

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

**Board Meeting**

**November 6, 2018**

**Location:** Upper Campus, Leitner Auditorium

**Present:** Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Steve Herndon, Ray Maxwell, Tony Robbins, Elizabeth Sabolovic, Jay Friedman, Christine Sutton, Jen Halliday, Nick Longerbeam and Donna Trimble

**Absent:** Sally Harbin

**Others Present:** Dianna Bridges, upper campus principal, Jason Cole, grammar school principal, Susan White, finance director.

**Opening:**

The meeting opened at 5:45 p.m.

Pledge

Moment of silence: Ray Maxwell asked that everyone remember this Board, students, and staff.

**Chairman's Moment:**

Ray Maxwell stated that he hoped everyone voted. Ray noted that Mr. Ziegler had stepped down as Academic Dean. He thanked Mr. Ziegler for all he's done.

**Public Comment:**

**Dr. Inge Collins of Kings Mountain, NC.** Dr. Collins stated that committee meetings have not been made public. There is a lack of notification. Dr. Collins contacted David Machado. David Machado informed Dr. Collins that open meeting laws require all meetings must be open to the public and enough advanced information must be given. Dr. Collins stated that committee meetings should be made available or at least on the website. She noted that there is little discussion of committee business at the board meetings. Stakeholders need to be involved. Take responsibility for what you've done. She stated that she is happy with Mrs. Bridges.

**Tommy Smith of Forest City, NC.** Mr. Smith stated that the previous email regarding the canopy is inaccurate. He stated that David Francis has received over \$89,000 in work for TJ without any oversight from the Board. The funds used to pay David Francis do not appear in the capital fund documents. Are there 2 sets of books? Why is Andy Francis collecting money? Time for Andy to go.

**Melissa Johnson of Shelby, NC.** Mrs. Johnson stated that she is here speaking as a parent. The Board represents stakeholders and students. Remove personal opinions. She is concerned by Mr. Maimone's leaving. Feels Mr. Maimone was eliminated and that the meeting minutes bring that to bear. There is a lack of transparency; everything should be posted.

**Caleb Fountain, student.** Caleb stated everything you do, do with passion. He is here venting. He was relieved of his duties with the school paper because he supported Mr. Maimone. Asked for a moment of silence for his friend, Callex. Caleb quoted the Bible John 3:16, Thou shalt not have private committee meetings.

**Erik Schlichtmann of Spindale, NC.** Mr. Schlichtmann stated that the goal should be to stop what's happening here. He and his wife heard about Mr. Maimone; that he had a vision. Mr. Maimone is the heart and soul of this school. If not for Mr. Maimone, we wouldn't be here. We are forever grateful. Strange Mr. Maimone is not here and there's no straight

answer as to why he isn't here. There's a stink, stank, stunk to this place. Mr. Maimone was stripped of everything. He is in search of answers.

**Megan Collins, student.** Megan stated that she started TJ in the second grade. Her older sister told her about Mr. Maimone. Her brother wants Mr. Maimone to give him his diploma. All the students want Mr. Maimone back

**Approval of October 2018 minutes:**

Andy Francis made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Paul Foley seconded the motion. Elizabeth Sabolovic notified Nick Longerbeam of corrections to the minutes. Corrections were made prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously with the changes.

**Continuing Business:**

**Team CFA Report:**

Paul Foley noted that Piedmont Charter was selected as CFA School of the Year and a School of Distinction.

**FORUM Report (att. 3a):**

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the Fall Festival resulted in \$14,000 profit. Big thank you to Kelly Hall and Pam Jones. There will be a dine out night in January. The Forum will provide lunches for both Campuses on 11/15 and 11/16. The next meeting will be 11/13 at the Grammar School cafeteria at 08:15.

**Committee minutes/reports:**

**Executive Committee:** Did not meet.

**Finance Committee:**

Paul Foley noted that TJCA had not received all the county revenues for students. He noted that Mr. Keller had provided preliminary copies of the audits for TJCA and TJCEF. The finance committee will review the audits. Paul Foley made the motion to purchase 10 laptops for use by the Yearbook Club and the cost cannot exceed \$8500. He noted that the Yearbook club had raised money for this project. Steve Herndon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Community Outreach/Public Relations:** Did not meet. Steve Herndon thanked those who helped at the festivals in Rutherfordton and Shelby.

**Curriculum Committee:** Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the committee met on 11/1. Mrs Bridges notified the committee that the high school has a new curriculum committee and the middle school curriculum committee will be formed in January. Mrs. Bridges discussed the non-negotiables of the TJCA curriculum: NC graduation requirements and the Trivium. Also, the administration is exploring a more student-driven schedule next year. Elizabeth provided the committee with a list of questions from Mr. Smith that the committee should explore.

