

BREVARD ACADEMY – A CHALLENGE FOUNDATION ACADEMY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

May 19, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Conference Room, Brevard Academy Campus

Chair: Frank Prince

Vice Chair/Treasurer: Warren Alston, present

Secretary: Zia McConnell, present

Members present: Stewart Marshall, Cheryl Reinstadler

Administration present: Tony Helton, Ben Butler

Guests: Krystal Powell (Acadia NorthStar), John Lanier (Transylvania Times)

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The regular meeting of the Brevard Academy Board of Directors was called to order by the Chair at 6:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Warren to approve the agenda. Zia seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

**Consideration and approval of minutes:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Cheryl to approve the minutes from the April 21st meeting. Warren seconded. Four voted “aye.” One abstention. (Stewart abstained due to not having read the minutes.) **Motion carried.**

**Public comment:**

None

**Presentation:**

Mr. Helton showcased the framed flag that was flown over Afghanistan and brought back to BA-CFA by Cheryl Reinstadler’s daughter.

Mr. Helton suggested that all of our Board meetings start with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by one of our students. Ms. Stirling will arrange who the students will be. This is how the students start the day at school, and it seems fitting to start Board meetings this way too.

All stood and recited the Pledge.

**Financial Report – Krystal Powell**

Krystal had the Board members note that the CFA grant money for the conference in June is not yet showing in our revenue line, and neither is the Summer Reading money granted to us by the state.

She presented the following requested amendments:

Line 1: Salary – Coach stipend: ADD \$1200

The question was asked by Warren, how did we deviate from the original coach’s stipend amount of \$3600? Coaches make \$600 in stipend monies for coaching. We have \$1200 in Athletic services, which is for outside coaches, this is where the difference is...we ended up with all “in-house” coaches. So, \$1200 will be removed from Athletic Services, and added to Coach stipends.

Line 1 Salary – Principal: REDUCE \$5833.33

Tony begins work for Team CFA starting June 1<sup>st</sup> and Mrs. Grimm does not start until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Line 2 Hospitalization: REDUCE \$4000

The state reduced the hospitalization cost figureLine 6 EC Services ADD \$5000

This is for Carolina Rehab, the group we use for OC and Speech therapy. We added 6 students who use these services. This is 2 more than last year, which was the number we used to produce the budgeted amount.

Line 12 Electricity ADD \$3500

We occupy 2 additional buildings this year, and the winter lasted longer with unusually cold temperatures.

Line 12 Telephone ADD \$1600

We had to add a telephone line, which is the primary reason for the increase here.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Warren to approve the budget amendments as discussed. Stewart seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Mr. Helton reminded the Board that any staff hired before 2012/2013 school year gets to get vacation pay if they leave the school as part of their contract. This gets harder and harder to carry forward, and it might be beneficial to keep the books straight (so that all contracts are the same) to pay the vacation time out to those employees for whom this holds true. It would be about \$50,000, but it would then make all contracts the same going forward. **Frank Prince suggested this be a topic for the June meeting. Mr. Helton is to provide a report with the number of teachers and the exact amount before that meeting.**

#### **Teacher report: Camy Stirling**

Camy handed out the Teachers'/classroom activity report, and then introduced Ms. Geer-Hardwick the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher who presented what her students have been working on in the classroom. (Ms. Best was sick and could not be there.)

Singapore Math is going very well for the second grade classes. They study full fact families, and are working on multiplication and division.

They have worked on a research paper (beginning level) on the War of 1812.

Ms. Geer-Hardwick shared an iPad video of her class reciting a poem (a LONG poem) as a transition from one activity to another. Core Knowledge Language Arts (CK-LA) covers so many different genres, it is a great, flexible curriculum. Using poetry as a transition piece helps the students learn a few lines at a time until they can repeat a substantial poem.

#### **MAPS testing results: Kristin Rodriguez, Team CFA**

Kristin said she is glad to hear how Singapore Math is going in the classrooms, as she will be looking at the schools using it to see if it affects MAPS scores.

Kristin covered the items of note for the Spring MAP testing of BA-CFA students K-8:

- 🕒 27.4% more of BA-CFA students obtained growth this year than last year in Reading.
- Growth in 2012/13 was 44%
- Growth in 2013/14 was **71.4%**

- Ⓟ 34.2% more of BA-CFA students obtained growth this year than last year in Math.
- Growth in 2012/13 was 40%
- Growth for 2013/14 was **74.2%**
- Ⓟ Every grade made at least ONE YEAR'S growth in Reading, Math, language Arts and Science
- Ⓟ 84.6% of BA-CFA students are proficient in Reading
- Ⓟ 83.2% of BA-CFA students are proficient in Math

The national average is 75% proficiency. National average growth is 60-65%. BA-CFA is 71.4 and 74.2% - that is fantastic.

The top Team CFA network school is at 90% proficiency.

Our goal is now to maintain this path of growth. Keeping students with us the whole K-8<sup>th</sup> grade time period will help to really show this positive growth pattern.

Warren noted that we are using the same state funds that the public schools receive and our students are performing better than the national average. This says a lot about Core Knowledge and the help we receive from our network of Team CFA schools.

Mr. Helton pointed out that the 5-8 graders all have the exact same teachers in the exact same classrooms, yet the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders are taking Latin, and their test scores are significantly higher in Reading. Reading comprehension is a key element that is showing positive results.

