

BREVARD ACADEMY – A CHALLENGE FOUNDATION ACADEMY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

September 21, 2015, 5:45 p.m.

Searcy Hall

Chair: Warren Alston

Secretary: Zia McConnell

Members present: Laura Thomas, Nick Iosue, Amy Knight, Ashleigh Dalton

Administration present: Barbara Grimm, Camy Stirling

Guests: Park Baker – Transylvania Times, Mike Harrington, CF Properties,
Charlie Garcia – contractor, Mark Bebee – design architect

The regular meeting of the Brevard Academy Board of Directors was called to order by the Chair at 5:47 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Owen Hardin and Bryce Stafford

Approval of Agenda:

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

Consideration and approval of minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve August 24th regular meeting minutes Laura seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: None

Challenge Foundation Properties (CFP) update:

Mike Harrington (regional coordinator) kicked off by talking about the previous preliminary plan. Since that rendering, Barbara Grimm and the staff and the Facilities Committee gave the design team a detailed wish list and suggestions. What we will see tonight is the updated version of the building layout and design. CF Properties is looking for the Board's approval of this draft.

Mark Bebee gave a slide show presentation of the blueprint of the building, and a "walk-through" of the layout. The team wants to be sure to give BA-CFA a functional facility without a burdensome budget.

Mark reiterated that Barbara and the staff and Facilities Committee provided a very detailed list and the design team was able to incorporate or change the building plans to accommodate these changes.

Here is a list of some of the topics shown and discussed:

- ! 2nd grade rooms will not have exterior walls. They will have solar tubes to provide natural light since windows will not be possible.

- ! Music will be a separate space and acoustically appropriate
- ! There will be a warming kitchen
- ! The hallways will be open and have paint and tile schemes that will help lead visitors and students.
- ! The Science rooms will be located near the central plumbing so that the lab stations with sinks can link into the plumbing easily. There will also be eye washing stations in the Science room.
- ! The gym will be connected to the main building, but on the back side.
- ! The gym will hold the storage platforms for the stage.
- ! Proposed flooring for the gym will be dual purpose for gym floor and possible lunch room. This will be an item that will be bid out. This is not an essential item and can be deferred a bit.
- ! Cabinets are another alternative bid item – trying to offer as much flexibility as possible to see what will fit in our budget.
- ! General colors: earthy, natural tones. There will be one wall color for each grade level/areas of the school. There will be a corresponding floor tile color. (samples were shown)
- ! The office will be a secure space; carpeted (sample shown)
- ! There will be some heavier carpet at the entrance/exits to the building (samples shown)

Questions asked:

Design shows a flat roof – with our rainfall, will this work? Most all schools now are flat-roofed. The drainage system will make this work.

How tall is the gym ceiling? 26 ft is clear space.

The gym and the stage area are not shared – they are separate spaces.

The drawing shows that the cover at the drop-off area does not go all the way to the building, can that be adjusted to go all the way to the building? Yes.

When will things get underway? November 2nd is when the bid process begins, so 3 weeks.

The drop dead date is August 11, 2016.

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve the revised rendering of the new school building design presented. Zia seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

PTO report: Will Dalton, VP of PTO

- ! PTO has a balance of \$4654.75. However, about \$2900 is actually available as they have some outstanding bills.
- ! Each teacher has received ~\$100 to go towards field trip costs.
- ! \$485.88 in pizza income

- ! The pancake breakfast was an enormous success! They had planned for ~75 individuals, and over 250 parents and students showed up! They were making pancakes in every available place on campus! Somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500 was made on this event.
- ! Mary Ann Bryan is the new secretary for the PTO. She is a grandmother of one of our Kindergartners.
- ! We are seeing lots of new faces and volunteers at meetings, which is great.
- ! PTO will be rolling out “Believe Kids” a fundraising initiative of items from a catalog. The goal is to raise \$4000 for field trips.
- ! Fall Festival will be November 14th.
- ! 6-8th graders have a movie night this Friday, 9/25

Teacher report: Camy Stirling

Camy asked the Board what they want to see in terms of an overall teacher report, and how often that report should be prepared. Warren said we would discuss it and let her know.

Nonnie Cullipher (Middle School Reading & Latin) and Tanya Clanton (Middle School Social Studies) presented a brief overview of what students are doing and learning in their classes.

Ms. Cullipher:

Something that changed this year in the Middle grades is that the students have been broken out into learning groups by EOG and/or MAP scores. 6th grade has some low end challenges, and this break out allows for targeted focused time with these students who need more attention.

Club electives/enrichment classes (not for a grade) are something else new this year – Nonnie has the Journalism group, and they went to the T-Times for a tour. The students got a chance to see how a newspaper really operates. Some of the other clubs are: Spanish I, Life Skills, Chorus, Music I, Music Composition, and Drama.

Latin (7th grade) continues to be very popular. It is a very structured subject and the students seem to like the comfort of that structure.