**Facilities Committee:** Andy Francis noted that the committee had met. Andy noted that 2 new buses had been purchased and they were already in use. Tony Robbins noted that it's important to keep updating the buses. The committee had received 3 bids and 1 refusal for repairing the roof in Leitner Auditorium. The bid from Johnson Roofing Concepts was sent to the finance committee. Andy stated the lights are still being replaced at the grammar school. He noted that the facilities committee will hopefully work with Duke Power to replace the lights with LEDs.

**Fundraising Committee:** Did not meet.

**Legal Affairs Committee:** Did not meet.

**Personnel/Policy Committee:** Ray Maxwell noted that the committee had met. Ray noted that the Beginning Teacher Support Plan had been updated to meet the requirements by DPI and the plan is now in full compliance. The wording in the plan was changed from quarters to 3 trimesters. Ray Maxwell made the motion to adopt the Beginning Teacher Support Plan as amended. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ad hoc Vision Committee:** Did not meet. Paul Foley noted that he had been in contact with Alliance Bank and Hilltop Securities to keep them in the loop. He also stated that the architect has provided information for the decreased scope of the project.

**Next Meetings:**

December 4 at 5:45pm in the Leitner Auditorium

**New Business:**

**Uniform Update:** Mike Fair provided an update on the uniforms. Mike noted that Tommy Hilfiger and Caspers' are willing to have a co-vending option. However, a co-vending option eliminates the plaid skirt. People want a local option and they want to keep the plaid skirt. Concerns are pricing, fit, and online options. Multiple vendors water down the uniform policy. Tommy Hilfiger is interested in a 3 year option with the possibility of opting out after 1 year. Caspers' is interested in a 3 year option as well. Need to make a decision soon.

**Academic Probation and Extracurricular Eligibility:** Ray Maxwell made the motion to adopt the revision of Policy 3210. The revision states the following: *Students who have one (1) F in any class at the end of the first or second trimester grading period may complete the sports season, performance, or project before being placed on academic probation. Students with two (2) or more F's are placed on immediate academic probation at the end of the trimester.* Paul Foley seconded the motion. Jacob Friedman stated that academics come first. Are we rewarding those who don't keep up and allow them to continue? Power school provides continuous updates. This policy is upside down. Jason Cole noted that we want to uphold our academic standards. With the small school size, removing a student from a team punishes the teammates. Dianna Bridges noted that TJ has students who struggle. Coaches/teammates may be the only support a student has. She is interested in the end product. Tony Robbins asked if TJ is the only school in the area on a trimester system? Paul Foley asked how many students would be impacted? The motion passed with Jacob Friedman opposed to the motion.

**Leitner Auditorium Roof Repairs:**

**Director's Report:**

**Upper Campus:** Dianna Bridges noted that the Middle School Quill Team placed first in the Western Region while the High School Quill Team placed second in the Western Region. Matilida Ziegler brought home first place in argumentative writing and Laurie Griffith, a sophomore, brought home first place in creative writing. Both teams will compete at the state competition in December.

To date 14 seniors have received \$1.6 million in scholarship money.

The sixth graders and culinary arts students raised about \$200 towards hurricane relief.

The Drama department had a successful Interactive Drama event. Our drama students put lots time into the event.

Exceptional Children's teacher, Pam Bennett, has been recognized as an Educator of Excellence by Exceptional Children's division at DPI.

The CC teams represented TJ at the state championship meet in Kernersville, NC. Jackson Pitcher competed in the boy's individual division. Jackson finished 41st in a field of 133. Our girls team qualified as a team. The girls finished 4th out of 16 teams. Kilia Hasty finished 9th overall and earned All State Honors, Kaitlyn Rowe finished 20th, Emma Deviney 22nd, Hannah Haynes 39th and Laurie Griffith 82nd. Sydney Carpenter and Ailie Smith rounded out the team.

The boys varsity soccer team completed an outstanding season with an overall record of 15-2-0 and a conference record of 9-1 to be recognized as co-champions in the conference.

We will have a high school swim team this year.

The football team just completed a perfect season and are working hard to prepare for the playoffs.

**Grammar School:** Jason Cole noted that the Fall Festival was great. It was the biggest one ever. The Forest City Firehouse was on campus to promote fire safety. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will have a Patriotic Performance 11/8.

Andy Francis made the motion to adjourn and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm