

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2007

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Chris Leland called the open session to order at 6:11 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call.
 - A. Chris Leland led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. Roll Call. The following Directors were present: Chris Leland, Steve Tomberlin, Lisa Ruth, and Clark Miller. Chris Bender was present via teleconference, and Matt Carpenter joined via telecon at 7:24pm. The following Directors were absent (excused): Lisa Sutton. Also present: Steve Pope, Director-elect, and Mark Hyatt, President.
- III. Spotlight Recognition - None
- IV. Board Development—a continuing series of presentations highlighting the formation of TCA’s mission, values, and philosophy. Chris Leland discussed the foundational philosophy resource books listed on the TCA website (Attachment 1), and recommended a “summer reading program” for the Board.
- V. Comments
 - A. From the Audience.
 1. Barb Childress expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the textbook review.
 - B. From the President. Mark Hyatt lauded Peter Hilts and Hal Meyer for their excellent work on the Baccalaureate and Graduation Ceremonies. He also highlighted graduation speaker John Knuth’s speech as superb. He closed by giving examples of the high caliber of our teaching and administrative staff.
 - C. Operations Update. Mark Hyatt announced that the waiver package has been approved, and praised Kevin Collins for outstanding work. He reviewed the handout (Attachment 2), describing a very ambitious summer program for improvements at all three campuses. The Air Quality Testing results for the East Library came back very good, and we had a 16-passenger bus donated.

He then requested a contingency approval from the Board to purchase/install lights and transformer for the North athletic field. Once we receive \$100,000 in contributions and City approval, we ask for contingency approval to borrow the remaining \$65,000. This balance would be paid off over five years using increased field rental revenues, since we’ll be able to rent it out after dark. Chris Leland directed that we contact the City to conduct a required assessment on the neighborhood impact. Chris Bender inquired whether the \$100,000 of donated funds could be redirected towards other TCA projects. Mark Hyatt responded that the donors are specifically motivated by this project and the associated community outreach/service; he also assured the Board that we will not be using any money that was designated for other campuses or facilities. Lisa Ruth commented that we are still two years from paying off the loan for the field, and Steve Tomberlin suggested that any additional revenue for the first two years should be earmarked to pay off this loan. Steve Pope recommended establishing a list for future projects. Mark

Hyatt informed the Board that TCA has a list of all projects approved by the Board. Even though donors are told about our priorities, they can choose to fund lower priority items on the list. The Board generally has accepted "targeted" donations.

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Clark Miller, to grant the following contingency approval: After receiving City approval, grant contingency approval to execute not more than \$65,000 over a 5-year period for the purchase and installation of lights at the North campus athletic field, with the intent that we will use the proceeds from additional field rentals, and there will be no additional debt burden generated. Roll call: Leland – yea, Tomberlin – yea, Miller – yea, Ruth – yea, Bender- nay. Approved by majority vote.

Mark Hyatt then updated the Board on the recent visit by State Representative, and Chairman of the State Education Committee Mike Merrifield. The 5-hour visit facilitated a better understanding of TCA, charter schools, and school choice. The congressman seemed receptive to continued dialogue, and asked President Hyatt to testify in front of the House and Senate during next session, and to provide advice on charter schools. He also nominated Mark Hyatt to serve on the Governor's P-20 Commission for state-wide education issues. Chris Leland read a response letter from Governor Ritter (Attachment 3), and then recommended we also invite Senator Sue Windels to visit TCA.

D. Administration.

1. Instructional Philosophy. Leesa Waliszewski reported that plans for 28 students to enroll in the Charlotte Mason "Lab School" are progressing well, and that there is strong interest from existing parents. These first- and third-grade classes will experiment with many instructional methods not currently being used at TCA.
2. Elementary. Don Stump reported that we finished well at all elementary schools.

E. From the Board.

1. Steve Tomberlin praised TCA Cub Scout Pack 93 as a tremendous grass-roots effort that is meeting a need and flourishing.
2. Chris Bender cautioned against a pattern of voting without first reads. He commended Peter Hilts for his hard work on all the graduation events, especially for the numerous small touches that made the events so special.
3. Clark Miller reported that all grades ended well, and exhorted everyone to enjoy a well-deserved rest over the summer.
4. Chris Leland described the very special memories from graduation, especially watching the interaction between the parents and the students, and the expression of relationships between our teachers and students. On behalf of the entire Board, he thanked Jim Woody for his service as TCA's Chief Financial Officer, and presented him with a clock that represented the "Triangle of Tension." Jim thanked this "truly professional and dedicated team," and described how much he appreciated the opportunity to serve TCA.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

These are items that are for information or for vote but do not require further discussion by the Board or staff at this time. In the event that new information is available since the publication of this agenda, prior to approval of the consent agenda as presented, the board or staff may remove any consent agenda item(s) and move the item(s) to the Discussion Agenda.