6th grade is reading Greek myths; Homer’s *Odyssey*. Also, the more challenged group is reading a modern book which involves the Greek myth characters, *The Lightning Thief*.

8th grade is reading a challenging unit of short stories – bleak and dark stories full of angst.

Ms. Cullipher (reading) and Ms. Jenkins (writing) are collaborating on a project to teach the students how to do a deep literary analysis.

Ms. Clanton:

Ms. Clanton teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade Social Studies. She has had a LOT of content to learn, as last year for most of the year she was a 5th grade teacher.

6th is studying Ancient Greece and Rome.

She has created a timeline around her room, and asked the students to add cards to the timeline of what they learned last year as a way of connecting them to what they are learning, and also to connect them to each time period.

7th grade is studying about America becoming a world power. They have done an Art collaboration with Ms. Winston of drawing what they think existed at that time. They were so interested to learn that Monopoly was invented in 1904, and that it was invented and connected to the Rockefeller family. It was created as a warning about Capitalism.

8th grade is studying the breakdown of the British empires after WWII different lands demanded independence: Ireland, India, certain African countries. The students have the opportunity to earn extra credit by attending a non-violent event.

Drama club is doing the art of rhetoric as a joint effort with Brevard College. Brevard College reached out to BA-CFA for this. They hope to do a performance when the National Theater Foundation comes to BA-CFA.

Financial Report: Barbara Grimm, Nick Iosue

Listed below are the budget items requested:

1	Revenue: Sale of Capital Assets	Request to add	\$12,250	Sale of MacBooks and routers
2	Revenue: Uniforms	Request to add	\$4000	Parents/students purchase of uniform items from the school
3	Revenue: After School program	Request to add	\$25,683	Create budget to match expenses
4	Line 1 – Salary- EC Teacher assistant	Request to reduce	\$2,060	Assistant is only 11 months pay
5	Line 1 – Salary Custodian	Request to add (create budget line)	\$39,875	Have a fulltime custodian on site has been wonderful
6	Line 4 – Non-capitalized Hardware/Computers	Request to reduce	\$14,000	Move some of the budget \$\$ to account for new projectors
7	Line 4 – Capitalized Hardware/Computers	Request to add (create budget line)	\$22,000	Unforeseen expense of new projectors; 5 broke and were unusable
1	Line 5 – Non-Cap Instructional Equipment	Request to reduce	\$5000	Focus Audio Projectors
2	Line 6 – Capital Instructional Equipment	Request to add	\$14,000	To match non-cap hardware/computers
3	Lin 11 – Contracted Custodial Supplies	Request to reduce	\$35,000	Moved to Salary Custodian
4	Line 16 – Salary/After Care	Request to add	\$22,000	Create budget line to match additional person
5	Line 16 – Social Security/After Care	Request to add	\$1,683	Create budget line to match additional person

6	Line 16 – Supplies / After Care	Request to add	\$2000	To account for supplies and food purchased for After Care
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If all recommendations are approved:

Revenue will be increased by	\$41,933
Expense will increase by	\$45,498
Net Change: Decrease net surplus by	\$3,565
Net Surplus: (after budget recommendations)	\$65,475.45

Acadia North Star will be at the October 2015 Board meeting.

Any projected time when last school year’s budget will be closed out? No. Nick will call Krystal about this.

Budget forecasted on 270 students. Our allowance from the state is payment for 289 students. So, we have 19 more students than our budget is based on. Our current enrollment is 293.

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to approve the 13 lines of budget amendments as presented. Zia seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

Director report: Barbara Grimm

Enrollment:

- ! Current enrollment 293 students.
- ! 5th grade the only grade with any room if someone new applies.

Advertising:

- ! Trudy Pierron is sending weekly articles to the T-Times about events happening at school
- ! We are still continuing our radio spots on the White Squirrel Radio. This month, Barbara spoke on all the new programming, the increased enrollment and the future of the school.

Testing:

- ! MAP testing was completed on Tuesday, September 15th. We had to extend the window due to the change in NCREN and problems with connectivity. A report will be available at the next meeting.
- ! Beginning of Grade testing for 3rd grade was completed on 9/11.

EC-related services:

- ! We currently have 24 students with IEPs and 9 students with 504s. We will be hosing the state Compliance committee on 9/22.

Teacher evaluations:

- ! Lisa Malaquin-Prey and Barbara attended a professional development training held at Thomas Jefferson to ensure that we are clear on all aspects of the NCEES evaluation instrument. Informal observations and meetings with teachers on this have begun.

Athletics:

- ! BA-CFA has had 3 Cross-country meets and have placed 1st for boys in two of the events, and the girls have placed first in all their meets! 34 students are participating in Cross-country.
- ! The Flag-football team is currently in first place. There are 26 students playing. On Monday, 9/21 there will be another set of games in on our campus.
- ! Consideration is being given to starting a booster club to raise money for items needed by our sports teams.

