

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Regular Meeting
May 8, 2006

I. Board of Directors Election.

A. Introduction – Chris Leland welcomed participants at 6:06 p.m. and briefly discussed the process for the evening. He introduced each of the candidates.

B. Board of Director Candidate Comments and Voting. Each candidate -- Chris Bender, Steve Tomberlin, and Brenda VanderWel -- presented a brief speech outlining each of their campaign issues. Those present were then given the opportunity to cast their ballot, and once all ballots were cast, Dr. Leland closed the voting. The Election Committee adjourned to the Library, where the ballots were counted during the Celebrating TCA presentation.

C. Spotlight: Celebrating TCA. Each member of the TCA Leadership Team presented an update of activities and accomplishments in each of their respective areas.

D. Results of Election. Dr. Leland announced that Chris Bender and Steve Tomberlin were elected to the Board of Directors. He thanked Brenda VanderWel for her commitment to TCA.

II. Chairman Chris Bender called the open session to order at 8:23 p.m.

III. 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, Matt Carpenter, and Dick Travis. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President. Dr. Jim Woody was absent; Dr. Doug Hering presented in his stead.

IV. Spotlight Recognition. This was presented during the Celebrating TCA portion of the evening.

V. Comments

A. Audience:

1. Barb Childress addressed the Board regarding the Latin curriculum proposal.

B. President and Administration: This item was abbreviated due to the presentation made during the Celebrating TCA agenda item.

1. Kevin Collins, Chief Operating Officer, presented the operations update (see attachment).
2. Mark Wertheimer, East Elementary Principal, presented a hand-made project from Ms. Sandbakken's class to the Board in honor of Staff Appreciation Week.

C. Board:

1. The Board thanked the clerk, Julie Greer, with flowers, a gift, and a card for her service to the Board.
2. Dick Travis thanked the Administration for their Celebrate TCA presentation, noting that it was informative and interesting.
3. Lisa Sutton thanked Ruth Miller and the Room Parent Leadership Team for the staff appreciation week activities. Members of the Team are: Sally Anderson, Janet Harrold, Barb Newland, Cindi Roy, Susan Tieman, and Kathy Williams from North Campus; Cade Cheshire, Angie Hill, and Lisa Ruth from East Campus; Terri Jones, Shannon Martin, and Michelle Sullivan from Central Campus. These ladies did an incredible job, with the staff enjoying a week of food and fellowship. She spoke of the excellent work that Nona LaValley and her team did for the 8th grade dinner-dance. Mrs. Sutton described Alive to Strive as an incredible experience, particularly when she saw her son, Beau, in his convincing portrayal of a dead person. She went on to give a huge thank you to Renee Behr for the prom, and after-prom, noting that the seniors were very grateful for all that Mrs. Behr and her team did to make the evening so special. Mrs. Sutton thanked Sue Obenauf for the posters that she designed showing the impressive community building events over the last month.
4. Chris Leland apologized to Steve Pope and Joanna Kaiser for his remarks at the April, 2006 Board Meeting. He never intended to offend either of them for presenting their concerns to the Board. Dr. Leland updated the Board and Administration on some recent legislation that will change the way the Executive Session will be recorded. He also expressed his thanks to Mr. Casson for having him participate in the rhetoric class debate.
5. Chris Bender thanked the Administration for the Celebrate TCA presentation.

V. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report. Dr. Doug Hering presented the Unaudited Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the 3rd Quarter, ending March 31, 2006; the Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet for the 3rd Quarter, ending March 31, 2006; The General Fund, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, April 30, 2006; and the Balance Sheet – General Fund, April 30, 2006. All reports may be seen in the attachments.

B. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve the minutes from the previous TCA Board Meeting on April 10, 2006, as written. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

VI. Agenda Items

1. Parent Survey. Kevin Collins presented the finalized parent survey which included parent comments. Of 1,424 TCA Families, 1,081 (75.9%) returned a survey. Percentage of respondents per school are: East Elementary, 86%; North Elementary, 81%; Junior High, 62%; Central Elementary, 49%; High School, 68%; Home School, 36%. Additionally, there were 205 pages of comments from the survey. The survey identified the top three factors that parents use to determine whether their child(ren) remain at TCA: Academic Excellence, Character Education, and Class Size. The Board was very appreciative to all the parents who participated in the survey and will spend the next month reviewing the results. The Board will discuss the survey in the June Board Meeting. The full summary may be seen in the attachment. A copy of the comments will be available in the President's office, as well as in the front office at the East and Central campuses. Dick Travis asked that after the Administration reviews this document, they determine if any changes need to be made to the questions.

