

The Classical Academy  
975 Stout Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Regular Meeting  
March 13, 2006

I. Chairman Chris Bender called the open session to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call.

A. Chris Bender led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call. The following Directors were present: Lisa Ruth, Chris Bender, Chris Leland, Clark Miller, Lisa Sutton, and Matt Carpenter. Director absent: Dick Travis. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President.

III. Spotlight Recognition.

North Elementary

Lorne Muir, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the regional science fair.

IV. Comments

A. Audience:

1. Dave Boucher thanked the administration for the new food service program. Many on the East Campus expressed to him how much they like the menu offered.

2. Jim Kretchman wanted to clarify from the previous minutes that he believes increasing class size should only occur if it is absolutely necessary. He and Mary believe strongly that not allowing students into TCA after 4<sup>th</sup> grade is the best situation and one that will preserve the culture. Mr. Kretchman stated how impressed he was with the choir group presentation, commending the senior boys as exceptionally good role models. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to Mark Wertheimer for his service.

B. President and Administration:

1. Mark Hyatt noted that the leadership team will also miss Mark Wertheimer – an integral and highly valued member. He apologized for the recent letter sent to parents with some names and addresses in error. The letters will be re-sent soon. Mr. Hyatt thanked the Board for participating in the character seminars; the students love to see the Board members. He thanked Lisa Sutton for bringing in local political leaders to TCA, opening a dialogue with legislators that will keep the communication channels open. He discussed bringing options to the Board in the next few months regarding the purchase of property for a new East Campus. Mr. Hyatt brought forward for formal consideration the TCA Presentation Display Board that was created for

marketing and job fair purposes. He also showed an architectural rendering of the potential gym/fine arts/commons complex.

2. Kevin Collins presented the operations update (see attachment).
3. Don Stump commended Central Librarian Christine Schein's literacy tie-in with the Iditarod - Iditaread, noting that she orchestrated a great number of activities, along with reading, in conjunction with the race.
4. Mark Wertheimer discussed East Campus PE Teacher Louise LoBosco's successful "Jump Rope for Heart" campaign, which brought in \$7,000 in donations. East Librarian Denise Gard has also orchestrated an excellent literacy campaign that has been highly successful. Mr. Wertheimer also briefed the Board on the recent site visit from the Poudre School District, saying that they picked up on the incredible heart that is TCA.
5. Veronica Varland reported that North Elementary has a great atmosphere and that it's fun to be there. She talked of the recent graffiti issue in the bathrooms, and how it was a cooperative effort of students, parents, and staff that finally solved the problem.
6. Leesa Waliszewski reported that the Instructional Philosophy Team is restructuring the Instructional Philosophy Assistant role at secondary to be similar to the role at the elementary level. There are discussions regarding a pilot program for advanced junior high students. Mrs. Waliszewski is working with teachers on improving the Latin program at junior high.
7. Russ Sojourner talked of the budding junior high wrestling team that recently took 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 16 teams in a tournament. He pointed out that there is a lot of interest in this program. Dr. Sojourner reported on the recent successes at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Knowledge Bowl. He updated the Board on the progression of the etiquette classes and discussed a recent character lesson that highlighted perseverance.
8. Peter Hilts reported that there have been calls from top universities including Harvard regarding TCA students. He feels this will be just the first of this type of activity in future years. The Sock Hop was wonderful and full of energy. Mr. Hilts related that the Junior High sang "Happy Birthday" to Russ Sojourner in the forum. He pointed out a less joyful representation of the character of our school – the attendance of many members of the senior class and staff at a funeral in support of one of our students, showing their character in a difficult situation.

*Mark Hyatt asked that a late-arriving parent be given the opportunity to speak.*

A. Audience, continued.

Dave Cross and his 8<sup>th</sup> grade daughter, Lauren, requested the Board consider adding an Honors biology class in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Miss Cross stated that she had a petition signed by 20 students saying that they would like to take the class.

