

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

02MAY17

Location: Upper Campus, Leitner Auditorium

Present: Paul Foley, Steve Herndon, Nick Longerbeam, Ray Maxwell, Elizabeth Sabolovic, Paula Staley, Jerald DeLaGarza, Steve Herndon, Erina Byers, & Donna Trimble

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

Opening:

The meeting opened at 6:41pm.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment:

None

Chairman's Moment:

Georgia Maimone presented "Dream to Reality: What it Takes to Build a top-Ranked School." The presentation detailed how TJCA began and the struggles it faced to become a nationally ranked high school.

Minutes (att. 1):

The April board meeting minutes were presented. Andy Francis made the motion to accept the minutes, and Elizabeth Sabolovic 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 the budget is on target. Paul Foley made the motion that the board approve the purchase of new lighting and audio equipment at a cost of \$8602.72 for the Fine Arts Department. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Paul Foley also noted that the finance committee will be reviewing the retirement accounts this month. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the 2017-2018 preliminary budget to submit to the state. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:

Team CFA Update:

Paul Foley noted that 19 schools will attend the CFA conference and the focus will be on teachers. He noted that there is discussion with CFA to help with the purchase of new Chrome books.

FORUM Report (att. 3):

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the Forum will provide lunches for Teacher Appreciation Week at both campuses. Jason Cole noted that a parent has volunteered to paint lines of the basketball court. The deadline for Forum Board positions is April 28, 2017. The Forum will provide the Graduation Reception.

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

Joe Maimone reported that we have received a total of 365 new applications and we have received an additional 55 applications after March 15. The 55 new applications are on a second waiting list. Elizabeth Sabolovic asked if there will be any other uniform options. Paula Staley stated that TJCA has a 5 year contract with Casper's Closet. TJCA can notify Casper's Closet 18 months prior to the expiration of the contract if we want to terminate the contract. Mr. Maimone noted that the 9th grade English position has been filled by the Hillsdale graduate who had been interviewed. The board stated that Mr. Blake will lead the interviews for the Assistant Principal position along with Mr. Cole. Mr. Maimone may join the interview panel if he would like. No other person may be a part of the interview as only Mr. Blake, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Maimone have hiring/firing authority. The board has a paramount interest in succession planning so the final recommendation must be sent to personnel for final approval. The choice must be someone the board has an interest in adding to the succession plan.

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

Did not meet.

Community Relations (att. 5b-c):

Tony Robbins noted that Mayfest in Rutherfordton will Saturday May 6. TJCA seniors will help. He also stated that the Burgundy and Gold Golf Tournament was a success. The Burgundy and Gold Scholarship committee will award \$23, 500.00 in scholarships this year.

Curriculum:

Did not meet. Sally Harbin noted there will be an important meeting May 11. The committee will discuss several important issues.

Facilities:

Ray Maxwell noted that the Facilities committee had met. Facilities committee recommended the purchase of new lighting and audio equipment for the Fine Arts Department. See Financial report. The committee is waiting for more quotes from painters. The fence on the visitor's side and along the walkway at the football stadium was approved during the committee meeting.

Fundraising:

Did not meet.

Legal Affairs:

Paula Staley noted that most of the board and administration had meet with our legal counsel, David Hostetler. Mr Maimone stated that Mr. Hostetler is one of the best charter school lawyers in the country. He has known David for over 20 years and he is looking forward to David updating our practices and policies. He stated TJ is blessed to have David working for us.

Personnel/Policy (att. 6):

Did not meet.

Ad hoc Vision:

Paul Foley noted that the vision committee had **met**. Three architects presented information about how they could help TJCA reach its 2020 vision. It was noted that if TJCA purchases any land, we may need to hire a real estate attorney. Paula Staley will check with our legal counsel. Paul Foley made the motion to form a subcommittee consisting of: Paul Foley, Jason Cole, Andy Francis, Ray Maxwell, Jeff Ruppe, Joe Maimone, and Tony Robbins. Donna Trimble seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Paul Foley made the motion that the subgroup will decide which architectural firm to hire and submit its recommendation to Paula Staley. Paula Staley will email the recommendation to the board and if any board member objects it will go before the board. If there are no objections, then TJCA will have approval to hire the recommended group. Donna Trimble seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Paul Foley noted that TJCEF approved Joe Maimone and Tony Robbins to negotiate potential land purchases. Their findings will be for informational only and their findings will be presented to the TJCEF and the TJCA Boards.

Continuing Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meeting is scheduled June 6 (grammar).

New Business:

Policy updates are currently under review by our legal counsel.

Mr. Maimone noted that our S&P summary review was very good, and that our BBB- rating was reconfirmed. The one aspect that hurts the S&P rating is the economics of the region.

Jeff Ziegler presented the most recent PSAT data. He noted that TJCA continues to achieve the highest scores in the area and that our students are above the national average. Andy Francis thanked Jeff Ziegler for all his hard work.

Joe Maimone requested that the board accept the legal counsel's new at will contract pending the amendment of the removal of the monthly payment statement to 2 monthly installments. Dr. DeLaGarza made the motion, Sally Harbin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Maimone noted that we have a new contract with Acadia. Acadia will assist with grant writing at a rate of 3% based on the total amount awarded. Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to approve the contract. Andy Francis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:05pm Paula Staley asked for a motion to move into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11. Nick Longerbeam moved to go into closed session to discuss privileged matters. Board reconvened in open session at 9:25pm. Andy Francis made the motion to adjourn and Steve Herndon seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:26pm.