

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

Oct. 4, 2016

Location: Leitner Auditorium in the Middle School

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

Others Present: 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:

TJ drama teacher Jonathan Foust was there to represent the fine arts staff. He said the staff had heard there were plans for a cafetorium rather than a dedicated fine arts area, and it filled them with dread. He asked that the board please plan for a dedicated space for concerts, performances, senior thesis presentations, etc., because it is difficult to have a quality performance in a cafetorium. He noted that a classical education includes fine arts and that Core Knowledge requires musical curriculum through the eighth grade.

Chairman's Moment:

Paula Staley thanked teachers, staff and administration for the various extracurricular activities which are available.

Minutes (att. 1):

The September board meeting minutes were presented. Sally Harbin made the motion to accept the minutes, and Nick Longerbeam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-d):

Paul Foley noted the finance committee had met earlier in the day and reviewed expenditures through August 31 and noted expenditures are in line. He noted they reviewed all manual checks and had no updated retirement account information.

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

Erina Byers reminded everyone of the board training on Nov. 5. She said those organizing the event need to know who will be attending. Paul Foley reminded everyone that the training is part of the board's requirements. Andy Francis said that if the conference was attended, it would count toward the required training, but Mrs. Byers said that all are encouraged to attend. She also noted the school support team is up and running to coach educators and provide curriculum assistance.

FORUM Report (att. 3b):

Elizabeth Sabolovic and Steve Herndon noted the Forum met on Sept. 20 and is working on getting a Spirit Rock for the upper campus. It would be for student morale and a fundraiser. Today is a dine-out night at Big Dave's from 4-8 p.m. Their next big event is the Fall Festival on Oct. 20. They just had custodial appreciation day yesterday and will have the first staff appreciation meal on Friday, Nov. 18. Work is also being done by a parent on fundraising for a basketball court at the back of the grammar school. The Forum will match whatever money is raised by the parent. Volunteers are also needed to help cover the afternoon study hall at the upper campus on Wednesday afternoons.

Burgundy and Gold Committee (att. 3c):

No report.

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

Gary Black reported for Joe Maimone and reminded everyone again about the Fall Festival and Homecoming which is set for Friday's game against Cherryville.

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

Paula Staley noted the committee met to discuss the job descriptions, finalize the organizational flowchart, discuss retaining a lawyer full-time, and the balance for CFP for preparing the model.

Community Relations (att. 5b-c):

Tony Robbins said the committee met to finalize the new brochures which are now at the printer. Other events going on include last Saturday's festival in Rutherfordton, Military Appreciation Day at the Oct. 14 football game, and the Livermush Festival in Shelby on Oct. 15.

Curriculum:

Sally Harbin noted the committee's meeting was postponed until Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Facilities (att. 5d):

Ray Maxwell reported the committee met on Sept. 26 to discuss several issues, including buses, lawn care, large item bids, American Disability Act items, grammar school gym air conditioning unit, and the YMCA program at the grammar school. Mr. Maxwell noted it is important for buses to be in compliance with regulations and has requested a list of these to check over. He noted the upper campus is bringing the lawn care service back in-house after a couple of mowers have been purchased. He received

affirmation that bids of items over \$5,000 need board approval. Several faucets have been replaced to comply with the American Disability Act. An estimate has been received to repair one of the grammar school AC units.

Fundraising:

Erina Byers reported the committee held a brief meeting on Sept. 20 to look over the new brochures and made a couple of photo changes.

Legal Affairs:

Paula Staley noted they worked out an agreement with the YMCA program with only a few minor changes. She said the program has been in place for seven or eight years and has worked well. Jason Cole said he feels like it will be easier for our school families if we maintain an agreement with the YMCA, especially on half days and holidays. Andy Francis made a motion for approval of the Y contract with the amendments and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel/Policy (att. 5f, 6a-e & 7):

Paula Staley noted the committee met recently for the purpose of conducting an exit interview with Elizabeth Deaton. They had a productive conversation about her experiences while at TJ. Paul Foley made a motion to accept the job descriptions for headmaster, principal, assistant principal, teachers, and counselor. Sally Harbin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Foley made the motion to take the previous organizational flowchart off of the agenda with a second by Andy Francis which was approved. Mr. Foley then made the motion to approve the revised organizational flowchart with a second by Jerald DeLaGarza. The motion passed unanimously.

Ad hoc Vision:

Paul Foley reported the committee had met at 4 p.m. that day and noted all are welcome to join them. They reviewed the preliminary costs for the “dream facility” and realize it is not within the financial realm of the school. We will go back and look at alternatives, prioritizing school values and the diversified educational elements, such as sports and fine arts. Mr. Foley made a recommendation that the board no longer consider renovating mills for the 2020 Vision. Paula Staley said that the board takes the fine arts program seriously, and a cafetorium will not be a part of the plans.

Athletic:

Andy Francis reported the committee had met on Sept. 28 to discuss bus air conditioning, eligibility waivers, and updates to the visitors’ bleachers. Mr. Francis noted Athletic Director Mike Caldwell would like to have a five-year plan, including a fieldhouse.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Nov. 1 (grammar school), Dec. 16 luncheon (upper campus cafeteria), Jan. 3 (upper campus), and Feb. 7 (grammar school).

Conflict of Interest Forms: Paula Staley noted all but one of the forms had been turned in by the board members. She then had each member verbally note their conflict of interest for full public disclosure.

Fall MAP Reporting Update: Georgia Maimone shared the Google slide presentations prepared for teachers and parents and distributed a sample teacher MAP reports packet. Mrs. Maimone noted there

were helpful reports available to teachers and that MAP testing is nationally normed and offers a larger pool of students being tested compared to the state's EOG tests. Mrs. Maimone noted that 60% growth is strong growth, and most of our teachers are above that level. She added that anyone having questions can email her anytime.

Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:35 p.m.