

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

March 5, 2019

Location: Upper Campus, Leitner Auditorium

Present: Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Steve Herndon, Ray Maxwell, Tony Robbins, Jacob Friedman, Elizabeth Sabolovic, and Nick Longerbeam.

Absent: Donna Trimble

Others Present: Dianna Bridges, upper campus principal; Jason Cole, grammar school principal; Jeff Ziegler, academic dean; Tessa Waldrep, grammar school assistant principal; and Susan White.

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:48 p.m.

Pledge

Special Recognition: Mrs. Bridges recognized senior, Emma Carter. Emma Carter has advanced to the finalist stage of the National Merit Scholarship program, where she will be considered for one of the 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million. Emma is one of only about 14,000 students from across the country, of the more than 1.6 million who entered the scholarship competition. Emma is the daughter of Mr. Chris Carter and Dr. Rachel Kever. She plans to attend NC State University and major in Sustainable Materials and Technology. Emma has challenged herself while at TJ by taking advantage of our AP and Latin programs. She also participates in extra-curricular activities including volleyball where she earned a starting role as a middle blocker as well as many clubs and organizations. She is a full package.

Moment of silence: Ray Maxwell asked that everyone remember this Board as we make the right decisions for this school.

Public Comment:

Stephanie Orasing stated that there are 4 board members whose time is up. Parents should vote on board members. She stated our kids go to this school.

Inge Collins stated we are trustees for something valuable and we guard the integrity of it. The Board has not acted in the manner in which TJ was founded. The Board has steered TJ in a different direction. Goal was to get rid of Joe Maimone; marginalized him. Joe Maimone wanted to stay. The current direction is not what the stakeholders wanted. Many board members still on the board who have been on the board past their terms.

Erik Schlichtmann stated you can't fight city hall. The problem here is that the Board has made it impossible for any outsider to be on the Board. Grievance procedures have been removed. We are a

public school. What if we voted with our feet, no school. We need a vote for members, add fresh faces. Remember the mind that feeds on itself is malnourished.

Chairman's Moment:

Ray Maxwell state that the students and staff are a priority. The Board wants to address the needs of the staff, students, and facilities. Last year was the largest increase in pay for all our staff. The Board has chosen an individual to lead this school. The Board tries to do all it can. It is a balancing act and the Board is committed to balance all of the needs. The goal is to make TJ a great place for staff and students. There is a big building project in the works for current and future students. The project will remain long after everyone here is gone. I applaud everyone who has helped: teachers, administration, and Joe Maimone who created a great thing in Rutherford County.

Minutes:

The following minutes were presented for approval: February 2019.

Andy Francis made the motion to approve the minutes and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:

Team CFA Report:

Paul Foley noted that Brevard Academy will celebrate its 20th anniversary in October 2019. CFA continues to provide Core Knowledge resources for teachers. Paul noted that March 29, 2019 will be Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day and he suggested that we do something official that day. He also noted that CFA is offering a matching \$50,000 grant that can be used for anything we choose related to school operations and capital needs. He asked that Dianna and Jason take the lead on this.

FORUM Report (att. 3a):

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the Forum will meet March 12, 2019 at the grammar school cafeteria at 0815. The Forum provided appreciation lunches at both campuses. Upcoming Forum events include a McTeacher night at the McDonalds at the Forest City bypass, Icee Day next week, and boxtops collection next week.

Next Meetings:

April 2, May 7, and June 4 at 5:45pm in the Leitner Auditorium

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

Did not meet.

Finance Committee:

Paul Foley noted that the Finance Committee had met earlier in the day. The committee reviewed and accepted February minutes. The committee also reviewed the preliminary financials from Acadia. The committee will review our insurance policy beginning next fall. Paul Foley made the motion to hire two sixth grade teachers for next year. Two teachers will allow class rotations and will keep our class size under 25. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations/Community Outreach did not meet.

Steve Herndon noted that the committee had met. Steve made to motion to approve an intern position for \$10 per hour. If hired through the Gardner Webb program, those students are required to work at least 150 hours per semester which would translate to approximately 10-15 hours per week. The position would focus on capturing news and noteworthy items for students and faculty for distribution through social media channels. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Steve also noted that the community boards in Rutherford County and Shelby are advertising our enrollment. MayFest is approaching, so please consider helping out. The committee purchased a canopy that the school can use.

