

**Twin Cities International Elementary School
School Board Meeting**

Minutes of the School Board Meeting held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 2:00pm, at the International Education Center, 277 12th Ave. N, Room #120, Minneapolis, MN, 55401

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ms. Marian Aden, Treasurer Mr. Faysal Ali, Teacher Representative Members Ms. Christel Watson and Community Representative Member Mr. Abdisamad Ibrahim.

ABSENT: Teacher Representative Mr. Ibrahim Aden and Teacher Representative Ms. Wesam Shaker.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ex-Officio Member Mr. Abdirashid Warsame, Director of Twin Cities International Elementary School and Authorizer Representative Mr. George Lillquist.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Abdulkadir Salah and Ms. Patti Kronk.

1.0 Welcome and Member Contact Detail Confirmation

Chair opened the meeting at 2:08pm. The Chair acknowledged a quorum was present, and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2.0 Open Agenda

Chair acknowledged the Open Meeting, no public questions or comments were posed to the Board.

3.0 Approve Agenda

Mr. Christel motioned for the Agenda to be approved with the following addition. “7.2 - Contents on TIES Website/Informational Material”, and the addition of “6.3 – Charter School Lease Aid”. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

4.0 Minutes from the previous regular Board Meeting held on Aril 11, 2015.

Mr. Faysal motioned that the Minutes of April 11, 2015 be approved with the following correction to “9.0 Adjournment – Board Elections will take place May 16, 2015 vs. May 9, 2015”. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

5.0 Treasurer’s Report

5.1 July 2014-April 2015 YTD Report

The Chair welcomed Mr. Abdulkadir to present the Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Abdulkadir reviewed each line item in detail, further noted the benchmark of 83% for projected revenue and expenditure. Total Revenue received was \$7,106,236 while tracking at 69%. Revenue received is 14% lower than projection. The year-to-date Expenditures are \$7,451,564 while tracking at 79%, which is 4% below projected amount. Mr. Abdulkadir noted that the Fund Balance is 32%. Budget based on 590 ADM.

Ms. Christel motioned that the Treasurer's Report July 2014-April 2015 YTD be approved. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Authorizer's Report

Mr. George Reported:

- a. Nice job done on the Annual Meeting/Board Elections.
- b. discussed the warning letter received from Phillip Trobaugh (MDE), regarding cultural reference on TIES and Ubah's website. Referring to the comment "Serving East African Students", remove cultural references from websites and material, and replace with i.e., "serving all students enrolled".

6.2 Director's Report

Mr. Abdirashid Reported:

- a. Pillsbury Updates: Our initial Change in Authorizer (CIA) request for TIES was returned by MN Dept. of ED (MDE) on Tuesday, May 5th with three areas of deficiency that need to be addresses by Pillsbury United Communities (PUC). Those three deficiencies are regarding Pillsbury's Capacity to add three more schools and adequately supervise those schools while keeping up with Authorizer requirements, a date issue on draft contracts they sent, and Pillsbury's proposed Authorizer Review Process. Pillsbury has 15 business days to respond with more information and/or corrections to these areas. We met with the Pillsbury team on Friday, May 8th to express our concerns regarding the issues raised by the Dept. of Ed. We expect them to contact us next week to review the changes prior to submission due by May 28th, 2015.
- b. TIES MCA testing has been completed and preliminary scores were given to students, parents and teachers in compliance with MDE rules. Due to data being preliminary we are not allowed to share results in any public forum at this time.
- c. TIES students in Grades K-4 are completing MAP testing for reading and math for end of year scores.
- d. Final Star Scholar assembly will be on Friday, May 29, 2015 at 8am.
- e. Field Day will be on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.
- f. Kindergarten Graduation will be on Thursday, June 4th, 2015 beginning at 8:30am.
- g. We held our second Parent Academy meeting on Sat. May 2nd, 2015. We had approx. 100 parents attend for information on "summer slide" and how to help their children stay academically active in the summer. TIES gave Summer Bridge workbooks to parents who attended for their children to do over the summer. Parents who were not able to attend that day were informed that they can pick up workbooks at the Annual Meeting held earlier today.

