



TESFA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Global Minds with Minnesota Hearts

Board Minutes

6:00 p.m. October 19, 2020

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 & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING-

Present: Patrick Ebner, Beth Al-Qudah, Megan Kufahl, Mohamed Selim, John Groenke, Abby Hendricks, Jonas Beugen, Joe Aliperto, Abdirashid Abdi (guest - AIM Academy), Kou Vang (guest - JB Vang)

Absent: Amir Orandi

2.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

none

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by: John G. Seconded by: Mohamed S. Yea: 6 Nay: 0

4.0 COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Visitors attending the meeting who wish to address the school board may do so at this time. Ismail Shik (Community Liason for Tesfa) - Shared thoughts re: moving to new building and how it would help him recruit children - moving out of a church and into a school building. Muslim community is uncommfortable with being a church. Families also want K-8 (not separating the students to different schools).

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. Thes consent items include:

- Personnel Items



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- August September 21, 2020 Minutes

The Executive Director recommends the School Board approve the Consent Items as detailed in the enclosure.

Motion by: Mohamed S. Seconded by: John G. Yea: 6 Nay: 0

6.0 Monthly Financials -

6.01 Approval of September 2020 Financial Report and Payment of Bills

Motion by: Abby H. Seconded by: Megan K. Yea: 6 Nay: 0

7.0 Presentations and Discussion Items

7.01 Phase 2 Update - 100% of “in person” students in attendance, still below the county level for CoVID cases for distance learning.

7.02 Future Facility, Partnership & Grade Expansion Planning

Kou Vang - President - JB Vang

3 Options

- 1) Wait until July and form a building cooperation, could get a short term lease with a buy-out
- 2) Non-affiliated building company - they can purchase and allow Tesfa to assume the bonds after building company is set up by Tesfa.
- 3) Submit affiliated building company, etc but can't get approved until July 1.

Abdirashid Abdi - Executive Director, AIM Academy - Potential partnership with AIM Academy to share the space in the Noble Academy building. AIM will open fall 2021, grades 6-12. Willing to share transportation, specialist teachers, building costs, etc.

Lease Aid: 2 schools in one building? More pupil driven vs. building driven.

Board Discussion:

Sharing building: Pros/Cons with sharing older students. Good examples? Bad examples?

More opportunities to diversify our community - West African, Middle Eastern, etc. Not only recruiting from the Somali community.



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How will this compare to our move from St. Paul? Apples to Oranges - no director in place until June, longer commute for St. Paul families, etc. You can expect to lose 25% of base for a move over 2.5 miles.

Reputation is going to help the move - retaining families.

Adding an upgrade school will give parents a place to send their whole family.

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

8.01 Authorize Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with JB Vang for representation for services related to exploring a potential relocation.

Motion: Mohamed S. Second: Beth A. Yea: 6 No: 0

8.02 Teacher Evaluation Policy #494 Revision

Motion: John G. Second: Abby H. Yea: 6 No: 0

9.0 NOVEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

- Detailed Teacher Observation and Coaching Plan 2020-2021
- Approve 2019-2020 Annual Report and World's Best Workforce Report
- Fall 2020 MAP Data
- Policy Review Calendar
- Continue Discussion on Possible Site Change

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion by: Megan Seconded by: Beth Yea:6 Nay: 0