

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

**Board Meeting**

**September 1, 2015**

**Location:** Leitner Auditorium in the Middle School

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

**Others Present:** Joe Maimone, headmaster; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; Jeff Ziegler, Academic Dean; David Davis, Dean of Students; and Tessa Waldrep, grammar school assistant principal

**Opening:**

The meeting opened at 5:48 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

**Public Comment:**

No public comment

**Chairman's Moment:**

Andy Francis recognized senior Andrew Rhoads as a National AP Scholar for passing eight AP exams with a 4 or 5. He also reminded board members about the TeamCFA regional board dinner on Sept. 11.

**Minutes (att. 1):**

The August board meeting minutes were presented. Ted Bell made the motion to accept the minutes, and Nick Longerbeam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Paul Foley noted that no new information had been received from the state since the August board meeting, and that the audit information was not yet available from Darrell Keller, CPA. He said that report should be ready for the board's October meeting.

**Continuing Business:**

**Team CFA Report (att. 2):**

Paul Foley noted that the TeamCFA regional board dinner will be at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, on Friday, Sept. 11. The board training, also sponsored by TeamCFA, will run from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, but that the site has not yet been determined. Cost at the International Equestrian Center was too high. Tony Helton will communicate where the meeting will be held as soon as a decision is made.

**FORUM Report (att. 5):**

Joe Maimone reported that Christie Herndon is still trying to find a replacement for her as chairman. He said she has two terrific vice chairmen helping so that the Forum is continuing to meet regularly. Elizabeth Sabolovic noted the Forum met today in preparation for the Fall Festival.

**Director's Report (att. 6):**

Joe Maimone presented the report in which he noted the school year started with 1,298 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Several grades are below the cap. Kindergarten has 104 students, short of the 110 possible spots. There are 102 students in fourth grade below the 108 cap, and 89 students in ninth grade. Sixth grade has taken on more students to help make up for the shortfalls in other grades.

Reports on testing are to be released tomorrow (Sept. 2) and will be discussed at the October board meeting. Mr. Maimone expects TJ's score to be at least the same as last year.

Mr. Maimone noted fall sports are off to a great start. The first football home game will be this Friday (Sept. 4) with Military Appreciation Night on Sept. 11 and Homecoming on Sept. 18.

**Committee Reports:****Executive Report:**

Andy Francis noted the funding for the grammar school parking lot has not come through from the state. He also reminded board members that the list of board committees is included with the board packet, but there will no longer be athletic or food service committees.

**Community Relations:**

No report, but Mr. Maimone would like the school to have representation at Octoberfest in Rutherfordton on Saturday, Oct. 3.

**Curriculum:**

No report, but Sally Harbin said this group would be meeting in the fall.

**Finance:**

No report because of the lack of state figures.

**Facilities:**

Jason Ruff noted the committee had not met recently, but he provided updates on the high water utility bills. He said the school has received an estimate from a contractor for work on the well. It will cost about \$3,000 to install booster pumps and an irrigation system. He also noted the heating and air conditioning units at the high school are beginning to have problems. These units are about 11 years old and have potential for significant costs for replacement.

**Fundraising:**

No report.

**Legal Affairs:**

No report.

**Personnel:**

Paula Staley reported that the committee is working on Mr. Maimone's annual review. She noted that Mr. Foley will be helping, and she is hoping that Shawn Blanton can provide Mr. Foley access to employee surveys on the headmaster.

**Ad hoc Vision:**

Andy Francis reported that the committee has asked TJCEF to complete a study to bring the current upper campus up to standards as an option for the 2020 Vision.

**New Business:**

**Upcoming meetings:** The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Oct. 6 (grammar school), Nov. 3 (upper campus), Dec. 1 if needed (grammar school). A decision about the December meeting will be made by the board's October meeting.

**TeamCFA board dinner invitation (att. 5):** Dinner will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville.

**Wounded Warrior Project:** Nick Longerbeam reported that TJ will not be an ambassador school for the Project but will sponsor fundraisers to benefit the charity, including a 50/50 raffle at the Military Appreciation Night football game, Jeans Day at the upper campus, and a coin drive. Recognition of the charity will also be included on campus the weeks of Veteran's Day and Armed Forces Day.

**TJ Athletic Handbook (att. 6):** At this second reading, lengthy discussion took place after a motion was made by Jason Ruff with a second by Erina Byers. Tony Robbins had several suggestions concerning GPAs and actions to help struggling student athletes. Ted Bell has concerns over the "Cautionary Status" language. David Davis and Athletic Director Mike Caldwell were able to answer several questions which arose during the discussion, but the board voted 9-1 against the motion with Dr. DeLaGarza being the lone supporting vote. Mr. Maimone noted the administration would amend the handbook's language and fix typing errors.

**Contracts:** None.

Ted Bell made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:50 p.m.