- A. Financial Report – Monthly. Not available due to the short period of time between meetings. Removed from the consent agenda.
- B. Approval of Minutes – Not available, and removed from the consent agenda. Chris Leland announced that hiring has taken place to ensure that minutes are both accomplished in a more timely manner and subsequently communicated to the community.
- C. Textbook Review/Approval (Attachments 4 and 5). Leesa Waliszewski conveyed that all of these books were available for review for two weeks, and all will be integrated over a 2- to 3-year period. The Psychology and AP Latin texts are for elective courses.

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Steve Tomberlin, to approve the texts as proposed. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

VII. Discussion Agenda Items

These are specific items that the Board and/or staff would like to discuss and expand upon in greater detail than the materials that have been provided.

- A. Revision to 06/07 Budget. Doug Hering presented the changes since last month (Attachments 6 and 7).

Moved by Lisa Ruth, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to approve 06/07 Budget revision as presented. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chris Leland called for a break at 7:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

- B. School Calendar Review. In response to the Board's request to examine the pros and cons of adding minutes to each secondary school day, the Leadership Team presented the details of a proposal (Attachment 8) that would add 15 minutes to each day. This proposal would ensure we could end school a week earlier in the spring, and maintain the other priorities identified in the survey, while providing for 7-8 snow days. Chris Leland reviewed the survey priority items, and asked that we ensure we stay in line with the calendar philosophy (Attachment 9). Chris Bender inquired if this option was viable. Russ Sojourner responded that, while viable, there will be definite impacts. Clark Miller indicated that the costs might not outweigh the benefits, and Lisa Ruth observed that the majority of parents who responded to the survey are in agreement with the current calendar. Peter Hilts emphasized that this option would preclude D20 busing options, but not necessarily all busing options. Matt Carpenter asked if we have seen a consistent (anecdotal) concern that the year goes longer than parents would like, and Peter Hilts and Steve Tomberlin replied that we have. Chris Leland refocused the discussion on the need to approve the 2008/09 school calendars, asking the Board to determine whether we needed to first amend the calendar policy. He urged establishing policy and a calendar that is based primarily on educational priorities, and then that considers family priorities. Steve Tomberlin advocated for a policy and a calendar that does not put families in the dilemma of having to choose between these priorities, whenever possible.

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Clark Miller, to amend the Calendar Policy, changing Paragraph B, Item 2 to read: End school no later than the first week of June, with Graduation the Friday after Memorial Day, with the school year for students ending the day before. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chris Leland reminded the Board that this change in policy in response to constituent input will impact the 08/09 calendars, and he then asked to continue the discussion on how soon to implement this policy.

Leesa Waliszewski noted that 07/08 will be the first year that we have a one-week difference between the end of secondary and elementary, which could result in contractual changes and perception issues. Chris Leland and Matt Carpenter both considered the current calendars for 07/08 viable. Chris Bender pressed the Lead Team for a recommendation on whether to implement the new calendar policy for the 07/08 school year. The Lead Team recommended making the change for the upcoming year (07/08), in order to end the secondary and elementary school years simultaneously. Chris Leland asked the Administration to work with those adversely impacted by this short-notice change.

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Steve Tomberlin, to accept the proposal to extend the secondary day, beginning in school year 07/08. Roll call. Leland – yea, Tomberlin – yea, Miller – no, Ruth – yea, Bender – yea, Carpenter – no. Approved by majority vote.

- C. Elementary Latin. Leesa Waliszewski began the discussion of the future of TCA's Elementary Latin Program by outlining the various driving factors that led to the proposal (Attachment 10), and citing support for both the change and the timing from founder Mary Kretchman. She asserted that this decision is based upon years of consideration. Chris Leland questioned whether this proposal would alter our philosophical foundation. Steve Tomberlin offered that Latin was a content issue, not a philosophical one—an application we used to implement our philosophy. Founding parent Rick Mueller added that as we've grown and gained experience we've discovered it's difficult to implement Latin given all the content constraints. Lisa Ruth and Steve Pope asked why Latin should be eliminated instead of other content, such as Spanish, or whether we should consider other alternatives such as moving the Classical Foundations course from junior high to 6th grade. Chris Leland expressed concern that we might lose some of our distinctiveness if we eliminate Latin from the elementary curriculum, and cautioned against making decisions because of convenience. Lisa Ruth inquired into what weight staffing had in this recommendation. Leesa Waliszewski responded that the scarcity of qualified Latin teachers has been a factor for the past 10 years. Several Board members requested that this be a first read, and Chris Leland directed a vote at the July meeting.
- D. Student Fee Schedule. Peter Hilts reviewed the proposed fees for the 2007/08 school year (Attachment 11), which included comparison to D20 fees, and changes in our fee proposal since last year. In response to Clark Miller's question about whether a fee must be tied to a program, Doug Hering said that this is required by law.

