto, parent of TRCS student; Brandy stated she understands the board members have not had an easy job and they are appreciated. You cannot keep doing the same things and expect a different result. We can still all come together and have choices. We are afraid of each other and teaching our children to be afraid of each other. She appreciates the TRCS Board meeting format. The reality is our children are suffering and not from death. Brandy asked the board to read the articles, listen to the videos, listen to your family, listen to your heart. There are so many more harms from masks than benefits. If this is what you chose for your children and your family, we support you. Bring back that choice. Breathing and drinking are needed. Depression and addiction are increasing due to mask wearing. She asked for all Covid restrictions and mandates to cease. Read the UK study shows that natural immunity is better than mask wearing.

4. DeeDee Rippey, teacher and parent of 3 children at TRCS; She is taking a firm stance at damaging our students any further. She fought for in person learning, reviewed the mathematical and statistical data and determined in person learning is best. Masks and Quarantining are harming our students even more. It is difficult to catch a student up after 5 days of being absent. It is ethically and morally corrupt to keep the kids in masks. We are now in the epidemic stage of the virus; we can now move past. Calling on each one of the board members to let everyone choose whether to wear a mask or not.

5. Nikki Kochevar, on staff at TRCS and a parent of 2 and 7 grader at TRCS; Nikki shared the same

sentiment as everyone in the room. Kids are being reprimanded and lectured for not following the rules, she steps in when she can and when she is nearby. Spoke at a previous meeting and listened to everyone share their points of view. Now TRCS should be moving past the conversations of masks for in person learning vs. online learning. Everyone needs a personal choice. Never in history have we expected our entire community to keep us healthy. There is personal responsibility for individual health, we need to go back to parents having that choice. She was at the county commissioners meeting, and they were shocked at how many quarantines are happening within the schools. It is up to the individual school boards to determine Covid guidelines. Creative liberties are being taken on existing mandates although they don't include schools. Other schools are already having these discussions, we need to have these discussions for TRCS. She implored this decision to be made sooner rather than later, but no later than the next board meeting.

6. Richard Malone, teacher at TRCS for 7 years; He is appreciative that TRCS is having these conversations. He misses seeing the kids' faces and there is an emotional component. He is supportive of whatever they decision is, however, he's really supportive of removing masks even if at an age limit to allow younger kids more flexibility to learn.

7. Mr. Nims, Head of School; He appreciates everyone coming here and coming with kindness. He has seen other board meetings that aren't as kind and respectful. He personally doesn't disagree with many of the statements made tonight. Covid is here to stay, and it is time to have conversations about the long-term plan. He stated we have not had any students experience severe illness, and we have had the highest amount of students and staff out recently. He's not quite ready to lift masks yet, given current school statistics. We have had 130 students/staff out, mostly with confirmed Covid over the past 3 weeks. He shared he'd like to think we can find a pathway to get through this and bring everyone together again. There is a point that we need to discuss what threshold of risk we are willing to live with.

III. Consent agenda

1. The agenda was approved without revisions.
2. Christy moved to approve the December 2, 2021, meeting minutes and Sally seconded.

Vote as follows:

Sally Camacho - Aye

Angela Roff - Aye

Christy Chicoine – Aye

Josh Mattson - Absent

Ashley Thomas – Aye

Jocelyn Kochevar – Aye

Lexie Clark-Kimmel-Aye

The motion passed.

IV: Building/Expansion Committee Update

Guest Speaker: [Phil Vaughan](#)

[ATTACHED](#)

Provided a general update and understands it might be frustrating to see the timeline going into 2023. Current getting proposals from various entities. Will need to get contracts and plans in place within the next few months to get in front of the City and potentially higher up, as needed based on the City's responses. There was concern raised about using the fund balance to pay for the expansion. Additional concerns raised about existing West Glenwood sewer line issues and the proposed building location. Evaluating additional potential sites for various reasons including the City's expressed concern about maintaining current parking figures.

V. Standing Reports

Head of School Report

[ATTACHED](#)

1. RFSD contract negotiation timeline: TRCS is looking at getting a similar contract as Carbondale with a few exceptions to include Special Education. The district might not be able to staff up to support, and TRCS has great relationships, to include BOCES. Transportation; TRCS should have 24-hour access to fueling center, free washes, annual training, and retraining. If a student requires a wheelchair, TRCS would have access to special busses. TRCS would also have access to a loaner bus if a bus breaks down. Housing; As it stands RFSD has 66 houses available for district

employees and will be adding 30 additional units. RFSD doesn't want to allow access to current units, however, TRCS would have a proportionate rate for the additional units. Somewhere around 3-4 homes starting with the 22-23 school year. School policies; TRCS will try and align some policies with RFSD. Jamie will bring sample policies to the governance committee for comparison and review. TRCS will advocate for automatic waivers currently granted. The enrollment policy and weighted lottery did come up in contract negotiations as well. Carbondale does include in-district vs out-of-district ranking and in-district is automatically above out-of-district. RFSD is going to provide additional education to the RFSD Board on what it means to have out of district dollars coming into the district.

