

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

**Board Meeting**

**March 1, 2016**

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

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

**Not Present:** Sally Harbin

**Others Present:** Joe Maimone, headmaster; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; Jeff Ziegler, academic dean; Gary Blake, dean of students, 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 that it was time for the renewal of the at-large members, including himself, Paula Staley, Jerald DeLaGarza, Sally Harbin and CFA representative Paul Foley. Mr. Francis noted a nomination was needed to do this. Paul Foley made the nomination with a second by Nick Longerbeam. The renewal was passed unanimously. Joe Maimone thanked the members for their time, and Mr. Francis thanked them for remaining on the board.

**Minutes (att. 1):**

The February board meeting minutes were presented. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the minutes, and Elizabeth Sabolovic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report (att. 2a-e):**

Paul Foley noted the committee met just before the board meeting and reviewed the manual checks and budget through Jan. 31.

## **Continuing Business:**

### **Team CFA Report (att. 3a):**

Erina Byers noted that the TeamCFA was continuing to grow and provide better education. Upcoming events include the March 11 North Carolina board dinner; April 22 Indiana board dinner; and national conference in Nashville, Tenn., June 22-25. Mr. Maimone reminded board members that they needed to indicate before the end of March if they are interested in attending the national conference.

### **FORUM Report (att. 3b):**

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted the Forum discussed teacher luncheons at their last meeting, in addition to the Dine-Out Nights and grammar school parking lot.

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

Joe Maimone presented the report in which he noted student enrollment remained stable during February at 1,270. As of today, there have been 271 new applications which is 25 more than at this point last year. He added that there are 134 Kindergarten applications and 22 for 9<sup>th</sup> grade with the remainder of the applications being distributed fairly evenly among the other grades. He said that the lottery protocol approved by the board in November asked for an April lottery, but he wants to request moving it up to Tuesday, March 22 at 4:30 in Leitner Auditorium to allow parents to know if their children were selected before the Easter break occurs.

He has a meeting with the state Speaker of the House to discuss lingering financial issues, and a May 18 court date has been set about the ongoing suit with Cleveland County.

The bus driver policy has been updated, and there is a legislative mandate on charter school fees for students. The gala fundraising committee has about 30 active members planning the Aug. 20 event. Mr. Maimone said the committee hopes between 500 and 600 people will attend and help to raise about \$100,000 that evening. He added that the equestrian center is a VIP venue with an international horse show taking place that evening.

Other news included the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade academic teams winning recently, and the high school academic team being invited to the national competition. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Renaissance Festival will be held at the upper campus on Saturday, March 12.

Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to change the date of the lottery to Tuesday, March 22. Elizabeth Sabolovic seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nick Longerbeam said that he has received positive feedback from some of the students about the science camp at Gardner-Webb University. Mr. Maimone also reminded board members that unlike previous years the Burgundy & Gold Scholarship dinner will be the week before the June board meeting since it is not until June 7 this year. He also noted graduation will be Monday, June 6.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Executive Report:**

No report.

**Community Relations:**

Tony Robbins said there had not been a recent meeting but wanted board members to be aware of the Burgundy & Gold Scholarship golf tournament fundraiser on April 29. He will send out specifics to board members soon and also noted he would like to hold a committee meeting within the next couple of weeks.

**Curriculum:**

Joe Maimone reported the committee met on Monday, Feb. 29, and had good discussion about maintaining the integrity of the school's curriculum through Core Knowledge and book requests for the upcoming school year.

**Finance (att. 5a):**

Paul Foley noted that board approval was needed for the renewal of the audit contract with Darrell Keller on the school's retirement plan. He made the motion to approve the renewal with a second by Erina Byers. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Foley said that Mr. Keller also reviewed the school's audit with the committee in which Mr. Keller noted he was happy and impressed with the school's performance and accounting.

**Facilities (att. 5b):**

Andy Francis reported he and Jason Cole recently met with the fire marshal at the grammar school about fire lanes. A Kings Mountain crew will be coming to paint new fire lanes in red and other signs around the school. Mr. Francis noted there was recent wind damage on the walkway at the upper campus and quotes were being obtained on a metal roof. The big item, he noted, is the grammar school parking lot. Horsehead had an engineer come out and review the situation. Mr. Francis said we are now awaiting bids for the project with could add up to 28 parking spots around the front of the grammar school. Mr. Francis said a second phase might also include a road in the back of the school to help alleviate traffic issues. Paula Staley asked if a special meeting could be called if bids came in soon, and Mr. Francis agreed that could happen to help move the process along.

**Fundraising (att. 5c):**

Erina Byers reported that the Gala's VIP party will start at 6 p.m., the gala at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., Mr. Maimone's welcome at 7:30 p.m., and the horse show at 8 p.m. Tickets will remain at \$50 for staff members and spouses and \$100 for others. Sponsorships are available as \$3,000 for gold, \$1,500 for Burgundy, and \$750 for Gryphon Pride. Raffle tickets for \$2 each will be sold in March, April and May for prizes of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000. She noted she is working with Stephanie Taylor on sponsors.

**Legal Affairs:**

Paula Staley reported a post-accident procedure was reviewed as a result of a recent minor fender bender. She noted we have a great procedure already in place, but wanted to memorialize it. Mrs. Staley made the motion to accept the procedure with a second by Dr. DeLaGarza. The motion passed unanimously. Andy Francis noted there are new packets on each of the buses.

**Personnel (att. 5d):**

Paula Staley reported that while the committee has not met recently, work continues on the social media policy for the staff handbook. She encouraged staff to add anything they would like to see in the policy. The committee hopes to have a policy update for the board's April meeting.

**Ad hoc Vision (att. 4a):**

Andy Francis reported that the committee has looked at several properties. The CFA property representatives have not gotten back in touch with the board.

**New Business:**

**Upcoming meetings:** The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. April 5 (grammar school), May 3 (upper campus), June 7 (grammar school), July/August TBA.

**Policy Updates (att. 6a, 6b, 6c):** Paula Staley made a motion to accept the student fees policy created because of a state mandate that charter schools not charge fees higher than local districts. Nick Longerbeam seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Staley made the motion to accept the media consent and release form proposed by Peter Orlosky for videotaping required in his class. Tony Robbins asked if the form could be used for other similar classes. Joe Maimone asked that the class' specific name be removed from the form to make it more generalized. Nick Longerbeam seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**PSAT testing data summary (att. 8):** Jeff Ziegler reported that there was 11 years of historical data for graduates from 2010-2020. He explained that there is a new scoring system for the PSAT which is administered once a year to all eighth through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. He provided a hypothesis about the conversion between the old scale and the new. He noted scores seem to be very much in line with previous years.

**TeamCFA Nashville Conference:** Board members are encouraged to attend the June 22-25 national conference with the theme "Harmonizing Together for Student Success in the Athens of the South." Board members should let Edith Shumate know if they are interested in attending.

**Contracts:** None.

Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:28 p.m.