

MINUTES

Thornebrooke PTO Special General Meeting – video conference

Date | time 07/21/2020 / 3:00pm | *Meeting called to order by* Karissa Martin & Dena Reyes – Co-presidents

In Attendance

Dena Reyes, Karissa Martin, Toniann Lentine, Laura Van Baalen, Danielle McCoy, Alessandra Romano, Jennifer Julian, Lynne Schaber, Lauren Whittington, Tim Lentine, Lili Brown, Adriana Alpiza, Camilo Perez, Kristine Skelin, Marla Sachs, Sara Barry, Kathryn Gall, Jennifer Elzeer, Annmarie Stewart, Camelle Littschwager, Brie Boers, Debbi Zambito, Allison McMullan, Christin Petroski, Amanda Rearden, Allison Taliaferro, Julie Soares, Christie Howlett, Jussara Tidwell, Billiejo Mustonen, Danielle Orchard, Mr. Daniels

***General meeting held via Zoom video conference due to OCPS school closure**

Welcome

- ❖ Karissa and Dena welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming
 - ❖ Meeting called to order at 3:06pm by Dena Reyes
-

Thornebrooke PTO Bylaws Amendment

- ❖ The school year for 2020-2021 is going to look different, as will PTO
- ❖ There are members that may be making different school choices for their children given the current pandemic circumstances, but would still like to be involved with PTO
- ❖ To make sure that Thornebrooke's PTO is in compliance with everything, it did bring to light that we need to address how our current membership is reflected
- ❖ We received advice from legal counsel so we could ensure everything is done appropriately
- ❖ To do so, it requires that we have a resolution as to what our current membership guidelines state
- ❖ We have a resolution that we will share on the screen and we will read you the resolution.
- ❖ Ultimately we need a motion to approve it and then we will have a vote
- ❖ Karissa reads aloud the following resolution and also shares on her screen for all to read:

WHEREAS, the PTO desires to amend Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws to allow such parents, guardians and family members to continue to participate in the PTO for the 2020-2021 school year. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws is hereby amended to read as follows: Section 1: Membership in the TESPTO shall be made available to any faculty or staff member of TES. Membership in the TESPTO shall be made available to any parent or guardian or family member who currently has at least 1 child attending Thornebrooke Elementary School and agrees to adhere to the basic policies and these Bylaws of the TESPTO. Notwithstanding Article II - Membership of the Bylaws, for purposes of the 2020-2021 school year, membership in the TESPTO shall be further extended to any parent or guardian or family member who meets the following requirements: (a) whose residence is legally zoned for Thornebrooke Elementary School, (b) whose child was enrolled in Thornebrooke Elementary School during the 2019-2020 year or would have been a new student to Thornebrooke Elementary School during the 2020-2021 year, (c) such parent, guardian or family member is choosing a virtual or homeschool enrollment for the 2020-2021 year with the intent of

enrolling his or her child at Thornebrooke Elementary School when such parent, guardian or family member believes it is appropriate to do so, (d) pays annual dues to the TESPTO, and (e) such parent, guardian or family member agrees to adhere to the basic policies and these Bylaws of the TESPTO.” starting from “Whereas” and ends “Bylaws of the TESPTO”

- ❖ Karissa opens the floor for questions before a call to a motion
- ❖ Jennifer Elzeer asks a question regarding the OCPS Code of Conduct. It is ultimately decided that they will table this topic and discuss at a later time.
- ❖ Allison Taliaferro moves to motion to have this resolution added to our by-laws as presented
- ❖ Jennifer Julian seconds the motion
- ❖ Karissa moves to the roll call vote. Roll call vote is conducted.
- ❖ All are in favor. The ayes have it. 28 in total.
- ❖ This concludes the primary purpose for this meeting