Outdoor Education:

Our outdoor education program began on 8/13 and is going well. Mountain Roots is working with Coach Galloway on sharing space and giving our students wonderful outdoor activities.

After School Program:

- ! The After School Program is in full swing and over 25 students are attending on a regular basis. 26 students are signed up as drop-ins. We have hired an additional teacher and the students are excited about the opportunities being offered. Anchor Baptist Church has been providing us snack food when they can.

Service and Community:

- ! Barbara is using a program called Blackboard Connect to send out messages on Sunday evenings to inform parents of all upcoming events.
- ! We now have a community outreach committee who will be planning all community projects for each of our classes. The first project is Jesse's Well. This project was started by the family of a former Brevard Academy student who passed away from cancer. As her legacy, her family is trying to build 24 wells in the Dominican Republic to provide fresh water to the families there. We earned \$603 for this charity.
- ! We are using volunteers in reading and math and also now in Art and Outdoor Education. Some of the WYEE students from Brevard College will helping in Outdoor Ed.
- ! The bus repair for Teddy was \$1783.15. Rosa is now undergoing a check-up.
- ! Shining Rock Classical Academy gave us a check for \$100 for the use of our bus for 2 days.

Board Training:

- ! There will be a Board Training at Lake Lure Classical Academy this Saturday, 9/26 from 9:00 – 4:00. Dr. Tom Miller will be doing the training. Kristen Rodriguez will also be doing a session on understanding MAP data.

Some questions were asked:

Are 3rd graders the only ones who take the Beginning of Grade (BOG) tests? Yes. Currently 52% of our 3rd graders are not at grade level. We don't know where we stand historically on this. Barbara and some of the teachers said that with the new Core Knowledge Language Arts program, this BOG will be very different.

Is there a preliminary report on the MAP scores for the current 5th grade? Barbara said that MAP scores should be available tomorrow, 9/22. MAP scores will be reported on at the October meeting.

Ali at Brevard College is using some of the college students for a practicum. We need to review our policy on background checks for volunteers.

Team CFA report: Laura Thomas

The dinner sponsored by Team CFA for the five western CFA schools at the Grove Park Inn was outstanding.

There will be a training for Board members from all of the regional schools at Lake Lure Classical Academy (LLCA) on 9/26 starting at 9:00 p.m. Please RSVP to say if you will be attending or not. If you cannot attend this training, there will be a session in the Charlotte area later in the year.

Committee Reports:

Fund development/Marketing & Outreach

Everything has been focused on the October 3rd Groundbreaking for the new school. Barbara mentioned that she had spoken to officer Hemphill with the Sheriff's department talked to her about parking and using the inside of the facility. However, Warren said that having people inside the building will not be possible because of insurance issues. So, that means Port-a-potties will be necessary. Nick said he has talked to a local service and he hopes they will cut us a deal.

Tents will be needed for rain/sunshine, and we will need volunteers for parking. Have we thought about using one of our buses to shuttle people from a designated place?

So lots going on, and the committee will need lots of volunteers for that big day.

Facilities: Amy

- ! Barbara announced that Muddy Sneakers is removing their proposal on our outdoor spaces at the new facility. They had an unforeseen change – the person we were going to work with, Taylor Ladd, will be moving away to follow her husband who has a new job. So, at this time, Muddy Sneakers does not have a qualified person to do this work with us. They would like to keep the door open for the future, but for right now, this is not work they can do for us.
- ! On Wednesday Barbara will be meeting with 35 Degrees, a landscaping company owned by a parent to see if this is something he/she might be able to do with us.

Long Range Planning and Visioning: Zia

- ! No report

Personnel: Laura/Warren

- ! We need to be absolutely sure that all of our staff and Board are fingerprinted locally. We could have our Charter revoked if we do not get this very important step taken care of.
- ! Laura will be taking a tour with Barbara of all the classrooms on October 7th shortly after 8:00 a.m. Other Board members are welcome to join if they can.

Board Development, Policies and Procedures: Stewart

- ! Bylaws: Amy and Zia met to look at updating the bylaws. Zia found out from Kebbler Williams that the Office of Charter School can approve most of the changes we need to have done, and they meet once a month. Kebbler confirmed that we can change the

term “Board Directors” to Board Members since we use the term Director as most schools use the term Principal.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Laura put forward a recommendation to add \$3,000 to the budget for 2 additional teacher mentors for this school year. There is one mentor for Middle School and one for the lower grades.

Motion: A motion was made by Nick to add \$3,000 to this year’s school budget for teacher mentors. Amy seconded. Unanimous vote -- **Motion carried.**

We need to look at the June meeting date – it would fall on June 20th, which is the Monday before the Team CFA Conference in Nashville. We may want to look at moving this to a different Monday. We will revisit this at the October meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will take place on October 19th 2015 at 5:45 p.m. in the Searcy Hall.

Adjourn:

Motion: Nick made a motion to adjourn. Amy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.