C. Board:

1. Lisa Sutton thanked Lauren Cross, president of the class of 2010, for her presentation.
2. Matt Carpenter thanked Candus Muir and team for the science fair and also thanked Russ Sojourner for the outstanding 10<sup>th</sup> grade character lesson.
3. Chris Leland noted his sadness that Mark Wertheimer was leaving TCA, but expressed his joy for Mr. Wertheimer and his family for the new opportunity in Fort Collins.
4. Chris Bender thanked Mark Wertheimer for his service and noted he will be missed.

V. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report. Jim Woody presented the General Fund, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Preliminary Month End February 28, 2006, Unaudited; and the Balance Sheet – General Fund, As of February 28, 2006 -- Preliminary. All reports may be seen in the attachment.

B. Approval of Minutes

*Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to approve the minutes from the previous TCA Board Meeting on February 13, 2006, with amendment. Roll Call. Approved by majority vote.*

*Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to approve the minutes from the TCA Board Working Session on November 12, 2005, as written. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

*Moved by Lisa Ruth, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve the minutes from the TCA Board Working Session on January 21, 2006, as written. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

VI. Agenda Items

1. Announcement of Board of Director Candidates. Chris Leland announced the four candidates for the 2006 Board of Director Election:

Chris Bender  
Steve Pope  
Steve Tomberlin  
Brenda VanderWel

2. Math Curriculum Review. Leesa Waliszewski introduced this topic and then turned the discussion over to John Knuth. Details may be seen in the attachments. The Board thanked Mr. Knuth and his team for all of the effort that went into the Math Curriculum review and for their recommendations.

*Chris Bender called for a break at 7:26 p.m.; the meeting reconvened at 7:39 p.m.*

3. Co-Ed Wrestling. Jeff Hays explained that CHSSA considers wrestling a co-ed sport. When parents have expressly asked that their son not wrestle a female, Coach Mike Darlington has complied with their wishes, in accordance with the philosophy of the school. He stated that after an initial flurry of upset, the situation has calmed down. Mr. Hays outlined the spectrum of options available to address this situation. He recommended that TCA continue to honor parent requests. Karen and Tim Birch made a presentation regarding this subject expressing their philosophy on respectful contact between young men and women of this age. The Board asked Mr. Hays to continue with the current practice of honoring parent requests.

4. Gym/Theatre/Commons Complex. Mark Hyatt related potential funding opportunities through pursuing foundation support. There are questions as to control of a facility that has been donated by an outside organization. Mr. Hyatt gave examples of how TCA can control content of performances by focusing on what is being performed. He is confident that we can create a rental use policy that is consistent with TCA's mission. Mr. Hyatt asked for permission to proceed with initial talks with various foundations to fund this complex. The Board asked him to proceed with the project.

5. Revised FY 05/06 Budget. Jim Woody explained that he is calling for a vote, as the first read was accomplished in February 2006. He briefly reviewed the highlights of the revision with details available in the attachment.

*Moved by Lisa Ruth, seconded by Clark Miller, that the Revised Fiscal Year 2005/2006 Budget be approved as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

6. Budget for 06/07 Fiscal Year. Jim Woody presented this as a first read with details available in the attachments.

7. Endowment. In response to Board policy which directs that a portion of the endowment earnings be spent each year, Mark Hyatt recommended that TCA not spend money from the fund this year as we are trying to build up the balance significantly.

*Moved by Lisa Ruth, seconded by Lisa Sutton, that TCA forgo removing a portion of the earnings from the endowment this year so we can be consistent with growing the fund. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

8. Community Service Policy. Deferred until April when Dick Travis returns.

#### VII. Other Business:

1. Lisa Ruth recommended any Board Members wishing to attend the League of Charter Schools' annual conference contact her as soon as possible. Mrs. Ruth also presented to the Board an opportunity to participate in a golf tournament fundraiser, details of which will be sent to Members at a later date.

2. Chris Bender asked the Board if they want to pursue Lauren Cross' request for an Honors Biology class in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. It was determined that the administration would develop a plan and

make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Bender asked the administration to demonstrate how we are implementing our critical thinking /passion for learning portion of the mission statement. There was also a discussion on how to implement the "listening session."

VIII. Future Agenda Items:

1. Community Service Policy.

IX. Executive Session: None.

X. Adjournment:

*Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn at 10:22 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*



Chris Bender  
Chairman



Chris Leland  
Secretary