

Call to order 6:34

- Congratulations to grades 3 and 5 on their German language accomplishments for the A1 and A2 exams.
- Intern Martin Turzynski was awarded a \$500 scholarship for his hard work and commitment to the school. He was one of two Amity interns across the country to receive such an award from the Amity Institute. Martin was nominated by the TCGIS administration, his cooperating teachers and his host family.

Consent Agenda was approved

Finance Committee Report, budget update portion

***Due to the accountant needing to leave for another meeting, the budget update was moved first to the Board agenda**

- The Treasurer discussed the budget and why this year we have spent more than normal. Kara Gaffy (the finance manager from our accounting firm BKDA) was there for questions.
- The Treasurer discussed different financial scenarios depending on the potential addition cost of busing, the revenue of in-housing Kinderclub, and the revenue generated if we considered increasing classes size by 2 students per class grades K-3.
- Kara Gaffy explained that the profit for next year will be fairly stable and balanced.

Open Forum

- The Teachers' Union President stated that 26 teachers have left in the past two years due to being let go or for personal reasons, excluding visa problems. There are four leaving this year. The union president mentioned that high turnover negatively impacts student achievement and ask how does the board intends to address the high turnover rate at the school. This teacher thinks speaking directly to departed employees could provide valuable information.
- A parent expressed her concerns with proper redaction after there were visible email addresses in the board packet. She also supports Kim Koempel's proposal.
- The Vice President of the PTO, Matt Burres, introduced himself and explained that he is taking the place of Shelley Parker as PTO President for the remainder of the school year.
- A departing teacher wanted to thank everyone at TCGIS and especially Ann for all of her hard work and support throughout the two years he has been with TCGIS.
- A parent spoke about *Vertiefungsdeutsch* and hoped for a further explanation of what is it; she did not feel that the board information had thoroughly explained it.
 - Another parent strongly encouraged the *Vertiefungsdeutsch* advisory committee to ask alumni parents and other families their opinions. She wants a thorough look into this. The parent expressed concern about *Vertiefungsdeutsch* in lieu of Spanish. The parent also encouraged waiting until

the curriculum development hiree has started working before making a decision.

Quick introduction of new board members: Christine VaLure-Roholt (parent), Jenneke Oosterhoff (Community member), and returning teacher Board member Hunter Goetzman

Finance Committee Agenda (continues)

- **In-housing Kinderclub** - Emily Ruggles Johnson, Director of Kinderclub, spoke to the value of KC and how they would try for a smooth transition. This would be beneficial for both students and teachers. There could be better accommodation for those with SPED needs, as well as other needs, if KC was in-housed.
 - The hiring procedures and qualifications would be the same, if not attracting more qualified people.
 - *Motion for TCGIS to approve in-housing Kinderclub passed.*
- **Bank Statements** - A few bank statements were looked at to help explain that this year there were multiple one-time expenses because of the move last summer.
- **The transportation survey results were analyzed and discussed.** The transportation committee is recommending a trial busing program for the 2015-16 school year with one bus, and hopefully sharing a second bus with Great River School. *This motion was passed with two abstentions.*

Board Matters

1. **Policy regarding policy revisions:** There was a policy brought forth to implement five questions when there are new/major revisions to policies, procedures, or curriculum being considered by the Board.
 - a. Will this policy be happening at the sub-committee level or at the Board level?
 - b. No Board members are opposed to creating policies around guidelines and questions to aid decision making, they just want to be certain they are the correct questions the Board should be asking, and that decisions can still be made effectively and efficiently with these questions.
 - c. The proposal is returning to the Governance committee.
2. **Choosing Charter School Partners and/or MACS memberships-** MACS rejected the idea to partially pay their fees that must be paid; the benefit is not worth the cost. The school will rejoining Charter School Partners. *The motion was passed to stay with CSP.*

Director's Report

1. **Hiring Update:** The following hires were proposed and approved: Kindergarten teacher (Kate Buhr), Middle School German and Sport Teacher (Fabian Liesner), Behavioral Interventionist (Susan Nixon), Communications & Development Coordinator (Tina Haarbush), Drama teacher/paraprofessional (Alix Olson), Speech Pathologist (Melissa Varanasi), SPED teacher (Andrea Schmidt), two Paraprofessionals (Zachary Eveland & Samantha Garber). *All positions approved.*

2. **District Advisory Committee:** The committee has meetings to discuss the World's Best Workforce standardized tests and *Vertiefungsdeutsch* (VTD). The committee addressed how to incorporate VTD into the curriculum. *Vertiefungsdeutsch* has the potential to be one of the following: an elective in lieu of drama or art (as an elective block), as student life (an elective during recess), or in lieu of Spanish.
 - a. The committee sampled constituents from the community for input. Currently there is a limitation to implementing *Vertiefungsdeutsch* given the smaller number of students in the middle school. Consideration of the course will be based on family interest.
- **ABC Application Update** - Motion to approve three candidates for ABC committee: Tarek Alkatout, Mark Ireland, Rich Swedberg. *These appointments were approved.*

The Board Meeting had reached 10 o'clock: All other items on the agenda were not time sensitive; they are first readings. It is recommended that everyone read the Board items and reports in preparation for next month's meeting.

The Board moved into closed session at 10:10pm to address the Director Review process and calls for final donations for the Move to Excellence.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lauren Kalish (front office) and Ann Jurewicz