2. Student Fee Schedule 06/07 Academic Year. Peter Hilts made this presentation; the basis of the discussion may be seen in the attachment. There was discussion regarding the parking fee assessed to the secondary students. Steve Tomberlin gave a history behind the assessment of this fee. There was discussion regarding the new fees being instituted, and a general question as to the direction the school is taking in assessing these fees. Dick Travis requested that there be no fee for courses that are for required classes. Mark Hyatt suggested a change to the fee schedule allowing a waiver for financial hardship in regard to the fees for academic-related classes. Lisa Ruth asked the Administration to check the State Statute regarding waiving mandatory fees for financial reasons. This item will reappear in the June Agenda for Board approval/vote.

3. Modular Building Usage Plan. Peter Hilts outlined modular usage over the next 2 to 3 years, noting that in three years all classes will be filled 7 periods a day, leaving teachers no space to plan. Next year sophomore English and history will be outside, as well as other classes currently in the modulars. The attachment outlines the scheduling concerns related to the class of 2009.

4. Math Curriculum Review – Elementary/Junior High. Leesa Waliszewski introduced Steve Wright, Director of Instructional Philosophy, to speak on this subject. Details can be seen in the attachment. The Board asked Mr. Wright to clarify that this is a two-year phase in the plan before it is presented for final approval at the June meeting. The Administration will announce to the community via Special Delivery the opportunity to review the proposed textbook additions prior to the Board vote in June.

Chris Bender called for a break at 10:36 p.m. The meeting resumed at 10:48 p.m.

5. Latin Curriculum Update. Leesa Waliszewski presented this topic for vote, after a first read in April. This change will begin for next year's 7th graders.

Moved by Lisa Ruth, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to accept "Classical Foundations" for 7th and 8th graders, a one-year course taught over two school years, in replacement of previously offered junior high Latin classes, as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Moved by Dick Travis, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to accept that beginning with the class of 2012, the Latin graduation requirement may be fulfilled by completing "Classical Foundations." Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

6. Fundraising Plan. Mark Hyatt presented, with details to be seen in the attachment. The Board gave several ideas to Mr. Hyatt for additional fundraising.

7. Proposed Revision to Current Year Budget. Lisa Ruth introduced a summary of budget revisions. The spreadsheet (which may be seen in the attachment) was developed by Doug Hering (TCA's Controller) in consultation with Mrs. Ruth to ensure that TCA does not overrun its budget. There are a few projects such as the Central Campus field and the seating on the hill at the North Campus field that were not in the revised budget approved in March. In addition, the PTOs have been raising and spending more than the Accounting Department anticipated. The Board did not vote, but directed Doug Hering and Lisa Ruth to bring a full budget revision to the June Board meeting using data that is accurate as of May 20.

8. IRS Form 990 Plan. Controller, Doug Hering, provided the following update on the TCA's requirement to file a Form 990 to the IRS. Dr. Hering received a call from the IRS, and the agent will send a letter shortly. The agent made the following five points.

1. The IRS counsel is still wrestling with the Charter School issue. One of the problems is the difference between individual state charter laws. She had no estimate of when IRS legal counsel would rule on this issue.
2. Per current IRS regulations, an organization cannot be both a government entity and a 501(c)3. She advised us to drop the line of argument that we are a public entity.
3. She understands that we have acted in good faith during our appeal process.
4. Admits that there are discrepancies out there between IRS opinions on charter schools.
5. She said that we are required to file per our determination letter. She advised us to begin filing with the most current year, and then go back and file for past years. She did not specify a time frame.

Per the discussion, Dr. Hering is going to begin working on the filing for 2004-05. He will then work on 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04. He will also provide the IRS with a schedule of anticipated completion of our filings, so that we can get IRS approval of this schedule.

VII. Other Business:

1. Mark Hyatt presented a dashboard.
2. Presidential Evaluation. The Board discussed their annual evaluation process of the President of TCA. Members were assigned to address representatives of various constituencies who constitute a 306 degree evaluation of Mark Hyatt. The Members were to have that feedback/interviews done by the June Board Meeting.

VIII. Future Agenda Items:

1. Parent Survey, June
2. Student Fee Schedule, June
3. Revision to the Current Year Budget, June
4. July Heritage Forum Agenda Discussion, June

IX. Executive Session: None.

X. Adjournment:

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to adjourn at 12:44 a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chris Bender
Chairman

Chris Leland
Secretary