

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

April 5, 2016

Location: Grammar School Music Room

Present: Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Steve Herndon, Nick Longerbeam, Tony Robbins, Elizabeth Sabolovic, Paula Staley and Donna Trimble

Not Present: Erina Byers

Others Present: Joe Maimone, headmaster; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; Gary Blake, dean of students; Tessa Waldrep, grammar school assistant principal; and Edith Shumate, finance officer/business manager

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:45 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment:

No public comment

Chairman's Moment:

Andy Francis thanked everyone for coming and reminded the board members about CFA's upcoming conference in Nashville.

Minutes (att. 1):

The March board meeting minutes were presented. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the minutes, and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-f):

Paul Foley noted that the finance committee met earlier and reviewed the budget through Feb. 29 and the S&P rating which is stable and positive.

Continuing Business:

Team CFA Report (att. 3a):

Paul Foley noted Team-CFA is busy on several fronts, including supporting struggling schools and assisting in identifying new teachers for various schools. He also reported there are two new charter applications in Indiana.

FORUM Report (att. 3b):

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted at the Forum's most recent meeting they discussed the grammar school parking lot and a request to purchase Chromebooks for the school. She reported the idea has been tabled until the Forum can look into it further. Upcoming Dine-Out Nights include Copper Penny on April 19 and Subway on May 6.

Burgundy and Gold Committee (att. 3c, d):

Joe Maimone reported for the committee. He said they now have eight scholarships to offer, and a golf outing on April 29 is their next major fundraiser.

Director's Report (att. 4a-c):

Joe Maimone noted end-of-year testing has been set. The school had a great lottery, and we have 1,300 students pre-enrolled for the 2016-17 school year, including 129 new students, 103 in kindergarten, and more than 200 on the wait list. He reported the new lottery program in which the school invested was worth the expense. He noted it's been a great month at TJ and that we will recognize several of the award-winning students at our May meeting.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

No report.

Community Relations:

Tony Robbins noted at the committee's recent meeting it was discussed about the school having a presence at both Rutherford and Cleveland county events. We will have a table with Gala raffle tickets and baskets and free bottled water at both the May Fest in Rutherfordton and Crossroads Festival in Boiling Springs in May. The committee also discussed updating the school's brochure. A tri-fold highlighting academic, athletic and extracurricular achievements was mentioned. The next major advertising time will be around graduation, and Mr. Robbins suggested the board sponsor a hole at the Burgundy and Gold golf outing.

Curriculum:

No report, but Sally Harbin noted the committee will be meeting toward the end of April to discuss needs for the upcoming school year.

Finance:

Paul Foley made a motion to accept the auditor's recommendation to raise liability policy limits to \$5 million. Paula Staley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Facilities:

Andy Francis thanked Jason Cole for starting work on repainting the fire zones at the grammar school. Mr. Francis also noted quotes had been received for the parking lot project.

Fundraising:

Joe Maimone noted the fundraising is focused on the August gala and is still looking for sponsors for the event.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel (att. 5e and 5f, 6):

Paula Staley reported that there are two open board positions. They need to be advertised this month so interviews can take place in May. She noted the board is looking for certain skill sets with these two positions – engineering (architecture and building codes) and finance/accounting. Mrs. Staley made the motion to proceed with advertising these open positions with a second by Nick Longerbeam. The motion passed unanimously.

She said work continues on the social media portion of the staff policy and that Mr. Maimone thinks work can continue through the summer to be ready for the next school year.

Mrs. Staley explained the board had previously amended the by-laws to prevent teacher representatives from voting at board meetings because of state legislation, but current legislation states that it is up to the discretion of the local board whether or not teacher representatives can vote. She made a motion to amend the school by-laws to allow one teacher representative to vote. The vote will move from the upper campus representative over to the grammar school representative on a yearly basis. Elizabeth Sabolovic seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Nick Longerbeam will finish out this year voting through June 2016, and Donna Trimble will vote during the 2016-17 school year.

Ad hoc Vision:

Joe Maimone reported the committee received good feedback from Bobbitt Construction Co. and that the committee will have a 3-D model of how a new building would look. Mr. Maimone stressed that we need to bring a vision to the August 20 gala.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: Upcoming board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. May 3 (upper campus), June 7 (grammar school), Aug. 2 (upper campus), Sept. 6 (grammar school), Oct. 4 (upper campus), and Nov. 1 (grammar school).

Facility Use Agreement (att. 7): Edith Shumate explained this agreement was just an informational piece, and no action was required.

Board members urged to attend TeamCFA Conference in Nashville June 22-26: Ten teachers and staff will also be invited to attend. The theme is “Harmonizing Together for Student Success in the Athens of the South.” Board members registered include Andy Francis, Paul Foley, Erina Byers, Sally Harbin, and Jerald DeLaGarza.

Contracts: None

Closed Session: Andy Francis called for a motion to move into closed session. Paul Foley moved to go into closed session to discuss privileged matters as set out in NCGS Section 143-318.11 (a) Paula Staley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board reconvened in open session at 6:41 p.m.

Paula Staley made a motion to move forward with the bid from Integrity Construction to complete the three projects at the grammar school's parking lot. She explained this would allow the projects to be completed this summer and the waiting would be over. Integrity said it would give a discount to the school if all three projects were completed at one time. Sally Harbin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Sally Harbin made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:44 p.m.