

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

June 7, 2016

Location: Grammar School Music Room

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

Not Present: Nick Longerbeam

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

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:46 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment:

No public comment

Chairman's Moment:

Andy Francis recognized the Class of 2018's valedictorian Joseph Outten and salutatorian Ryuki Deyton, both were unable to attend. He also asked if he could amend the meeting's agenda to include two more contracts for approval and reminded everyone about the Aug. 20 Gala.

Minutes (att. 1):

The May board meeting minutes were presented. Sally Harbin made the motion to accept the minutes, and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Tony Robbins, serving as the nominations committee chairman, presented the slate of officers for the upcoming year including Paula Staley, chairman; Tony Robbins, vice chairman; Andy Francis, secretary; Paul Foley, treasurer; and Sally Harbin, grievance chair. Mr. Robbins noted that several members were unable to continue in their previous positions because of the three-year continuous role. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the committee's recommendation, and Erina Byers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-e):

Paul Foley noted that the finance committee met earlier in the day and reviewed the budget through May 31 and made the motion for board approval of the budget. Sally Harbin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:**Team CFA Report (att. 3a):**

Erina Byers also reminded everyone of the national conference coming up in Nashville and was glad to see more board participation. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact Edith Shumate. Paul Foley also noted that Jeff Ziegler was highlighted in the recent TeamCFA's "Around the Network."

FORUM Report (att. 3b):

Steve Herndon noted that the Forum has new officers, including Pam Jones who stepped up from vice chairman to chairman. The Forum discussed sponsoring a Burgundy and Gold scholarship for the upcoming year, and held a reception after the recent graduation.

Burgundy and Gold Committee (att. 3c):

Joe Maimone noted the committee's minutes are included in the board packet and that eight incredible graduates received this year's Burgundy and Gold scholarships at a dinner attended by about 70 people. The committee was able to raise about \$20,000 this year. Paula Staley noted Coach Brian Espinoza gave a very moving speech when presenting the scholarship in Shay Birchfield's honor which was given to TJ Wallace, whose mom has also battled cancer.

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

Joe Maimone added there was a piece about TJ Wallace in *The Shelby Star* which also included a video clip. Other highlights from his report included the fact that the school is awaiting the 2016-17 state budget. He reminded everyone that after it is passed, it will still be three to four weeks before the school receives information about student allotment, although he said we are hoping for a 3% increase in the ADM.

Preliminary test results are good with our proficiency rates coming up slightly. Official results will not be in until August. Documentation is required in support of our nepotism policy which our auditors will want to see in the board's packets. He said he also hoped everyone had received a Save the Date card for the Gala in the mail. Tickets can now be purchased online.

Mr. Maimone thanked everyone who attended graduation which he said lasted about 90 minutes. Afterward he said several families noted what a blessing the school has been to their families. A press release has also been sent to local newspapers about the high school and middle school awards programs.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

Andy Francis said the committee had a good discussion about the school's nepotism policy and Forum representatives. The concern about phasing out the Forum representatives one at a time was that the grammar school would be represented while the high school was not. The committee thought the high school Forum rep's term could be extended for one more year to match the grammar school's rep. Paula Staley made the motion that Elizabeth Sabolovic be able to serve for one more term as a nonvoting representative of the Forum. Paul Foley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Community Relations:

Tony Robbins reported that although the committee has not met recently, the school was represented at Rutherfordton and Boiling Springs events within the past month. He said those who worked met a lot of people and perhaps even recruited new staff members, coaches, and families.

Curriculum:

No report, but Sally Harbin noted the committee will be meeting sometime in the summer.

Finance (att. 5a):

Paul Foley reported that the committee met earlier in the day to review manual checks, receive a report about the school's bonding, and saw that the school's budget is on track for June. He noted that a surplus of between \$80,000 and \$100,000 is expected. Mr. Foley reported that Food Services generated a profit for the first time as did the athletic department.

Facilities (att. 5b):

Andy Francis noted quite a lot was accomplished at a recent meeting. Highlights included bids for fixing the middle school roof and retaining wall under the bleachers. Mr. Maimone noted the school plans to move on the middle school roof before June 30 because funds are available in the current budget. Work on the retaining wall will be done under the new budget in July.

Mr. Francis noted a few extra parking spots will be included in the grammar school parking lot which should also be completed by June 30. Paula Staley asked about black top in the back on which students could play, but Jason Cole said that he would check into a cement slab with the contractors.

Fundraising:

Erina Byers said the Gala committee is still working on special guests, and that Linda Bevilacqua, president of Core Knowledge Foundation, has agreed to attend. Paula Staley asked if Will Smith and Matt Damon had been confirmed as special guests. Edith Shumate would neither confirm nor deny this. Mrs. Byers said the committee is still looking for sponsors and if anyone wanted to still sell \$2 raffle tickets, they are available through Mrs. Shumate.

Mr. Maimone added the Foundation approved hiring a professional fundraising group from Atlanta to help the school raise the \$5 million needed to build a new school.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel/Policy (att. 5c):

Paula Staley reported that the committee interviewed five potential board members. She noted the board was looking for certain skill sets— engineering (architecture and building codes) and

finance/accounting. Because Mr. Foley will be staying on with the board, Mrs. Staley noted they focused on the engineering background. She made the motion to invite Ray Maxwell, a project engineer, to join the board as an at-large member. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ad hoc Vision:

Andy Francis noted architect Mark Bebee gave a presentation to the committee which led to good discussion about the proposed project. Mr. Francis noted several members also visited the Cone Mill property, and the committee has two really good options.

New Business:

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

Policy Updates (att. 6): Paula Staley noted the committee continues working on updating policies, including social media and student attendance. Mr. Maimone noted that with the nepotism policy no staff member can report directly to a family member. Board members were asked to add Heather Roche and Heidi Young, who are sisters employed at the grammar school, to the list. Paul Foley made a motion to accept the updated nepotism policy with a second by Steve Herndon. The motion passed unanimously.

EOC and EOG Preliminary Summary Report (att. 7): Joe Maimone noted that the preliminary 85.8% pass rate is up from the previous year and generated good discussion at the end-of-year lunch with staff. He would like to see the school reach 90% next year. Mrs. Staley asked what could be done to help the ninth grade Algebra scores. Mr. Maimone said that two groups will be working with next year's ninth and tenth grade students to help improve these scores, and that there were quite a few new students to TJ included in this year's score. We are setting up a special required 'math lab' class T/Th from rising 9th and 10th grade students who scored below a 3 on either the Alg I EOC or the 8th grade math EOG.

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." Participants are encouraged to arrive Wednesday, June 22, and will leave Sunday, June 26.

Contracts (att. 8): Paul Foley made the motion to accept the three renewal contracts – speech therapy with Kelly Dailey and lease agreements with TJ Community Education Foundation for 2015-16 and 2016-17. Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Paul Foley made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:20 p.m.