

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

07NOV17

Location: Upper Campus, Leitner Auditorium

Present: Paul Foley, Steve Herndon, Nick Longerbeam, Ray Maxwell, Elizabeth Sabolovic, Donna Trimble, Sally Harbin, Andy Francis, Jerald DeLaGarza , & Tony Robbins.

Others Present: Gary Blake, upper campus principal; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; Tessa Waldrep, grammar school assistant principal; Mike Fair, upper campus assistant principal; and Jeff Ziegler, academic dean.

Absent: Joe Maimone, headmaster

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:48pm.

Pledge

Moment of silence

Public Comment: None

Chairman's Moment:

Ray Maxwell opened the meeting by reminding everyone that the Board is here to make the right/best decisions for TJCA. He also noted that there will be meteor showers later in November and this is a great opportunity to share the experience with your family

Minutes (att. 1):

The October board meeting minutes were presented. Andy Francis made the motion to accept the minutes and Elizabeth Sabolovic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-d):

Paul Foley noted the finance committee had met earlier in the day. Paul Foley made the following motions:

1. Recommends approval of the September 30th budget. It represents 25% of our budget. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Recommends the Board accept the review of the 2017 Audit of TJCA and TJCEF. The audit was a positive report. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Recommends spending \$16,000 for internet upgrades on both campuses. Shawn Blanton will check on multiple bids and compatibility. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:**Team CFA Update:**

Paul Foley noted that CFA will open more schools in North Carolina with the goal to maintain an NC Report grade of B or better. CFA schools will strive for a grade of A.

FORUM Report (att. 3):

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the Forum had met. The Fall Festival was very successful netting \$12,000-\$13,000. The last Dine Out night resulted in \$633. There are more Icee days planned for both campuses. Staff appreciation lunches will be November 16th at the grammar school and November 17th at the upper campus.

Director's Report (att. 4a, b):

Gary Blake stated that the new buses are here and running. The high school football team is 10-1 and will host a home playoff game November 17th. The Renaissance Festival will be November 18th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The high school academic team finished second at the recent tournament. The middle school football team finished the season undefeated. Overall, it is a very exciting time for TJCA.

Jason Cole stated that the Fall Festival was great. Third grade is preparing for its Veteran's Day program. He also noted that the YMCA was back on the grammar school campus and everything is going well.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report (att. 5a):**

Did not meet.

Community Relations (att. 5b-c):

Tony Robbins noted that the Fall Festival in Rutherfordton and the Livermush Festival in Shelby went well. Release of the details of Vision Plan will be postponed until more information is available.

Curriculum:

Sally Harbin noted that the curriculum committee had met. The committee will continue to discuss the dual enrollment option. There is a meeting the first of December with the Dean of ICC to explore options. She stated that TJCA will continue to maintain its classical and AP curriculum. Sally made the motion that TJCA include exit interviews for students who leave to determine ways to retain students. TJCA staff will create the interview process. Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Facilities:

Andy Francis noted that the facilities committee had met. There are several projects in progress. The canopy at the grammar school will be completed. New fire lanes will be painted at the grammar school as well. TJCA will be purchasing a John Deere Gator to help meet the needs around campus. The new visitor bleachers have not been installed. The Wifi will be upgraded due to the increase in the volume of online testing. The current Wifi is too slow to handle the workload. Andy thanked the custodial and maintenance staffs for their efforts to maintain the campus.

Fundraising:

Tony Robbins noted the fundraising committee had met. The committee discussed ways to reach out to the community with a goal to raise \$2.1 million. Jeff Powell, Greg Poe, and Joel Mikell will serve as advisory members.

Legal Affairs:

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the legal affairs committee had met. She noted that the committee is still reviewing our bylaws and that the process will take several meetings. The committee has reviewed the YMCA contract and Elizabeth Sabolovic made the motion to accept the contract. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Policy (att. 6):

Ray Maxwell noted that the Personnel/Policy committee had met. He presented updates to the Employee Maintenance of Effort (2029) and the Equipment Use (7060) policies. Sally Harbin made the motion to accept the updated policies. Paul Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ad hoc Vision:

Paul Foley noted that the vision committee had met. Paul noted that board members and community leaders are working on a solution regarding the deed. Paul made the motion to accept the revision of the contract with Little Architecture. Little Architecture will be paid only for work that has been completed. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. TJCA will seek bids on the delineation the of wetlands behind the high school.

Continuing Business:

Upcoming meetings: December 5 (upper campus) Andy Francis made the motion that the board will not meet in January. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Policy Updates:

Updates to The Employee Maintenance of Effort (2029) and the Equipment Use (7060) policies were approved during the Personnel/Policy committee report.

The Charter Self Study document for 2019 renewal process has been sent to Raleigh. There will be a Charter Renewal site visit on April 11, 2018.

Jeff Ziegler and Gary Blake presented information regarding the AdvancEd accreditation. Due to General Statute §115C-12(39) (**passed in 2012**) there is a new process in place for accreditation. North Carolina does not require accreditation. Only 66 of 115 school districts **have received district-level accreditation** and 32 of 173 charter schools are accredited. TJCA is the only area **charter** school with accreditation. The accreditation process diverts staff time and effort from teaching. TJCA **has contacted** the state office to explore the new process. Andy Francis made the motion that TJCA will not pursue accreditation through AdvancEd. Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A copy of the letter sent to Rutherford County Commissioners regarding the deed was provided as informational only.

TJCEF will meet December 5th.

Andy Francis made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:42.