2. Mid-year assessment data: There are more than a handful of students that need to retake tests and TRCS will be reviewing testing environments. TRCS is making more progress in reading intervention

3. Staff Surveys: Briefly reviewed the staff surveys presented in the report. Members of the Board spoke to the common need for connection and self care as well as space to prepare. The Board hopes that Jamie and the Board can work together on some of those areas.

4. Student absentee rates: 1095 absences this school year, which averages out to 3 days per student. 130 students were out with covid in January 2022. The board gave guidance to focus on students at risk of truancy and would like to see a report of how many students are at 9-10 days absent. The board would like to compare with state data. Jamie will look into comparison data further. Table further conversations for February meeting.

5. UIP Progress update: The board reviewed the document prior to the board meeting.

The board took a recess at 6:49pm and returned from recess at 6:56pm

Committee Updates

1. Finance: Quarterly spending report

[ATTACHED](#)

ESSER II and ESSER III: When the board originally approved the budget it only included ESSER II, and anticipated spending most of ESSER II for mental health. The original plan was to use all ESSER funds over the next 2 years, however, with our plans to move to RFSD, the funds won't move with TRCS. The ESSER III initial plan was to invest in the modular, however, TRCS can still use some of those funds on initial preparatory work for project since the modular project bulk cost will occur in 22-23. TRCS will use remaining ESSR II funds on mental health support and special education. ESSER III funds can be used for additional reading intervention and custodian salaries in addition to preparatory work for the modular. We will also address our technology needs. Once Jamie prepares the modified ESSR spending plan, he will forward it to CSI who will then pass along to CDE for TRCS is able to spend. Detailed Revised

b. Budget: The board reviewed the revised budget and spending resolution.

[ATTACHED](#)

Christy moved to approve the Revised Budget and Revised Appropriating Resolution as written, and Jocelyn seconded the motion.

Vote as follows:

Sally Camacho - Aye

Angela Roff - Aye

Christy Chicoine – Aye

Josh Mattson - Absent

Ashley Thomas – Aye

Jocelyn Kochevar – Aye

Lexie Clark-Kimmel-Aye

The motion was passed.

c. Repair and Replacement Fund Discussion: There was a recommendation for a Reserve Study. Based on other CSI school reserve studies the study will cost approximately 5k-10k. The Board agreed this was an important expenditure.

d. Jamie reported that he has asked Midwest bank if they are interested in extending the loan note we already have without going through a full refinance process again.

e. Provisional Salary Schedule 2022-2023: Jamie proposed a salary schedule that is comparable to RE1 and is still achievable based on proposed funds for 22-23 school year. Provisionally proposing a 15%

pay increase for the salary schedule contingent on the RFSD contract and final per pupil dollars. Based on current information, each of the Board members agreed that a budget should be developed with the proposed 15% pay increase head of school. Christy clarified that the raises were being considered and budgeted for school staff and Jamie confirmed this was true. Christy recommends looking to have a minimum fund balance policy but suggests that the Board wait until TRCS finds out the expansion estimates, new staffing structure costs and a capital improvement plan.

2. Teacher Retention/Recruitment: The district approval is pivotal and the previously discussed provisional pay increase is key. Tend to see teachers come earlier in their career and then leave in our area. Initial data from intent to return from shows 90% of teachers are planning on returning next school year.

3. Governance & Board Recruitment/Training: Last meeting reviewed the strategic plan proposals. Meet the 3rd Friday of every month. Sally has been working on board recruiting. Discussed putting together a document to guide through the board application process with committee information and posting online. Discussed updating the application, Governance Committee will revise and update

4. Fundraising: This year's fundraising goal was 25k and 40k has been received this year!

VI. Old Business:

Strategic Plan proposed revisions: The board reviewed PreK proposed plan and made revisions. Table remaining proposed plans.

Discussion: Disciplinary Data Overview, Table discussion for February meeting.

VII. Executive Session

Christy moved to go in Executive Session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S, for discussion of a personnel matter involving the evaluation and compensation of the Head of School for the next year, who was previously informed of the meeting, and Ashley seconded the motion.

Vote as follows:

Sally Camacho - Aye

Angela Roff - Aye

Christy Chicoine – Aye

Josh Mattson - Absent

Ashley Thomas – Aye

Jocelyn Kochevar – Aye

Lexie Clark-Kimmel-Aye

The motion was passed.

The board entered Executive Session at 8:22pm

The board returned from Executive Session at 8:42pm

V. Other Business:

Upcoming meetings: Next Regular Board Meeting, February 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm

1. Anticipated agenda items
 - a. Contract Negotiation update
 - b. Capital Improvement Plan
 - c. Diversity update (Jamie/Sally)
 - d. School Calendar
 - e. Parent/Spring Survey
 - f. Remaining Strategic Plan edits
 - g. Revisit Absentee data
 - h. Disciplinary Data Overview
 - i. Health Safety protocol discussion
 - j. Food service plan
 - k. Additional board meetings

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm