

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

August 11, 2015

Location: Grammar School Music Room

Present: Ted Bell, Erina Byers, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Steve Herndon, Nick Longerbeam, Tony Robbins, Jason Ruff, Elizabeth Sabolovic, Paula Staley (via phone) and Donna Trimble

Not Present: Jerald DeLaGarza

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

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:46 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment:

No public comment

Chairman's Moment:

Andy Francis acknowledged those in attendance at the meeting. He reminded board members of the upcoming board training on Sept. 26 and TeamCFA board dinner on Sept. 11. He also introduced new member-at-large Tony Robbins.

Minutes:

The July board meeting minutes were presented. Ted Bell made the motion to accept the minutes, and Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Paul Foley noted that the committee only had preliminary budget numbers and would not have final numbers from the state for a while although the school has received funding in order to be able to operate. He explained after the June 30 budget, it appears the school will have a surplus of about \$207,000 for the year. This surplus was used to help pay for the windows in the middle school building and toward the fund balance.

Continuing Business:**Team CFA Report (att. 4):**

Paul Foley reported that TeamCFA will host the regional board dinner at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, on Friday, Sept. 11. The board training, also sponsored by TeamCFA, will run from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the new Equestrian Center off of Route 74.

FORUM Report (att. 5):

Christie Herndon reported the Forum is ready for orientation sessions, including the sale of planners for \$5. Upcoming events include a staff breakfast on Aug. 26, the Fall Festival from 4-8 p.m. Oct. 15, and Dine-Out Nights at local restaurants, thanks to Kathy Demas. Mrs. Herndon noted last year the school earned over \$5,000 in Box Tops. Some of the items the Forum purchased for the grammar school include 10 new picnic tables, mailbox cubbies, and a new laminator. She also presented Steve Herndon and Elizabeth Sabolovic as the Forum parent representatives for the board. Paul Foley made the motion to accept the Forum's nominees with a second by Ted Bell. Motion passed unanimously. The Forum also asked if the two burgundy hoodies it sells to students be included in the uniform code for everyday wear for students, not just spirit days. Paul Foley made a motion with a second by Elizabeth Sabolovic to include these two hoodies in the uniform code. Discussion included concern if this would hurt Casper's Closet's inventory although the Forum had also already purchased enough hoodies for sale throughout the entire school year. Board members wanted to confirm there was no mention of a conflict in the school's contract with Casper's Closet. Mr. Francis moved the vote until later in the meeting to allow research to be done.

Director's Report (att. 6):

Joe Maimone presented the report. He noted the school had received an additional 116 applications and would start the school year with 1,304 students. Kindergarten and ninth grade have exhausted their wait lists. Kindergarten numbers are at 106 with a capacity of 110, and ninth grade currently has 93 students.

AP scores were released July 6, and 165 of our high school students completed 346 exams with a passing rate of 65%. The fall MAP testing window is set for Aug. 24-Sept. 18.

Mr. Maimone noted the TJCEF reports a balance of \$130,600 in the 2020 Vision Capital Campaign. Current facility improvements include the installation of new windows in the middle school building and new mini split heat/air units in John Adams Hall.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

Andy Francis noted the committee met on Aug. 5 and discussed new teachers, the Forum hoodies and cease and desist letters which were sent to some Shelby businesses who were using our trademark logo.

Community Relations:

No report.

Curriculum:

No report, but Sally Harbin said this group would be meeting soon.

Finance:

Paul Foley made a motion for the approval of a preliminary budget for the 2015-16 school year although there are no final numbers from the state or final numbers on our students. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. Mr. Foley said this preliminary budget covers the salary lines which are needed by Aug. 15. Motion passes unanimously.

Facilities:

Jason Ruff noted the committee had not met recently, but he provided updates on the new windows and mini split units. Mr. Maimone noted the school is still looking for funding to cover the cost of a new parking lot at the grammar school. Mr. Foley recently toured the middle school and was complimentary of the new windows.

Fundraising:

No report.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel:

Paula Staley noted that the committee had not met recently but would be soon.

Ad hoc Vision:

Andy Francis noted there should be a property proposal by the November board meeting.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meetings are scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Sept. 1 (upper campus), Oct. 6 (grammar school), and Nov. 3 (upper campus).

TeamCFA board dinner invitation (att.7): Dinner will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville.

NWEA MAP testing report; NC EOG/EOC proficiency chart (att. 8a-c): Jeff Ziegler explained the MAP testing is an internal nationally normed test, and that TJ students' growth in all participating grades were at least equal to average growth, according to NWEA statistics. Mr. Ziegler noted the EOG data

should be released in early November. Mr. Maimone is hoping they will come out in mid-September and that our numbers should be close to last year's. ACT scores for the 84 juniors who took the exam on March 3 came in at the highest yet with an average of 24.

TJ Athletic Handbook: Although this was to be the second reading of the handbook, Andy Francis tabled any action on it until the board's Sept. 1 meeting because the new members had not had an opportunity to review it.

Wounded Warrior Project: Nick Longerbeam proposed the school become an ambassador school for the project. It would offer the school a chance to raise money through various events throughout the year. He would act as the school ambassador and coordinate with the athletic department and other groups at the school. Discussion included whether or not this would interfere with other fundraisers and if it would require any exact monetary commitment from the school. Mr. Longerbeam said it would not conflict with other fundraisers and the only commitment was a \$10 registration fee. He noted the school can do anything from one event to events throughout the course of the entire year. Mr. Longerbeam said he would have more information for the board at the next meeting.

Board Officers: Ted Bell as chairman of the nomination committee made the motion to accept the slate of officers including Andy Francis, chairman; Paula Staley, vice chair; Sally Harbin, secretary; Paul Foley, treasurer; and Ted Bell, grievance. Sally Harbin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Forum hoodies: After looking over the contract and handbook policy, Mr. Bell noted the policy clearly supports the Forum hoodies, and the vote was unanimous to allow them as part of the school uniform.

Contracts: Staff contracts, included in the 2015/16 budget, were approved by the board under the finance committee recommendation.

Ted Bell made the motion to adjourn with a second by Paul Foley. The board adjourned at 6:36 p.m.