Curriculum Committee:

Elizabeth Sabolovic noted that the committee had met. She thanked Mr. Smith and all high school teachers who worked on the curriculum guide. She reminded everyone that the high school curriculum night will be March 21, 2019.

Facilities Committee:

Did not meet.

Fundraising Committee:

Did not meet.

Legal Affairs Committee:

Did not meet.

Personnel Committee:

Ray Maxwell noted that the committee had met. The committee reviewed the employee benefits. He noted that TJ is looking for a grant writer. Ray Maxwell made the motion to approve the changes to Policy 2530. Andy Francis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

20/20 Vision Ad hoc Committee:

Paul Foley noted that the committee had met earlier today. He stated that TJ had closed on the properties on Hotel Street. There are still a couple of hurdles to clear. The plans are at the USDA for review. The fundraising information will be updated within the week.

Website Ad hoc Committee:

Did not meet.

Stadium Parking Repair Update:

Gravel was delivered and spread. Looks great. May add more gravel this summer.

Technology Security Audit Update:

Follow-up with administration.

Board Governance Training:

To be scheduled in April/May.

Social Media Intern Position:

Discussed earlier.

Casper's Closet Contract Update:

Contract will be ready in the next few weeks.

Director's Report:

Dianna Bridges noted that so far this year's senior class has received \$4.9 million in merit based scholarships. She state that the weather hurt the turn out for open house at the upper campus. Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy hosted the western regional quiz bowl for the North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activities this past Saturday, March 1st. Thomas Jefferson's high school team placed second in the high school competition and will advance to the state competition. Sixteen high schools from across the state will compete for the championship title. Team members were John Kim (Captain), Cole Powell, Turner White, Jonathan Shauf, and Adam Mystkowski. Thomas Jefferson's middle school team, comprised of Maylan Maxwell, Andrew Oliphant, Katrina Shauf, and Matilda Ziegler (Captain), placed third in its division. The middle school team also won a spot at the state competition and will face off against eleven other schools from across the state. Both the high school and middle school state competitions will take place on Saturday, March 16th at Myers Park High School in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Meredith Oliphant competed at the state-level Poetry Out Loud competition on Saturday, February 16th in Greensboro. Out of forty semi-finalists, Oliphant was named one of the nine finalists who then competed in a final round. She was one of only two freshmen who made it to that final round.

Jason Cole noted that the grammar school recently had a book fair. He stated that about 30 people came to the open house. Also, Jr Beta members will be attending nationals. He also noted that the 5th grade graduation includes a talk about bullying.

New Business:

Burgundy and Gold Scholarship:

Rachel Hill presented the following information regarding the Burgundy and Gold Scholarship.

The Burgundy and Gold Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to TJCA-CFA students who plan to further their education at the college level. In 2012, the first two scholarships were awarded from this fund. The Burgundy and Gold scholarship was awarded to RYANNE CORDER, who attended Notre Dame, graduated in 2016, and is now finishing up medical school at UNC-CH. She earned the Lucius Blanchard Carolina Family Loyalty Scholarship to UNC medical school which was a full ride scholarship, and demonstrates the caliber of student that TJ is putting out into the world!

Also in 2012, Kristen Miller Norwood was awarded the first STEM Scholarship. Kristen graduated from North Carolina State University in 2016, and now works at the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and continues to be involved in 4-H and other agricultural activities in her community.

Last year, in 2018, the Burgundy and Gold Scholarship Fund awarded 7 scholarships, totaling \$28,000. The flagship scholarship, the Burgundy and Gold, was awarded to Carter Plaster, who is enrolled in the Honors College at Texas Christian University, in Fort Worth, TX, pursuing her degree with a major in History and minors in Spanish and Geography. Matthew Martin received the 2018 Gryphon Athletic Scholarship and is attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in Computer Science and Business. Both of these students sent their appreciation to the Scholarship committee in a letter that was shared with parents and staff members in the fall. Matthew said, "I am happy to report that the academic rigor and caring faculty at Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy have prepared me well for my studies at UNC."

