

**SCHOOL BOARD**  
*2018-2019*

# **TAMPA SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Trinity School for Children was created in 1999 by Tampa School Development Corporation, a 501c(3) non-profit corporation. The Board of Directors for this corporation serves as Trinity's School Board and governing body.

The purpose of the Trinity School for Children Board is to assure the education of students from infants through Upper School is in accordance with the educational philosophy of Bank Street College of Education. In addition, the intent of the Board is to raise, receive, manage and oversee the expenditure of funds in the direct provision of programming for children and youth, either solely or in concert with other agencies. The membership of the Board shall consist of only the members of the Board of Directors, referred to herein as the School Board.

## **School Board 2018-2019**

<b>President</b>	Marina A. Choundas
<b>Vice President</b>	Ryan Luzod
<b>Secretary</b>	Amy Pickford
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marianne Touger
<b>Board Members</b>	Geogymon "Joe" George Celeste Greco Bryant Johnson Jennifer Pecora Ashley Valdes

*Name and contact for the representative to facilitate parental involvement:*  
Yvette Gonzalez, 813-874-2402, ygonzalez@trinitysfc.com

### **Mission Statement**

We are committed to facilitate and support the highest quality of education through strategic planning, communication and accountability. By modeling the school's values, we shall foster a dynamic, nurturing and safe environment for lifelong learning for our Trinity School for Children family.

### **School Board**

The Board, under the leadership of the President and with the support of the Principal, maintains the integrity of the Bank Street College of Education philosophy and the values of the Trinity School for Children, while ensuring efficiency and accountability.

The Board and Principal are supported in meeting their accountability through full utilization of the corporate strategic planning process. The planning process enables the Board to develop, implement and review an integrated strategy used in identifying, developing and allocating resources considered necessary to meet the needs of our charter staff and students.

## **History**

The Tampa School Development Corporation, sponsoring corporation of Trinity School for Children, was founded and incorporated in January 1999. The corporation's board consisted of a group of parents, educators and community business professionals who demanded an alternative to traditional education for all children and their families. The Board's belief in the Bank Street philosophy of education was rooted in a conviction so strong, that they conquered insurmountable odds to open Trinity School for Children on August 12, 1999.

The Board's goal was met by opening a school with a quality administration, faculty and curriculum driven by the sole purpose of educating in an understanding, developmentally appropriate learning environment. Centered on a social studies curriculum, the children were to learn how their academics affect their relationship with the world around them. By emphasizing mutual respect, self-expression, creative and inquisitive thinking, the students at Trinity School for Children proved that children naturally love to learn. They proved that school is an extension of their personal development. An open-enrollment charter school, Trinity School for Children was made available to all children in the greater Tampa Bay area.

## **Governance**

Tampa School Development Corporation operates under the Sunshine Law Standards as they apply to charter schools and public entities.

## **Meetings**

Meetings are usually held once a month, but subject to change, and are open to the public. Board workshops are held as needed. A calendar of the year's scheduled meetings, times and locations is available on the school's website at [www.trinitysfc.org](http://www.trinitysfc.org). Changes in this calendar are posted in the front offices.

## **Public Accessibility**

Copies of all documents pertaining to the organizational structure and operation of the Tampa School Development Corporation/School Board are kept in the Trinity School for Children office and are available for public viewing by request to the corporate secretary.

These documents include, but are not limited to:

- The School's Charter
- Corporation By-laws and Articles of Incorporation
- 501c(3) Determination Letter
- Sales Tax Exemption

- Financial and Operational Records
- Approved Board Meeting Minutes

## **Confidentiality**

All Records pertaining to students and employees, deemed confidential by the State of Florida, remain in the office in secured fireproof file cabinets.

## **Disciplinary Procedures**

Trinity School for Children's success is achieved through the collaborative efforts of students, parents, faculty and the civic environment creating a mutual respect for each other.

Attending Trinity School for Children is **not an entitlement** for your children; **it is a choice**. As a family, you make the choice to enroll your children and abide by our policies and procedures. The school has the right to choose to dismiss any child whose family does not abide by our stated policies. Our expectation is that as a Trinity family you follow all of our policies.

When children misbehave at our school there are consequences. Generally, classroom teachers handle minor issues; if the problems escalate then our division coordinators and/or our guidance staff may become involved; and, when the issues become major or reoccurring, the principal will take action. The ultimate consequence of continuous misbehavior is student dismissal.

As a Board, it is our responsibility to maintain a collaborative and safe learning environment by crafting clear policies and procedures for members of our school community, including students, parents, visitors, and family members, and making sure that those policies and procedures are fairly and consistently enforced. Infractions of policies and/or procedures will be heard either by the School Board or by the Board's Disciplinary Committee. Individuals are notified that they must appear before the Board or Disciplinary Committee in writing. If brought before the Board or its Disciplinary Committee, families will have the opportunity to state their case. If a parent or family fails to appear, that individual's child(ren) may be subjected to immediate dismissal from Trinity School for Children.

Below is a list of the various disciplinary infractions that the School Board and/or Disciplinary Committee may handle. This is a working document, however, the School Board and/or Disciplinary Committee has discretion to modify or add to the list of infractions.

### **Infractions that may result in immediate dismissal of your children from Trinity:**

1. Bringing weapons, drugs, or alcohol onto school grounds.
2. Engaging in behaviors outlined in the zero tolerance policies (See "Parent Expectations" and "Student Expectations" sections of this handbook).
3. Cursing at, threatening, or physically hurting a staff member.
4. Cursing at, threatening, or physically hurting a student or parent.
5. Failure to complete the required number of parent hours.
6. Violating probation set by the School Board/Disciplinary Committee/Administration.

**Infractions that will be addressed by the Disciplinary Committee and may be cause for your children's dismissal if they reoccur during a school year:**

1. Violating the school's parking policies.
2. Violating the school's drop-off and/or pick-up procedures
3. Bouncing checks to the school and **failing to correct the matter immediately.**
4. Failure to keep your accounts payable to the school in good standing.
5. Failure to follow the rules established by individual teachers for Field Study experiences.
6. Failure to procure a Visitor's Badge when asked to do so by staff or Board members.
7. Failure to attend mandatory PPA or school-wide meetings.
8. Failure to attend mandatory teacher conferences or classroom meetings.
9. Repeated failure to support/respect our philosophy and/or our mission.
10. Failure to act in accordance with the Parent Handbook.
11. Providing inaccurate information when asked to provide your name to a staff or board member.
12. Failure to comply with reasonable requests made by a staff or board member.

**Grievance Procedure**

The following is the proper protocol for Trinity School for Children families who have a grievance or concern to voice:

1. Schedule a time with your child's teacher to discuss the issue.
2. If further action is needed, schedule an appointment with administration to discuss the issue.
3. If further action is still needed, schedule an appointment with the principal to discuss the issue.
4. After the above three steps are taken and you feel your issue has not been handled to your satisfaction, you may contact the School Board President, Marina Choundas, [mchoundas@trinitysfc.com](mailto:mchoundas@trinitysfc.com), to be placed on the agenda at the next scheduled board meeting. All meetings are open to the public and time is set for public comment on non-agenda items.

This procedure has been set up because your concerns are important to us. Our School Board meetings are the proper setting for discussing any concerns our families may have. Our general TSFC – Meetings that will be held throughout the year are for informational purposes only and are not a forum for discussion of grievances or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Sincerely,**

**School Board of Trinity School for Children**