

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

**Board Meeting**

**July 1, 2015**

**Location:** High School Room 401

**Present:** Ted Bell, Erina Byers, Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley (via phone), Andy Francis, Sally Harbin (via phone), Nick Longerbeam, Jason Ruff, Paula Staley and Donna Trimble

**Not Present:** Ronda Alexander and Jeff Powell

**Others Present:** Joe Maimone and Jason Cole

**Opening:**

The meeting opened at 5:52 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

**Public Comment:**

No public comment

**Chairman's Moment:**

Andy Francis thanked everyone, especially the several teachers present, for attending the meeting. He also noted it was Mr. Bell's daughter's birthday.

**Minutes:**

The June board meeting minutes were presented. Ted Bell made the motion to accept the minutes, and Paula Staley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Paul Foley noted that committee had not met but will meet again in August. The May and June portions of the budget will be covered at that time.

**Continuing Business:**

**Team CFA Report:**

Paul Foley reported that the conference in Denver last week was well attended and had a full agenda. Dr. DeLaGarza said they received a CFA governance website which was very helpful, and he would share it by email with all board members after the meeting.

**FORUM Report:**

Joe Maimone reported that new vice chairs had been elected to the Forum: Chrissy Mullins for the upper campus and Pam Jones for the grammar school with Denise Arrowood and Kelly Hall staying on as treasurer and secretary respectively. They are still looking for a chairperson.

**Director's Report (att. 4):**

Joe Maimone presented the report. He noted the Forum will have at least one new representative on the board for the upcoming school year. The state Department of Public Instruction is requiring charter schools to report regularly on their attrition rates under the new performance framework requirement for charter schools. TJ's attrition rate was -4% last year with 10 new students invited off the wait list and 68 students leaving during the course of the year. Mr. Maimone noted that about 1/3 were due to economics, with families continuing to leave our area for better jobs. Andy Francis asked about the numbers for second grade for the upcoming year because they were predicted to be so high, but Jason Cole noted the numbers had decreased from the initial count and the staff is feeling better about the class sizes. He also noted if any students drop before school, the slots will not be filled since the grade level is still above the 110 used for K-4. Mr. Maimone also pointed out the numbers available for kindergarten spots is decreasing because of the lower birth rates in the county. While it is not an issue currently, he said these numbers are to be watched. There are 1,305 students enrolled for the upcoming year. We can take up to 1,328, and the budget was estimated for 1,280.

AP scores are set to be released Monday, July 6, and Jeff Ziegler will discuss MAP and AP scores with the board at the August meeting. DPI is creating their own assessment with a pilot program planned over the next three years.

Mr. Maimone noted various staff changes for the upcoming year. Paula Staley asked about the electives with Mr. Foust moving to drama. It was explained that P.E. and drama or music can be taken on a M-W-F and T-Th rotation.

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

Andy Francis noted the committee had discussed various hirings and moving around of teachers for the upcoming year. The names of all voting members of the board were written down and put into a container and drawn randomly for five members to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee. The names selected were Paul Foley, Jerald DeLaGarza, Sally Harbin, Paula Staley and Ted Bell. Mr. Francis appointed Mr. Bell as chair of the committee which will create a slate of officers for the upcoming year.

**Community Relations:**

No report.

**Curriculum:**

No report.

**Finance (att. 5):**

Paul Foley noted the brief committee's minutes were attached for the board's information.

**Facilities:**

Jason Ruff noted the committee had not met recently, but the windows are onsite with installation to begin July 2, and the air conditioning was to be ordered July 1.

**Fundraising:**

No report.

**Legal Affairs:**

Ted Bell noted the committee had met briefly to discuss sending out letters to staff who were not returning for the upcoming school year.

**Personnel:**

Paula Staley noted that the committee had met several times recently to interview prospective board members and to discuss policy and GPA changes. She thanked Nick Longerbeam and teachers for their input to the student handbook policies. Mrs. Staley made the motion to add Tony Robbins as the newest at-large board member. The motion was seconded by Paul Foley and passed unanimously.

**Ad hoc Vision:**

Andy Francis noted there had not been a meeting recently, and Joe Maimone said there is a lot of work to be done.

**New Business:**

**Upcoming meetings:** The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. August 11 (grammar school), Sept. 1 (upper campus), Oct. 6 (grammar school), and Nov. 3 (upper campus).

**State GPA change:** Nick Longerbeam gave a presentation on the state's grading scale change to 10 points from 7 and its potential effects on TJ academic standards. Many teachers are concerned that the new scale lowers high GPA achievers, while raising the GPAs of low performing students, pushing all students toward the mean. The most extreme example is that an F with GPA weighting of zero is now 59 and below, whereas it was 69 and below under the old scale.

**Student Handbook Policies:** This was the board's second reading. It was noted that eligibility for extracurricular activities in seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> grades stated athletes could not have any F's, no more than one D, and an unweighted GPA not below 2.0. Discussion took place over whether or not a student could become eligible within the first three weeks of a new year after not meeting these criteria, but Mr. Maimone clarified that this was not the case. The added cautionary status is only to help those who

were already eligible to make sure their grades did not all during a season. The board noted these requirements were fair and were pleased that we would be holding extracurricular participants to the same standard as Raleigh Charter High, the top rated academic school in our state. Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to accept the change to the handbook policies with a second from Ted Bell. Motion passed unanimously.

**TJ Athletic Handbook:** Because of technical difficulties in several board members being unable to have access to the handbook, Mr. Maimone resent the suggested handbook and asked everyone to be prepared for discussion at the August meeting. This would be a first reading, and we expect to hold a second reading for approval at the next meeting.

**Contracts:** None needed action.

Ted Bell made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:47 p.m.