- h. We are asking the Board to amend the school calendar for the 15-16 school year to add 2 more days of professional development at the start of the school year. All staff would report back to work on Monday, August 17th, 2015 instead of Wednesday, August 19th, 2015. This is fully within the dates of their contracts. This is to accommodate several trainings for new curriculums and a nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Fred Johnson, in the area of Student Management/Behavior.
- i. Ms. Christal presented the - Math Curriculum Committee Report:
The committee met 4 times during the months of April and May. We reviewed two curriculums, Math in Focus published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and EnVisions 2.0 published by Pearson. We worked in tandem with the middle school and spoke with high school about alignments across all three schools. After reviewing both curriculums, we feel that adopting the EnVisions 2.0 program will best fit with our needs, and the needs of students transitioning to the middle and high schools.

EnVisions focuses on “Topics” of study and have already aligned each lesson to the MN state standards. Each lesson encompasses at least two state standards. Envisions is rooted in a Problem Based Learning Model where students learn through less direct instruction and more through a teacher guiding them through problem solving. There are an abundance of differentiation tools and resources to use for struggling and advanced students as well as several supports for at home learning through videos, extra practice and games.

Professional Development videos are available for all teachers and we will plan for 3 days of implementation training in August. Students will receive write-in consumable textbooks and all online resources which can be used at home.

We are waiting on cost proposals at this time.

- j. Ms. Christal presented the - Writing Curriculum Committee Report:
The committee met 3 times during the months of April and May. We reviewed two curriculums, Strategies for Writers published by Zaner Bloser and WriteSteps Writing published online. We also looked at the writing being taught within the Reading Streets program used in 5th and 6th Grade. We determined that we would like to adopt the Strategies for Writers program published by Zaner Bloser.
Cost for adoption of the Strategies for Writers published by Zaner Bloser is approx. \$26,000 but includes all the teacher materials, a hard cover textbook for all students in grade 2-4 and full classroom kits for students in grades K & 1 including word books. This cost also includes a 6-year online access to both the teacher and student writing center which includes grammar games students can play and all instructional materials which can be used with the SmartBoards.

The program teaches the 3 main genres of writing, Narrative, Informative/Explanatory, and Opinion and has options for adding in Descriptive writing. Lessons have grammar components embedded and teach the writing process as well as the 6 Traits of writing. Rubrics for each type of writing are included and all writing, rubric components, writing process steps and 6 Traits are modeled for students with a student avatar as their guide.

Having the student textbook allows students to experience another opportunity for reading grade level text throughout the school day. A two-hour implementation training is also included and will be done in 2- 2 hour sessions for primary and intermediate grade levels.

6.3 Charter School Lease Aid

Mr. Abdirashid discussed the Charter School Lease Aid for 2015.2016 which is signed by the Landlord and the Director.

Mr. Abdisamad motioned that the Director's Report be approved. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

7.0 Other Reports, Discussions and Action Items

7.1 Policy Readings for the Month of May, 2015

7.1.1. 806 Crisis Management

7.1.2. 902 Use of District Facilities and Equipment

7.2 Contents on TIES Website/Informational Material

MDE wrote to Concordia University regarding TIES and Ubah's website referring to the comment "Serving East African Students", remove cultural references from websites and material, and replace with i.e., "serving all students enrolled".

Mr. Faysal motioned that Policies 806 and 902 be approved as final readings. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Faysal motioned that the Contents on TIES Website/Informational Material be reviewed and changed. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

8.0 Old Business

No old business to discuss.

9.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Faysal motioned that the meeting adjourn, noting the time was 3:02pm. The motion carried. The next scheduled meeting will be Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 10:30am.