Since 2012, the Burgundy and Gold Scholarship Fund has awarded 36 scholarships, totaling over \$100,000. We are entirely community and donor funded. As a committee, we hope to continue providing substantial scholarships to college bound students. Our success, growth, and longevity depend on the generosity of our donors. With your help, we can continue to offer more scholarships for many years to come.

The application went out to the 2019 Seniors on Friday, March 1, and will be due back on April 23. In the meantime the committee is working hard to raise money for this fund.

Our biggest fundraising event of the year is coming up – the 4th annual golf tournament, on April 26, 2019, at Cleghorn Golf Club. Our committee appreciates that the School Board approved a half day for this event, and I am here tonight to ask for your participation in the event, as well. The school board has been very supportive in the past, and we are seeking your continued support of our students again this year. All donations are tax deductible, and can be made directly to the scholarship fund or through the Golf Tournament.

Policy Updates:

Staff Policy #2530 Teacher/Staff Meetings and Work Days

Ray Maxwell made the motion to approve the changes to Policy 2530. Andy Francis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Instructional Technology Facilitator Job Description:

Ray Maxwell made the motion to approve the position for an Instructional Technology Facilitator. Andy Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The goal will be to train teachers how to use technology in the classroom.

REaD Access Program-Robin Lattimore:

Good Evening! I'm Robin Lattimore and I serve as TJ's student research coordinator and upper campus librarian. Thank you all for the opportunity to share information about an exciting new initiative that I'm recommending to you for our students. I also want to say a special note of thanks to Mrs. Bridges for supporting my efforts to explore the READ, ENGAGE, and DISCOVER PROGRAM which is designed to provide more learning and research opportunities for our students.

In evaluating The REaD Access Initiative, which is offered through the Rutherford County Library, there are two primary benefits that will come from our partnership with our local public libraries

First, it automatically establishes a relationship between our students and the six public libraries here in Rutherford County because it allows each student to use their school ID number as an active library card which then puts all print and digital resources of those libraries at the fingertips of our students.

Second, and most importantly, it automatically connects our students with all of the digital, electronic, and other media library services provided by the State Library of North Carolina, and the libraries of the 17 member University of North Carolina system.

With access to NCLIVE, NCDigital Media, and NCCardinal (All available for free as components of the REaD Access Initiative) our students can peruse the same research databases available to students at UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State, or Appalachian State. It also provides direct access to most all digital media of PBS, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Library of Congress.

The cost of those services is funded by our State Legislature and the State Library of North Carolina, and made available to all public libraries in the state. Connecting our students to those resources simply requires making them patrons of the local library system.

That's the genius of turning their student I.D. number into a library card. It's like a passport to a whole new world of knowledge.

Briefly, let me share some of the important things about the program:

- This is a voluntary opportunity and students may decline to participate.
- The only information required to participate is: student's ID number, their first and last names, and their birthdate. (*birthdate helps if they forget ID#*)
- There is no expense to students or their families.
- A REaD Access account allows students to check out up to 10 items at a time.
- No late fees are charged for materials used by students (but, they are held responsible for lost, or unreturned items). Students may not use their ID # to check out films on DVD. (*So there is no worry about PG, PG-13, or R-rate movies*).
- There is no expense to the school, with the exception of the time required by our IT staff to share the requested information with the County Library Staff, and any expense in mailing or sending digital versions of the Opt-out form to our parents.
- The digital transfer of our student ID numbers to the county library could be done once a year - in September after enrollment is pretty well in place. Students who enroll throughout the year could be added on an individual basis. (Students who leave TJ could also be removed individually from the list).

I hope you will consider allowing our students to participate in this initiative. I'm excited about the wealth of scholarly information, and quality programming that can be made available to them while they are sitting in our libraries at school, or at home. It truly is an amazing opportunity for us to take student research, and reading, to a much higher level.

Andy Francis made the motion for TJ to participate in this initiative. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Andy Francis made the motion to adjourn and Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 06:52pm.