Principal's Report

- ❖ Mr. Daniels has been getting a lot of questions about returning to school
- ❖ He is first going to address some of the key questions he has been asked and then open the floor for questions
- ❖ Everything is a bit in flux starting from the executive order from the Department of Education that all schools must be open
- ❖ Choice Registration Forms are due Friday. There is no rush to get them in before Friday if you want to think about it and talk to your family.
- ❖ They were originally saying it is a survey, but now it is more of a registration. As far as they are able, they will hold you to your choice, but there has to be a little bit of leeway. Gives example of buying a house and the sale falling through.
- ❖ FLVS is more flexible with time bc you typically talk to the teacher once a week and you are given a to-do list for the week. You are locked in for a semester, which means until the 3rd 9 weeks in January.
- ❖ OCVS is similar, but more aligned with OCPS. OCPS has changed the commitment to the first 9 weeks, which would put you in mid-October as far as commitment.
- ❖ LaunchED is the tool to get the teaching out. Example: get the groceries out of the car vs get the groceries out of the Honda.
- ❖ It is the hope that you will stay with your LaunchED teacher. LaunchED keeps you a part of Thornebrooke. You are on our roll.
- ❖ Teachers are also doing a survey as to what they can do health-wise.
- ❖ If almost everyone chooses LaunchED in a grade, only a handful choose F2F and maybe 10% choose one of the virtual schools, there is a chance he might make the decision (with the district's help) to make two of the teachers in a particular grade only teaching virtually through LaunchED. Then, a couple of teachers would teach the students in the building. They will know more once the surveys are in.
- ❖ LaunchED hours – they will be on the computer a lot, however they are not locked in. If you think about a normal school day, if math is from 11-12, the teacher is not lecturing for 60 minutes. There is direct instruction, group work, independent work. There will be time for the child to get up, move around, do their work and then log back on when the teacher says. This will mean that the child or a parent has to be in charge of their schedule and know when to log back on. There might be a time

where the child is on the computer for 5 hours a day, but there might be days where it is only two hours a day. It may not necessarily be 5-6 hours all day every day.

- ❖ If you want some flexibility but you also want your kids on a schedule, but they want to come back to school eventually, LaunchED might be the best option for you
- ❖ If you are fine healthwise and you have childcare needs, Face-to-Face might be best
- ❖ If you want greater control over the virus situation, one of virtual schools might be best
- ❖ Mr. Daniels' high school age son is going to do LaunchED because that is what is best for their family
- ❖ Mr. Daniels opens the floor for questions

Q&A Session with Mr. Daniels

Kristine Skelin – Can you elaborate on what you meant about TES teacher assignments on LaunchED?

Mr. Daniels – It is his hope that yes, it will be all TES teachers. There is a chance that the TES majority will go virtual, but another school nearby might have a F2F majority. That would mean that we will not have enough children for our teachers. Our teachers might then do LaunchED for that nearby school if that is the case. There is also the chance that the teacher survey comes back and there might be a handful of teachers that cannot be around students for health reasons. The district will then work with those teachers to place them where it is best. Short answer, most likely it will be TES teachers for LaunchED but he cannot say 100%

Jussara Tidwell- Will there be some sort of waiver for classes where there are both LaunchED and F2F students? Will there be classes that only have LaunchED students?

Note: there was confusion about this question and some Internet connection issues. The question was not answered.

Mr. Daniels – Requests to be emailed directly and he will be happy to answer.

Debbi Zambito – For the teachers who are going F2F, is it their choice to be in school?

Mr. Daniels – Yes. The county could get to a point if there is a new teacher and there are no other positions other than F2F, if they are unwilling or unable to do F2F, their choice might have to be to resign. It is ultimately their choice.

Marla Sachs – For rising Kindergarteners doing LaunchED, will they have the opportunity to actually meet their teacher or will it solely be virtual?

Mr. Daniels – Meet the Teacher has been brought up with the district. Meet the Teacher is off the table for everyone as a broad scope. The district is open to allowing them to do something for students rising to a new school (ie Kindergarten, incoming middle school, incoming high school). They are working on it.

Jennifer Elzeer – Regarding the dual classroom, how will teachers manage their dual classroom if they are teaching both LaunchED and F2F? Will the students in the classroom be visible to those who are on the computer at home? If so, will those kids have to sign a waiver? (she thinks this might address Jussara's earlier question). How do you foresee teachers managing discipline in the classroom along with streaming at home?

Mr. Daniels – If we have both kids in the classroom and LaunchED, the camera will always be on the teacher/smart board. A high likelihood is that it will look much like the Zoom calls. TES has been told they

may receive only 2-3 Swivl cameras total. The likelihood based on what he is hearing, is that we might have 5 students in the classroom. The kids in the classroom would have to still adhere to the Code of Conduct. During distance learning, students were pretty good about this.

Jennifer Elzeer – What are you seeing in regards to numbers of LaunchED class size?

Mr. Daniels – They put this question to the district in Monday's meeting. Mr. Daniels would like to see it at or below a typical class size. If it is up to him, they will keep the class numbers low. F2F per class, he can't imagine it being larger than 6-7 students, but probably closer to 3-5 students per class. So in a grade level, you are looking at 17-20 kids F2F. There would then be 2-3 teachers per grade doing LaunchED only.

