

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Regular Meeting
June 12, 2006

** THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES*

I. Chairman Chris Bender called the open session to order at 6:03 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, Matt Carpenter, Dick Travis and Director-Elect Steve Tomberlin. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President.

III. Spotlight Recognition. None.

IV. Comments

A. Audience:

1. Barb Childress spoke about an experience from a Titan Time work day.

B. President and Administration:

1. Mark Hyatt introduced Becky VanVleet as the new Home School Program Director. In addition, he spoke highly of Mark Wertheimer's successful and professional manner of turning over his principal duties to Diana Burditt. He applauded Peter Hilts and his team for the distinctive way all of the high school graduation activities proceeded. He briefed the Board on the upcoming increases TCA must pay for employee PERA contributions. These employer contributions intend to keep this retirement system solvent in the long-term.

2. Kevin Collins presented the operations update (see attachment). Mr. Collins also updated the Board on the recent Parent Survey, pointing out the Disaggregated School Data document in their packet.

3. Don Stump thanked a number of the Board members for laying sod at Central. He expressed his appreciation to Kevin Collins, Jeff Gronski, and Steve Rex for helping to keep the building running over the last few weeks of school. Mr. Stump also reported good end-of-the-year activities, and stated he was pleased with the current hiring status for the 06/07 academic year.

4. Veronica Varland also reported that North Elementary had a good ending of the school year. She remarked that her school is now sufficiently established that they were able to have a goodbye celebration for departing staff. Mrs. Varland noted that she currently has all 06/07 staff hired.

5. Mark Wertheimer reported the hiring of his first male tutor. He was impressed with his teaching staff, as they kept the students engaged in learning right up until the end of the academic year. East field day was very successful. Mr. Wertheimer spoke about the effect his “hand-off” of principal duties to Diana Burditt had on his students and himself. He complimented his current group of 6th grade students, who showed exemplary character in how they, as a group, treated the younger East Campus students over the academic year.

6. Leesa Waliszewski reported that the K-12 teaching staff did a great job getting the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE) binders ready before the next accreditation process begins. She fondly remarked on the current graduating class, noting that she taught them when they were in the 4th grade. She was struck by the well-roundedness of the graduating class, and noted that the graduation festivities were a very special time for her.

7. Russ Sojourner discussed the “graduating” 8th graders and remarked on how successful the recent 7th and 8th grade picnics were. Dr. Sojourner briefly reported visiting an East Campus 6th grade class and how excited they are to be in the Junior High next semester.

8. Peter Hilts commented on the phenomenal activities of the graduation week, including the senior breakfast, picnic, baccalaureate, and graduation. He praised the parents and staff for the amazing job they did to bring all the activities seamlessly together. Mr. Hilts estimated that 95% of TCA’s secondary students participated in some fashion in the first TCA Community Service Day.

C. Board:

1. Clark Miller commended the staff for all of the wonderful end-of-year activities, from keeping the students engaged, to getting schedules out.

2. Chris Bender announced that Matt Carpenter has just completed his Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

3. Matt Carpenter expressed how pleased he was at his daughter’s experiences during the Community Service Day. He felt that Jeremy Reed’s speech and the choir performance at graduation was wonderful, and he believes that TCA is sending good citizens into the community. Mr. Carpenter felt that the TCA Golf Tournament was a great success, and he thanked Sarah McGuire, Ruth Miller, Marla Weeks, Bob Swanson, and Rich Haynie for putting it together.

4. Dick Travis explained how impressed he was with the spirit of the Community Service Day, citing the cheerleaders getting Central Campus students to do cheers during sod laying, as an example. Dr. Sojourner interjected that Peter Hilts’ vision for the Community Service Day was

the guiding light for this successful activity. Mr. Travis also spoke about activities that took place during the senior week.

5. Lisa Sutton thanked Mr. Thomason and Mr. Brohmer for their great idea to have 8th grade students list positive comments about each of their classmates. These notes were then made into small booklets for each student to take home at the end of the year.

6. Steve Tomberlin related how the community service activity positively impacted one of his children. He complemented the Administration for their foresight and wisdom, and reminisced that the sod laying took him back to the early days of the school. He feels that this type of spirit and cooperation builds community.

7. Chris Bender thanked the faculty, staff, and administration for their obvious love and dedication to the children of TCA.

V. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report. Jim Woody presented the General Fund, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Preliminary Month End May 31, 2006, Unaudited; and the Balance Sheet – General Fund, As of May 31, 2006 -- Preliminary. Dr. Leland asked if there were shortfalls in instruction based on the current cash surplus. The answer was “no”; our teachers are very frugal (often spending out of pocket), and instructional expenditures are still coming in. It was noted that there are several end-of-year expenditures (i.e., field trip bus expenses) that will be coming out of the budget. The possibility of rolling over unused instructional budget to the next budget year was also discussed. Dr. Woody also presented an update on the Endowment. Rick Mueller has been doing an excellent job at investing the endowment for TCA, exceeding market returns. 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 May 8, 2006, with amendment. Roll Call. Approved by majority vote.

