

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

October 6, 2015

Location: Leitner Auditorium in the Middle School

Present: Ted Bell, Erina Byers, Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley (via phone), 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; Tessa Waldrep, grammar school assistant principal; and Edith Shumate, finance officer/business manager

Opening:

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment:

Jeff Ziegler honored Barbara Head, seventh grade math teacher, for her years of dedicated service to TJ and the more than 1,000 seventh grade students she has taught at the school. In his speech, Mr. Ziegler noted Mrs. Head “has a knack for teaching any student,” “a respect for dignity,” and “is what I hope someday to be.”

Chairman’s Moment:

Andy Francis continued the recognition of Mrs. Head and presented her with a plaque in honor of her service to the school and exceptional growth in testing scores.

Minutes (att. 1):

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

Financial Report (att. 2):

Paul Foley noted that the actual expenditures are up-to-date, but actual figures were just released from the state last Saturday and he is currently out of town. Mr. Maimone noted the ADM for the year is actually up about 3% or \$170 per student for the 1,299 students of the current year. The finance committee will need to meet to readjust some figures in the budget, and a special meeting may need to be called to approve the budget. Edith Shumate said the June 30 final numbers are in the last stage and look fairly close to what preliminary reports indicated.

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

Erina Byers noted that the TeamCFA regional board dinner was held in Asheville on Sept. 11. She said it was a great evening including dinner and a guest speaker from Portland, Ore.

FORUM Report (att. 4):

Joe Maimone reported that minutes are included in the board packet and the Forum's fall festival is set for Thursday, Oct. 14.

Director's Report (att. 5):

Joe Maimone presented the report in which he highlighted several items. One was the AdvancEd accreditation team of six members will be coming to TJ on Oct. 27 and 28. He asked if board members would be available for interviews in the afternoon. Interviews will be conducted with students, teachers, and a subset of the board. Those interested should let Andy Francis know by the end of this week. Mr. Maimone recognized the hard work by Meg Masterman and Scott Scruggs in creating a website which includes evidence for each standard evaluated by the AdvancEd committee.

He added that the school now has 1,300 students. TJ received a great report on spring and SAT assessments. The PSAT will be administered to students Oct. 14 with the ACT PLAN on Oct. 29. Mr. Maimone explained House Bill 334 will make changes to our lottery policy, and a few other policies, which will need to be reviewed before the recruiting season begins.

TJ was unsuccessful in its Golden Leaf application. He noted one reason was because the application is evaluated on its effect community-wide which is difficult for smaller schools.

Our athletic teams are off to a great fall, he noted, but a former athlete and 15-year-old student "has not much more time." Guidance counselors are in place for both students and teachers.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

No report.

Community Relations:

Tony Robbins noted several items of interest. The Fall Fest in Rutherfordton was cancelled due to the weather. TJ has a display in the exhibit hall at the Cleveland County Fair. Mr. Maimone, Philip Byers, and Mr. Robbins met with the governor and a local chamber of commerce representative at a state Chamber of Commerce event recently.

Curriculum:

No report.

Finance:

No report other than information provided during the financial report.

Facilities:

Jason Ruff noted the committee had not met recently, but he noted there is a small list of ongoing items, including concern for the 12 heating and air conditioning units at the high school.

Fundraising:

No report.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel:

Paula Staley reported that the committee has been working on the athletic handbook. She noted the next meeting on the handbook will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, in John Adams Hall. She encouraged those interested in the handbook and/or having opinions or wanting input to attend. Recent discussion included using a GPA rather than the standard of two D's and one F.

She credited Mr. Robbins with spearheading work on the social media policy. The current policy does not reflect the widespread use of social media and an updated policy could protect the school from future liability issues.

The committee is also interested in job descriptions and a flow chart for administration, in particular regarding new hires, such as the dean of students at the upper campus and assistant principal at the grammar school.

Ad hoc Vision:

Andy Francis reported that the committee knows more study is needed, and Mr. Byers and Mr. Bell will look into this.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Nov. 3 (grammar school), Dec. 1 (upper campus), Jan. 5 (?), Feb. 2 (grammar school). Mr. Maimone noted that because of late budget figures a meeting in December may be more beneficial than one in January. Andy Francis said the executive committee would take his suggestion under advisement.

TJ Athletic Handbook (att. 8): Paula Staley made a motion to table any action on the handbook with a second by Nick Longerbeam.

Fall Board Testing Report (att. 9): Jeff Ziegler covered the school's ACT, SAT, MAP and other state testing numbers with the board through tables comparing TJ with local, state and federal averages. He also indicated how the school has been able to maintain its improvement in scores over the years.

Team CFA-Sponsored Board Training Sept. 26 and Jan. 30: Erina Byers reported that the board training was very beneficial. The next one will be offered in Charlotte on Jan. 30. Paula Staley reminded board members that they are required to participate in training each year. A link was provided for board members for online training modules.

Contracts: None.

Ted Bell made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:43 p.m.