Moved by Lisa Ruth, seconded by Steve Tomberlin, to approve the Student Fee Schedule as proposed. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

- E. Legal Opinion on Establishing a Separate 501c3 to Manage our Endowment. After referencing the legal opinion (Attachment 12), Doug Hering recommended against establishing a separate 501c3 organization to invest the endowment funds, at this time. He emphasized the facts that we couldn't use the funds in the event of an emergency, and we couldn't use them for collateral borrowing. BuildingCorp Director Rick Mueller reminded the Board that public money includes donated funds. Steve Tomberlin asked if there were other tools we could use for investing, and Matt Carpenter recommended we continue to look at how other non-profit organizations manage their money, and consider those options for the future. Chris Bender advocated for continuing discussions on what kind of risk we're willing accept, and Lisa Ruth emphasized that our numbers are low now, so we need to build them soon. Rick Mueller advised the Board to consider the purpose and the long-range plan for the endowment. Jim Woody observed that a separate 501c3 might be more viable in the future. The Board agreed to take no action at this time.

Chris Leland called for a break at 10:08 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:18 p.m.

VII. Executive Session

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 10:19 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to adjourn to public session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 11:19 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

The members of the Lead Team were dismissed, with thanks from Chris Leland.

VIII. Discussion Agenda Items, Continued (ordinated to continue the list in Item VI. above)

- F. Vision/Core Values Subcommittee Report. The Board hopes to unveil the draft vision at the Heritage Town Hall. Lori Salgado will send notes from the April offsite to Lisa Ruth and Steve Tomberlin for the Vision Subcommittee to review.
- G. Subcommittee Report – Ten-year Anniversary Plan. Mark Hyatt reported on plans to commemorate TCA's 10-year anniversary (Attachment 12). Chris Bender and Steve Tomberlin asked if we could invite other charter school leaders and constituents, specifically those key people who sponsored the 1993 Charter School Act. Chris Leland requested the subcommittee consider holding the major event at the North campus, and recommended inviting Representative Merrifield and the state Education Committee leadership.
- H. Heritage Town Hall Discussion. Chris Leland described the objectives and format for the July 26th meeting, emphasizing that this will be an evening to focus on listening to the founders. We'll begin with a discussion by the founders, to identify some TCA cultural artifacts. Then we'll breakout into smaller, interactive discussion groups. Chris Bender recommended highlighting the results of the Dream Team meetings throughout this past year.
- I. President's Compensation Plan and Objectives (Begin). This item was tabled until a special meeting on Monday, July 16 at 6:00 p.m. at and offsite location. Chris Bender suggested a subsequent meeting to enable a discussion with Mark Hyatt.

Chris Bender was excused from the meeting at 11:40 p.m.

- J. Implementation Strategy for Letter of Understanding. Steve Tomberlin proposed a strategy to disseminate the written expectations for new and existing parents (Attachment 13). The Administration will incorporate these and other ideas.
- K. Plan for Annual Policy Review / Publishing Directive Guidance. Presentation was deferred until the August meeting.
- L. Announcement of Board Officer Position Elections. Chris Leland announced that all Board Officer positions that will be coming vacant in August. He recommended reviewing Clark Miller's policy proposal before the August meeting.

IX. Other Business

- A. Creating Staff Positions. Steve Tomberlin expressed concern that combinations of supervisor and subordinate roles into a single position could create potential conflicts, specifically citing Nate Sassaman

as both Activities Director and Football Coach. Chris Leland asked that we be diligent about structuring our staff around organizational needs. Mark Hyatt assured the Board that we would guard against any conflict of interest.

X. Future Agenda Items

- A. Proposed Code of Conduct Revision – First Read
- B. Board Officer Position Elections – Vote
- C. Hail and Farewell to Board Members – Information
- D. Charter Review – First Read
- E. End of Year Review, FY06-07 – Information
- F. President's Compensation Plan and Objectives (End) – Vote

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to adjourn at 11:58 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chris Leland
Chairman

Matt Carpenter
Secretary