VI. Agenda Items

1. Parent Survey. Mark Hyatt led the discussion saying that the recent parent survey completed by 76% of our parents overwhelmingly validates that TCA is on track. After listing many positives brought out in the survey, he listed communication and fundraising efforts as two areas in which he would like to improve. Each member of the leadership team briefly expounded on their major highlights and areas for improvement. It was communicated numerous times how much time the Administration spent reviewing all of the survey results, and how appreciative they are for the input from parents. This survey is taken very seriously, and has helped the Administration do their job better. Steve Tomberlin wants the passion for learning area, particularly in secondary, to be looked at very seriously. He feels that yearly surveys are very important for the leadership to be held accountable to the parents and students. Matt Carpenter felt that the heritage forum and a modified President's Open Forum may provide opportunities for feedback from parents and students to gather more information and keep the dialog going.

Dr. Leland spoke about PR in relationship to what community perception is and what the Administration has been doing as a result of this and past parent surveys. Chris Bender felt that the direction the Board takes must be grounded in the basic philosophy of the school.

Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Matt Carpenter, that the Administrative Team and Board need to further review the survey results and compile a list of action items by the August 2006 Board meeting, to be reported to the TCA Community by September 1st. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chris Bender called for a break at 8:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:24 p.m.

2. Math Curriculum Update – Elementary/Junior High. Leesa Waliszewski refreshed the Board’s memory on this issue, and Steve Wright gave an update on the changes since the previous meeting. He felt that the overall input from parents was very positive. Details are in the attachments.

Moved by Dick Travis, seconded by Chris Leland, that the Board accepts the proposal to replace certain Saxon curriculum for those students in advanced math in 5th grade and all students in 6th grade with Prentice Hall Course 1, Course 2, and Pre-Algebra over an “up to” three year phase-in at all three campuses. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

3. Textbook Approvals for Earth Science and AP French. A presentation regarding this topic was made by Leesa Waliszewski and Annette Calabretta, with details available in the attachment.

Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Lisa Sutton, that in order for the textbooks to be ordered in time for the start of the 06/07 school year, I motion that the Board appoint Board member Chris Leland to either grant or deny final approval of the proposed Earth Science and French AP textbooks after receiving parent comments/reviews from Leesa Waliszewski by mid-July. All of the Board will be kept informed on the status of the process by email. Roll call. Approved by majority vote, Clark Miller, yea; Lisa Sutton, yea; Chris Bender, yea; Lisa Ruth, yea; Dick Travis, yea; Chris Leland, abstain; Matt Carpenter, yea.

4. Student Fee Schedule 06/07 Academic Year. Peter Hilts identified how the administration made changes to the initial iteration of this fee schedule. There was a lengthy discussion regarding legal issues, and whether it is philosophically correct to charge a fee for a class required for graduation. It is noted on the schedule that assistance may be made for students who cannot financially afford an academic related fee. The rest of the discussion revolved around the costs for expendable classroom supplies; without these fees, the class will be held effectively, but not as effectively as TCA would like.

Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to accept the proposed Student Fee Schedule for the 2006/2007 Academic Year, as presented. Roll call. Approved by majority vote, Clark Miller, yea; Lisa Sutton, yea; Chris Bender, yea; Lisa Ruth, yea; Dick Travis, no; Chris Leland, yea; Matt Carpenter, yea.

5. Approval for Changes to Current Year Budget. Dr. Jim Woody presented, with details available in the attachment.

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to approve the revised 2005-06 budget as shown in the documents presented by CFO, Dr. Jim Woody. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

6. July 27th Heritage Forum Agenda. Dr. Chris Leland presented, with details available in the attachment. All TCA families are invited to attend this open forum/town hall event at 6 p.m. The theme will be focused on TCA culture, curriculum, and character.

7. Report on Colorado League of Charter Schools Conference. Lisa Ruth presented information regarding her attendance at the recent League of Charter Schools conference. She made specific remarks about how to develop Board/Administration relationships. Mrs. Ruth also reported on long-range financial planning and legal hot topics seminars.

8. Board Meeting Schedule & Agenda Item Review. Chris Bender opened this up for discussion. It was recommended that the Board keep a monthly meeting, adding a town hall-type meeting hosted by the Board and the President. This would potentially permanently replace the current President's Open Forum; the first meeting will be in September.

VII. Other Business:

1. Chris Bender officially recognized the dashboard of indicators presented by Mark Hyatt and commented that the Board should give feedback on this project to Mr. Hyatt.

2. Chris Bender asked the Board what kind of follow-up they would like to do regarding the presentation Dr. Leland made on the book, The Five Dysfunctions of a Team. It was decided to use working session time for follow-up discussion.

3. The Board asked the Administration to make a report on the current status of the charter agreement update for the 2006/2007 academic year at a future meeting.

4. *Chris Leland moved, Clark Miller seconded, to begin electronically recording executive sessions, beginning with August 2006 Board meeting, per Senate Bill 06-009 – allowing for the exclusions of discussions of specific students and attorney-client privileged discussions. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

VIII. Future Agenda Items:

1. Parent Survey Review Results

2. Charter Agreement Status.

3. Board Meeting Schedule and Agenda Item Review

4. Feedback to Mark Hyatt Regarding Dashboard

IX. Executive Session:

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Chris Leland, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 11:23 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

X. Adjournment:

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Dick Travis, to adjourn at 11:45 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chris Bender
Chairman

Chris Leland
Secretary