#### **PTO report:**

Mr. Helton reported that the PTO has new officers for the upcoming school year: Marissa McQueen will be the President, and it is believed that Jennifer Casey will be the Vice Chair. They are still looking to fill the Treasurer's position.

#### **Director's report: Mr. Helton**

##### *Enrollment:*

Our current enrollment is 217; one student moved just last week to another school in Hendersonville. For the 2014/15 school year we stand at 285. A reminder that the state will pay for up to 278 students. We know there will be some attrition, so this number will change. We have wait-lists for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

##### *Uniforms:*

The uniform committee thinks that we need some consistency in our outer-wear. They are proposing that we institute an addition to the uniform policy to include jackets. Mr. Helton has found a rain-resistant coat with a fleece lining that can have our logo put on it for ~\$50. This is a lower cost option than the Land's End logo outerwear, but of course that is still available. This will let students wear their coats in the classroom if they are cold, and the teachers will have less policing to do.

Warren asked the question: "What about students who cannot afford to meet this new requirement?"

Mr. Helton said that they have always been able to help families in some way if the need was there. Warren wanted to be sure that Mrs. Grimm is informed at the July retreat that if ANY family of a student needs help with uniform items, field trips, etc. that help is available. Stewart asked if we had a line in the budget for discretionary spending like the minister of a church might have...that is currently not part of our budget.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Cheryl to amend the current BA-CFA Uniform Policy to include that all outwear must be BA-CFA approved and have the school logo. Warren seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

*Cleaning contract:*

Mr. Helton presented the contract for the janitorial services for the upcoming school year. The company is the same as we used this past school year, Evergreen Cleaning Service.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Zia to approve the contract for Evergreen Cleaning Service for the 2014/15 school year. Stewart seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Here is an excerpt from Mr. Helton's closing remarks from his report:

It has been my extreme honor to have been associated with Brevard Academy: A Challenge Foundation Academy. The past 3 years have been the most rewarding of my professional life.

I am sure I will keep the relationships forged here for the rest of my life. Our school is at its highest number of students in its 16 history, the MAP scores are very high for Proficiency and Growth, and BA-CFA is viewed in our community as a high-level academic institution that pushes students to reach higher goals than they thought were possible. Your parents are pleased with a rigorous based education that is producing "Good, American Citizens." A Bulldog student is a well rounded, highly educated young person, ready for high school, college and life.

Thank you for the chance to lead the Bulldogs, it will always be one of the great honors of my life.

**Team CFA report: Cheryl Reinstadler**

Cheryl says the conference team is working on the last minute details for the June conference. They are wrapping up the agenda and that will be emailed to all attendees soon.

Just this past week, there were 71 applications for charter schools presented to the legislature for approval. Eleven were approved, 2 of them were Team CFA schools, Shining Rock was unanimously approved.

Team CFA is revamping the Board member rotation – Cheryl will be on our Board through the end of this fiscal year to help with the transition to a new director, then she will rotate off. Stewart will remain on our Board through another year.

**Committee Reports:**

*Finance Committee: Warren & Zia*

- ⌚ \$2315 in the bank account now. We will need to purchase more t-shirts right before the new school year starts. Also, the new jackets that were approved at this meeting. These will also be stored in the *Florida* building.

*Fund Development & Public Outreach*

- ⌚ None

*Long Range Planning and Visioning: Zia*

- ⌚ The rolling five-year plan will be covered at the July retreat. It is imperative that everyone read the document BEFORE attending the retreat so that we can be efficient in our use of time. The July Retreat is scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. We have a lot to cover...it was

suggested by Stewart that perhaps we need to have 2 meetings; but that the initial July retreat will be to go through the 5-year plan. The other needs to involve updating our mission or maybe the vision statement, and updating our bylaws which then have to be voted on at the state level.

*Personnel: Zia*

- ⌚ None

*Board Development, Policies and Procedures: Stewart*

- ⌚ Zia gave an update on the posting of minutes: Dr. Tom Miller from DPI says that it is best practice to have the draft of the minutes available 72 hours after the meeting. That means available in some form. Instead of putting a paper copy in the office, Zia suggested posted the draft minutes on the website, and then removing them once they have been approved, and replacing them with the approved minutes. It was agreed to try this method.

*Facilities*

- ⌚ None at this time

**Old Business**

We need to send an AlertNow prior to the June meeting so that parents know it is the annual meeting. We need to also prepare nominations for the Board for that meeting. (Stewart mentioned that he would probably have to call in; Cheryl said it is just too close to the conference date for her to attend.)

**New Business:**

No new business

**Next Regular Meeting:**

June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Alumni House on the BMC campus

**Short Break**

**Closed Session:**

**Motion:** Zia made a motion from the floor to enter into a closed session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential information under the NC general Statutes 143.318.11 (a) (1) to discuss items related to property acquisition and personnel. Warren seconded.

**Motion carried.** The Board entered into Closed Session at 8:25 p.m.

**Motion:** Zia made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Stewart seconded.

**Motion carried.** Time: 9:05 p.m. **No action was taken.**

**Adjourn:**

**Motion:** Zia made a motion to adjourn. Cheryl seconded.  
Vote was unanimous. **Motion carried.**