Toniann Lentine- In regards to BBB and the suggested schedule, the website talked about kids going into breakout groups. How would that be monitored? There was an issue during distance learning about kids in the breakout room.

Mr. Daniels – The model with the breakout sessions will be more like the distance learning and will be up to the teacher to monitor and making sure the students are being appropriate. That discipline would be up to the teacher.

Lili Brown – Will there be an option of Half and Half? Meaning, F2F and LaunchED?

Mr. Daniels – Yes that option is available. If you think that is something your family would consider, but you want to see how things are going in terms of CoVid, he would recommend choosing LaunchED. Then, that family can decide when they want to go back to class. Hopefully, they would go back to the class/teacher that they had have for Launch Ed.

Jennifer Julian – What happens if LaunchED is not approved? We have to choose by Friday.

Mr. Daniels – LaunchED was recommended because it met the state's criteria. It would be a major surprise if they rejected it. If for some reason that only Orange County's was denied, they would have to go back to the drawing board.

Jennifer Julian – If you select LaunchED, at time for Progress Book reports, if it shows that LaunchED is not working for the student, do they have the option to come to F2F before the 9 weeks is up if they are struggling?

Mr. Daniels – He thinks so. This is one of the questions that was brought up with the district. This is one of the things in flux. For his own child, he is counting on that flexibility.

Allison McMullan – Is it your goal that the LaunchED teacher is a TES teacher and to put them in that teacher's classroom when the student returns?

Mr. Daniels – Yes, that is his goal, but he cannot guarantee. That is what the teachers want as well.

Allison McMullan- Is it true that with LaunchED, the school will loan out computers to the students?

Mr. Daniels – That is the intent. They plan to have a day (example 4th grade day) where students would pick up their text books, workbooks, and computers. The computers were slated to come in a day or so before the first scheduled start date of August 10, so yes they will be available to hand out before the new start date. The classrooms are being updated with those items. Students in grades 2-5 will receive a laptop device. The younger students will get a tablet device. The thought was that these devices were going to stay at the school, however, LaunchED students will be eligible to take these home. The district already said yes to that.

Christin Petroski- If a student goes with one of the virtual schools (OCVS or FLVS), they are suggesting that the parents choose that option for the whole semester. It seems like in any situation where you moved away that you could come back during the semester and enroll your child as long as you are zoned for that school. Is that your take?

Mr. Daniels –He doesn't know how strict the district will be. No one asked that at the meeting yesterday. He agrees that she is right. For example, if you moved from Montana, we have to find a place for you. The district is saying they want you to stick with your choice, but there has to be some leeway. He does say that if you are choosing FLVS, the option to come back is a little harder because of the different, independent curriculum path. If you think you might come back but you definitely want to do a virtual school, he recommends OCVS. The curriculum is the same, but the path is different because it is more individual. A lot of it will depend on the child and their ability to work independently.

Allison Taliaferro – How will specials and gifted be handled in the LaunchED model?

Mr. Daniels – That is a work in progress. The thinking is that for example, if 3rd grade art is at 10, you will have art at 10. It will not be optional like with distance learning. You check in at 10 for art. For F2F, it will likely be the specials teachers going to the individual classrooms, not the class going to specials. The exception is PE, which will likely be held outside. For Gifted, he uses an the example if 3rd grade Gifted is on Tuesday, the teacher will pull them out and will give separate Gifted services to those students. The Gifted teacher will bring them on virtually. All ESE, speech, etc those teachers are slated to come back.

Amanda Rearden – If we are choosing LaunchED, would we be able to come by and pick things up so that we are not printing off a ton of material at home? Or will we be expected to use our own printers?

Mr. Daniels – He did find out after-the-fact that many parents were doing a lot of printing. He apologizes. He does plan to have a day per grade where students pick up all materials and computer. Those will be distributed. If your teacher is having you print a lot, that should not be happening.

Jennifer Elzeer – When will class placement be announced?

Mr. Daniels – We have already done the class placements. We are going to wait for the surveys for both the teachers and the families. We are waiting for direction. He expects around 18th-20th of August, but perhaps sooner.

❖ End of Q&A Session

❖ Mr. Daniels plans to put this in the voicemail tonight. He only gets 2 minutes. He plans to speak to the LaunchED as that has been the biggest question.

- ❖ Mr. Daniels asks everyone to please feel free to email or call. They are open through Thursday. He appreciates all of our help
- ❖ **Dena** – Thanks everyone for attending

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm