

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

September 4, 2018

Location: Upper Campus, Leitner Auditorium

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

Others Present: Dianna Bridges, upper campus principal, Jason Cole, grammar school principal, Susan White, finance director, David Hostetler, school attorney

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:49 p.m.

Pledge

Moment of silence

Chairman's Moment:

Chair's moment is included under separate file.

Public Comment:

Gina Greene of 3726 Artee Rd Shelby, NC. Ms. Greene stated that she wants to surround the students with the ideas of right and wrong. She quoted Matthew 7:12. She stated that Joe Maimone is the cornerstone of TJ and it was not his choice to resign. He is a man of integrity, passion, and wholeheartedness. Joe is the school and good for the organization. There should be no closed-door meetings. All the parents know is wrong.

Tony Smith of 394 Holly Hills Drive Forest City, NC. Mr. Smith stated that there is nothing wrong with why he picked TJ. He said the board is locked and there's no way to vote members off. Also, he said that he heard a board member say "can't wait until Joe is gone". He said all board members should resign.

Dr. Inge Collins of 104 Muirfield Drive Kings Mountain, NC. Dr. Collins began by thanking the board for listening. She stated this is a pivotal time for TJ. She described the yearly themes we have at TJ and asked if the Board was following those themes. She stated that 851 people had signed a petition to reinstate Mr. Maimone. She stated that the Board is grossly unaccountable and there is a lack of trust in the Board from the stateholders.

Tom Carpenter of 1419 Rock Corner Road Forest City, NC. Mr. Carpenter stated that the Board should reinstate Mr. Maimone and resign as a whole. He is disappointed by the removal of Mr. Maimone and he asked was this a forced resignation. He believes the Board failed the TJ community.

Renee Kimball of 213 Oak Forest Drive Forest City, NC. Ms. Kimball stated that the Board structure is bad. The board should restructure the by-laws to include term limits.

Cathy Kanz of Mooresboro, NC. Ms. Kanz quoted Luke 6:31. She said ethics should motivate us and that the Board needs to be transparent.

Neely Holland (student; no personal information). Ms. Holland said she's here to stand up for what is right. She said that many students are upset that Mr. Maimone is gone. She said that Mr. Maimone should be the one to give the seniors their diplomas.

Joan Blake of 221 Dark Corner Road Rutherfordton, NC. Ms. Blake stated that Mr. Maimone has everyone's best interest in mind. She said that Mr. and Mrs. Maimone had a vision for everyone. She stated that the Board has no transparency, that the Board is trying to change TJ, and destroy everything. The Board is taking a step backwards and that checks and balances are needed. No Mr. Maimone equals no TJ.

Melissa Johnson of 209 Jones Rd Shelby, NC. Ms. Johnson asked if the Board minutes are posted and where is the access? She made a formal FOI request. She stated that the Board works for the families. Mr. Maimone is the heart of TJ.

Billy Ray Haynes of 466 Dixie Trail Drive Forest City, NC. Mr. Haynes began by saying he's totally invested in TJ. He feels betrayed, embarrassed, and disappointed for the unknown reasons of Mr. Maimone's departure. It is an environment that the Board created. He said need to find a common ground.

Phillip Cole of 194 US Hwy 221A Forest City, NC. Mr. Cole stated that TJ and Mr. Maimone has impacted his family. Mr. Maimone's passion is for this school. Mr. Maimone is not too good to do any job for TJ; he is loved by everyone. He urged the Board to right the mistake and do what's best for the community.

Phil Talbert of Shelby, NC. Mr. Talbert stated that there are inconsistencies in our mission statement and what has happened. There are no checks and balances. He said the Board should take time for reflection and introspection of their actions.

Robin Holland of 2151 Bostic Sunshine Hwy Bostic, NC. Mr. Holland said it was the best decision to send his daughter to TJ. He reached out to Mr. Maxwell and had a discussion through email. He thanked Mr. Maxwell for standing up and admitting a mistake was made in the announcement of Mr. Maimone's resignation. He admitted that he said somethings on social media and in emails that he shouldn't have made. Mr. Holland said he wanted to demonstrate how easy it is to admit when you're wrong, so let's make this right. The future of TJ is important and the teachers are important.

Pam Jones of 198 Brookridge Drive Forest City, NC**.** Ms. Jones said this is Mr. Maimone's school, not the Boards. She believes in the Maimones. The Board should be ashamed for what it's done. She read a letter from a former student. TJ caused the student to engage in thinking and it changed him.

John Kean of Shelby, NC**.** Mr. Kean stated that TJ brought his family to this area. The news of Mr. Maimone's resignation makes him sad. There must be some sort of compromise; do the right thing.

Mike Roberts of Rutherfordton, NC***.** Mr. Roberts said TJ is a special place. His kids went to TJ, his wife was on the Board, and he taught here. TJ made surrounding schools better. Mr. Maimone is the reason TJ is here. Mr. Maimone overcame all obstacles; why stop now? Make it work for future students.

Cole Powell (student; no personal information). Cole stated that he had attended TJ since kindergarten and it has been an honor. Mr. Maimone is the culture of TJ and students should receive their diplomas from Mr. Maimone. TJ has a new identity and it is a house divided.

Jennifer Buckner of 111 Doris Drive Shelby, NC. Ms. Buckner thanked Mr. Maimone for how well our students do. She recognized Mr. Maimone as a leader. She noted that change is going to happen, so resist speculation and anger. The board is not the enemy and one person does not make an organization. TJ will continue what it does.

Erin Murray (student; no personal information). Erin read an anonymous letter. It said Mr. Maimone is a great man. TJ is not a school of the Board. Erin state that it's government by the people, for the people and it should be the same at TJ. She said it's great to be here. Let's uphold TJ's special values.

Allen Langley of 306 Windsor Dr. Shelby, NC. Mr. Langley stated that he passes 5 great schools to bring his kids to TJ. Mr. Maimone has made TJ what it is. He stated that if it was not his daughter's senior year, then he's not sure if she'd be at TJ. One person does not make an institution. There is a need for common ground.

Thomas LaBreche of Rutherfordton, NC***.** Mr. LaBreche stated that he had been here since the beginning. Mr. Maimone never failed to take on any challenge. Mr. Maimone set the standard for TJ. Need to define the differences/philosophies between Mr. Maimone and the Board.

Quinn Teddy (student; no personal information). Quinn agrees with what's being said. There are philosophical differences between Mr. Maimone and the Board. What the Board's philosophies? Need to know the Board members. Carry on the traditions and excellence of TJ.

David Machado of Lincolnton, NC***.** Mr. Machado is here out of respect for everyone. TJ is well thought of everywhere. Everyone wants to model TJ. Thanks for listening. Right the ship.

Andy Francis made the motion to close the public comment session. Elizabeth Sabolovic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the public comment session closed at 7:26pm

Approval of August 2018 minutes (pages 1-4):

Andy Francis made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report (att. 2a-h):

Paul Foley noted that August 31 budget is on track. Mr. Foley stated that we should have the final ADM numbers in 2 weeks. He also noted that the Calder Foundation Grant money is still available. The USDA loan was approved on August 22, 2018. The USDA needs updated numbers. The committee met with Greg Poe to discuss the 401k plan. Paul Foley made the motion to add 4 new account users and grant

access to the 401k plan. The new account users would be Dianna Bridges, Jason Cole, Susan White, and Tasha Bolin. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foley also noted that TJCA will be switching its 401k account from John Hancock to Mass Mutual. There will be more information to come.

Continuing Business:

Team CFA Report:

Paul Foley noted the CFA provides a free download for Geography and History Core Knowledge. He noted that Davidson Charter Academy opened August 22, 2018 with 326 students. He also noted that Piedmont Charter had an enrollment of 1340 and it has added more athletic teams.

FORUM Report (att. 3a):

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the first Forum meeting will be September 11th, 2018 at 0815 in the Grammar School cafeteria. The first Dine-Out night will be at the McDonalds in Boiling Springs on Tuesday September 25, 2018. The Fall Festival will be October 18, 2018. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the Forum.

The Burgundy and Gold golf tournament will be Friday April 26, 2019.

Director's Report:

Dianna Bridges introduced Tasha Bolin, the new HR Director. She noted that many TJCA students had participated in the Math Academy at Gardner Webb University. Mr. Andrews is one of the instructors for the Math Academy. She noted that the school is off to a great start. Seniors are already getting college acceptance letters and TJCA has a National Merit Scholarship Finalist who will be announced later. Robin Lattimore published a book and he will be on a 6-state book tour. TJCA will hold a FASFA information night on September 18, 2018. The German exchange students arrive September 20, 2018 and they will be with us until October 8, 2018. Mrs. Powell will be taking a group of students to the ICC College Fair on September 27, 2018. The online newspaper, The Talon, will have its first publication the 2nd week of September. TJCA has had a great start to our sports season. Pierce Robinson won the Cleveland County Golf tournament and Katherine Robinson scored a hole-in-one. Nomi McMullens was named Rutherford County Football player of the week. First home football game is Friday September 7, 2018.

Jason Cole stated that the Grammar School is off to a great start. MAP testing is in progress. Heidi Cole will return this year as an instructional coach. She will be at the Grammar School every other week. Her assistance has been very helpful.

Performance Framework Update and Policy Revisions:

Dianna Bridges noted that the Performance Framework is in compliance and in place. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the revisions of the following policies: 3210, 3500, and the Graduation Requirements. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee minutes/reports:

Executive Committee met on August 7, 2018. The committee discussed staffing changes and staff salaries. Salary adjustments were implemented. Information regarding the charter renewal will be forthcoming.

Community Outreach/Public Relations: Did not meet.

Curriculum Committee: Did not meet.

Facilities Committee: Did not meet.

Fundraising Committee: Tony Robbins noted the committee had met to discuss fundraising strategies. TJCA will have its Service Appreciation Night October 19, 2018 during the football game against Bessemer City. There will be a several fundraising activities during the week. All proceeds will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Legal Affairs Committee: Did not meet.

Personnel/Policy Committee: Did not meet.

Ad hoc Vision Committee: Did not meet.

Next Meetings:

October 2, November 6, and December 4 at 5:45pm in the Leitner Auditorium

New Business:

B&G Golf Tournament April 26 Calendar Revision:

Elizabeth Sabolovic made the motion that April 26, 2019 be a noon-release day. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Contracts: none

Other Matters: none

Recess:

Andy Francis made the motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318-11 (a)(1), (a)(3), and (a)(6). Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The regular Board meeting recessed at 7:47pm and the Board moved to another room for the closed session portion.

During the closed session portion of the meeting, the Board discussed personnel matters with counsel at length. The current FMLA/PML policy as it relates to specific employees and situations was discussed. A motion was made by Andy Francis to adjourn the closed session and the motion was seconded by Jerald DeLagarza. The closed session meeting was adjourned, and the Board moved back to the auditorium to resume the regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board returned to the recessed meeting after meeting in closed session. Having no other business to conduct, a motion was made by Andy Francis and seconded by Jerald Delagarza to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 pm.