

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

May 1, 2018

Location: Upper Campus, Leitner Auditorium

Present: Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Steve Herndon, Ray Maxwell, Tony Robbins, Elizabeth Sabolovic, and Donna Trimble

Not Present: Nick Longerbeam

Others Present: Joe Maimone, headmaster; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; Gary Blake, upper campus principal; Jeff Ziegler, academic dean; and Tessa Waldrep, grammar school assistant principal

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:47 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment: None

Chairman's Moment:

Ray Maxwell noted that the board had passed a resolution in support the local school bond referendum and sales tax so he now encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Minutes (att. 1a):

The April board meeting minutes were presented with minor typographical changes noted. Andy Francis made the motion to accept the amended minutes, and Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-h):

Paul Foley noted several items that the finance committee had discussed recently. The first was that the March 31 budget for 75% of the school year is on track. Mr. Foley made the motion for the report to be approved with a second by Jerald DeLaGarza. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foley also made a motion to accept the projected 2018-19 school budget with a second by Andy Francis. Mr. Foley reminded everyone that numbers are subject to change once the final enrollment is determined for the upcoming school year.

Another motion made by Mr. Foley was to approve the terms of the Alliance Bank proposal for the Vision 2020 project He noted this was just to accept the terms because the school cannot move forward with the loan until the final USDA approval is received. Andy Francis seconded the motion with passed unanimously.

Mr. Foley also reported that the invoice for the modular unit purchased for the grammar school for a cost of \$11,030.50 has been received, and insurance coverage is being determined.

Continuing Business:

Team CFA Report:

Paul Foley noted that Davidson Charter Academy:CFA will open in the fall with 360 students kindergarten through fourth grade. Team-CFA will have six network schools that utilize TeamCFA for financial services and student information services next year. They would like to talk to TJ about providing these services. Carolina Charter Academy in Angier, NC, near Raleigh will open in 2019-20, and there are discussions about schools in Stanley and Huntersville, NC. He also noted Core Knowledge has come out with a new History and Geography curriculum for grades 3-8 and is offering a 30% discount for TeamCFA schools. TeamCFA will cover up to 50% of the remaining costs.

FORUM Report (att. 3a):

Steve Herndon reported the once-a-month ICEE sales are very successful at the grammar school and that Box Tops collection is doing well. Teacher Appreciation Week will be observed May 7-11. The Forum is looking into purchasing tables and chairs for a deck that was recently built at the upper campus.

Burgundy and Gold Committee (att. 3b):

Joe Maimone reported the annual golf tournament on April 27 exceeded goals for proceeds and that the Burgundy and Gold banquet is set for Tuesday, May 29.

Director's Report (att. 4):

Joe Maimone reported that the pre-enrollment number for next year of 1,469 is down to 1,431. He added that the enrollment figures should be about 1,350 by the start of the school year.

Mr. Maimone noted that seven academic team students traveled to Washington, DC, over the past weekend for the National History Bowl and Bee. The students qualified to participate at the North Georgia Regional last fall and won the middle bracket championship in D.C.. Gary Blake reported several students earned honors at the Science Olympiad Middle School State Tournament recently and that Junior Beta will compete in Savannah, GA, in June.

Mr. Maimone, Mr. Blake and Jason Cole reported that upcoming events include AP testing, EOG exams, MAP testing, a guitar concert on May 3, the kindergarten concert on May 4, and graduation on June 4.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee:

Did not meet.

Community Relations Committee (att. 5b):

Steve Herndon reported the committee met recently to discuss the school's participation in the May 5 May Fest in Rutherfordton. He noted Donna Trimble stressed the importance of adding our presence in the community and needing to find a way to set ourselves apart from other schools. The committee also discussed additional Internet advertising, making Move-Up Day a bigger event to help get students excited about the upcoming school year, and the Renaissance Festival which will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center on Nov. 17.

Curriculum Committee (att. 5c):

Sally Harbin reported the committee had a great meeting on April 25 in which several high school teachers not on the committee were invited to attend. The committee has asked administration to look at a proposal concerning MAP retesting and had a deep discussion about the rigor of the school's curriculum and what to do about dual enrollment. Donna Trimble had asked if the upper campus could hold its own curriculum meetings similar to the grammar school's and then share topics of schoolwide concern at the board's monthly curriculum meeting.

Mr. Maxwell noted the dual enrollment has been discussed at the school for several years now. Mr. Maimone explained TJ has had an articulation agreement with Isothermal Community College for about five years and has offered electives, but he noted TJ does not want to replace any of its classical courses with those offered through ICC. He said that the school could try to get more of the math and science electives.

Mr. Foley made a motion in order to get the best possible curriculum change moving that Mr. Blake and administration report to the board at its June meeting about any additions and subtractions to courses that administration feels are needed. This may include, but is not limited to, dual enrollment, online courses, fine art enhancements, schedule revisions, etc. Elizabeth Sabolovic seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Facilities Committee (att. 5d):

Did not meet, but Andy Francis wanted to thank Jason Cole for all of the work that he does which people never see, such as his efforts in purchasing the modular for the grammar school.

Fundraising Committee (att. 5e):

Did not meet, but Tony Robbins reported they will on May 4.

Legal Affairs Committee (att. 5f):

Did not meet.

Personnel/Policy Committee (att. 5g, 7):

Ray Maxwell noted that committee had met on April 27 to continue its discussion on the staff evaluation process which they hope to have ready for board approval in June. The committee also briefly discussed the school's pay plan. He also noted Dianna Bridges continues to work on updating job descriptions in hopes of completing them by the end of the school year.

Ad hoc Vision Committee (att. 5h):

Joe Maimone reported on the USDA loan which has been sent to Washington DC. He noted that committee hopes the loan will be approved before July 1. Mr. Maimone noted a decision is still expected by the Louis Calder Foundation about a \$200,000 grant for the new school.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: Upcoming board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. June 5 and Aug. 7 at Leitner Auditorium. No July meeting will be held. Mr. Foley noted that board may have to meet by phone in July about the USDA loan if the approval comes through. The Aug. 7 will be the annual meeting which the election of officers.

Second Read of updated by-laws for board consideration (att. 6): Andy Francis made a motion with a second by Steve Herndon to approve the updated by-laws. Mr. Foley thanked the legal affairs committee for its hard work on the update. The approved by-laws will now be submitted to the Office of Charter Schools.

2019-2020 Proposed Calendar (att. 7): Because of a variety of questions and concerns voiced about the proposed calendar, it will be sent back to Mrs. Bridges for revisions for the board's June meeting.

Update on Property Deed: Ray Maxwell noted that the attorneys are talking to each other about a closing date.

Contracts: None

Andy Francis made the motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 6:43 p.m.