

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

November 3, 2015

Location: Grammar School Music Room

Present: Erina Byers, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Steve Herndon, Nick Longerbeam, Tony Robbins, Jason Ruff, Elizabeth Sabolovic, Paula Staley and Donna Trimble

Not Present: Jerald DeLaGarza

Others Present: Joe Maimone, headmaster; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; 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 noted his least favorite activity as chairman was to accept resignations, and he had two this evening – Jason Ruff who is moving to Raleigh and Ted Bell. In good news, Mr. Francis showed the two plaques the school has received recently. One was for 100% graduation rate from last year's commencement class and another for outstanding graduation rate for ninth graders. This indicated all of the ninth graders from that year graduated from a high school. One plaque will be displayed in the high school, and the other in the junior high building.

Minutes (att. 1):

The October board meeting minutes were presented. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-d & 3a-d):

Paul Foley noted that the finance committee has looked over the June 30 budget and it agrees with the audit. The Sept. 30 expenses are also in line with earlier projections. Mr. Foley moved for the approval of the projected budget based on actual revenues. Jason Ruff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:**Team CFA Report (att. 4):**

Erina Byers referred to the most recent newsletter and that there will be a board dinner on March 4. Brevard held a groundbreaking for its new building on Oct. 17. It will be ready in August 2016. She encouraged everyone to watch the video on John Bryan

FORUM Report (att. 5):

Steve Herndon reported that the fall festival this year did better than it ever has with about \$14,000 collected after expenses. Mr. Herndon also made a presentation to the board for the \$5,000 the Forum has donated for the grammar school parking lot project. Recent Forum-sponsored Nights Out, at McDonalds and Barleys, have raised about \$900. The next one will be at the Shelby Chick-Fil-A on Nov. 10. Mr. Maimone thanked Kathy Demas for all of her work in coordinating these events. The next Forum meeting will also be Nov. 10 at the upper campus.

Director's Report (att. 6):

Joe Maimone reported that David Davis has left TJ to accept a position at Aristotle in Charlotte. Mr. Maimone noted several staff are interested in sharing his duties and responsibilities. In October 18 new student applications were received. He noted the grammar school lost a few first grade students who received scholarships to a local private school, but there are several new students starting soon.

The school had an exceptional visit from AdvancEd. The visiting committee gave the school a glowing review and will recommend reaccreditation to its board at its next meeting in January.

The school is glad to finally have a real budget. The budget tracker will start next week. Mr. Maimone also noted the sports teams are doing well. However the school was recently saddened by the death of 10th grade student Shay Birchfield. Mr. Maimone encouraged everyone to purchase a Talon Challenge t-shirt which will be sold throughout November.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

Andy Francis noted about Mr. Davis leaving and policy reviews continue.

Community Relations:

Tony Robbins noted several items of interest although the committee has not met. Coach Cash, head football coach, had his 300th career win in TJ's victory against Cherryville. Mr. Robbins reported there was a lot of press coverage for the event. Work is being done for the school to participate in at least the Forest City and Shelby Christmas parades and possibly Boiling Springs and Rutherfordton if dates don't conflict.

Mr. Maimone noted the school is again running the Santa House in Forest City, and that a special ceremony is planned to present a ring and trophy to Coach Cash.

Curriculum:

No report.

Finance:

Paul Foley noted the committee worked via a conference call on the budget on Oct. 19 after final figures were received from the state.

Facilities (att. 7a-b):

Jason Ruff noted the committee listened to a presentation about a possible field house at its recent meeting. He said a couple of ideas were presented, but it is an ongoing process.

Fundraising:

No report.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel (att. 8):

Paula Staley reported that seven coaches came and met with the committee recently in a lengthy discussion about standards for extracurricular activities. Mrs. Staley noted they wanted to be sure TJ is in compliance with NCHSAA, so a letter was sent to the association for several clarifications. In a response from NCHSAA, it was learned that trimesters can be treated the same way semesters are.

Mrs. Staley noted after discussion covered the grading scale, it was suggested to remove the 2D's element from the policy. These students must attend tutoring but would not be removed from the team. Mrs. Staley made the motion to make this amendment to the current academic policy with a second by Sally Harbin. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Staley thanked Nick Longerbeam for his extensive work on the packet and research, and Paul Foley recognized the coaches for their active involvement in this process.

Ad hoc Vision:

Andy Francis reported that the committee will be further exploring land acquisitions.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Dec. 1 (upper campus), Feb. 2 (grammar school), March 1 (upper campus), April 5 (grammar school). There will not be a January meeting.

Policy Updates (att. 9): Joe Maimone noted that the charter advisory board is revising the charter school performance framework, involving 27 items. The school must have this in place in order to be in compliance with state laws. He said he hopes to have a draft for the board's Dec. 1 meeting. Paula Staley thanked Mr. Maimone for being proactive and ahead of the curve on this.

Mr. Maimone noted that January to March is our enrollment period and we have a lottery procedure in place, but the school is looking at a new program called "Lotteries." This software simplifies the lottery process and would be part of the school's lottery protocol.

Work continues on the athletic handbook. The school's main handbook will be referenced in the athletic book. Monitoring the students' status will allow coaches and teachers to provide these student athletes

with the help they need. Tony Robbins noted the administration, coaches, and board are on board with helping these student athletes be successful.

Committee Descriptions (att. 10): This is the first draft of these descriptions. Mr. Maimone has reviewed them. Paula Staley noted these were to help new members and aid current members in “staying with your agenda and stay on track.”

Team CFA-Sponsored Board Training Jan. 30: It will be offered in Charlotte on Jan. 30. A link was provided for board members for online training modules.

Contracts: None.

Elizabeth Sabolovic made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:20 p.m.