

The Classical Academy  
975 Stout Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 22, 2007

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Matt Carpenter called the open session to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call.
  - A. Matt Carpenter led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - B. Roll Call. The following Directors were present: Matt Carpenter, Clark Miller, Steve Pope, Steve Tomberlin, and Chris Leland. Chris Bender was present via telecon, and Lisa Sutton arrived at 6:24 pm. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President.
- III. Spotlight Recognition – Peter Hilts announced TCA’s winners of the Mayor’s Top 100 Teens Award—an annual recognition program for students who have demonstrated great character and resiliency. Award recipients Morgan Bender, Ciera Fisher, and Amy Shibe were present to receive the Board’s congratulations; winners Luke Northam and Mike Shaha were also highlighted.
- IV. Comments
  - A. From the Audience. Comments on the calendar were deferred until that agenda item.
- V. 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. The following five items were approved as presented: Approval of Minutes for the meetings on September 10 and October 1 (Attachments 1 and 2), Fundraising Report (Attachments 3 and 4), Monthly Financial Report (Attachments 5 and 6), Teacher Compensation Plan (06) (Atch 7), and Letter of Understanding Update (Atch 8).

*Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*
- VI. 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. Value of an Additional Accreditation. Hal Meyer reviewed the pros and cons of obtaining an additional accreditation from the American Academy of Liberal Arts Education (AALE) (Atch 9). He then described some of the changes occurring at the local and state levels. Steve Pope asked if there AALE could provide consultation to help us improve, and Hal Meyer cited the national-level experts that comprise the accreditation team. Mark Hyatt emphasized that AALE specializes in charter schools, and connects us with other charter schools. Clark Miller confirmed that there were no inconsistencies

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between AALE's requirements and our philosophy and operations. The Lead Team recommended continuing with both accreditations, and announced that national re-accreditation will occur next year.

Hal Meyer then asked the Board to verify the accreditation absolutes, which are required for the District 20 accreditation visit on October 31. He confirmed that TCA met all requirements, and that there were no delinquent areas. Matt Carpenter signed the paperwork, and the Board thanked Hal for his diligence in this effort.

- B. Calendar Subcommittee Report (Attachments 10 – 23). Mark Hyatt introduced the discussion by praising the committee process as democracy in action. He noted that this new "Option 6" proposal (Attachments 24 and 25) could not have happened four months earlier, because the committee process led to the discovery that Parent/Teacher conference time could be counted as contact time. The process also helped us obtain insights from teachers and parents. Leesa Waliszewski praised several new teachers, who helped us evaluate a proposal to hold core finals before Christmas, even though the semester ends after Christmas. Kevin Collins summed up, thanking everyone for working together to produce a calendar that meets a variety of interests. A discussion on snow days ensued, and Kevin Collins recommended 6-7 snow days as consistent with the historical average. Clark Miller inquired into the academic integrity of the calendar, and asked if this proposal would have an adverse impact on teachers, specifically citing concern about the choppiness of the first semester. Peter Hilts, Russ Sojourner, and Leesa Waliszewski described the feedback obtained from secondary teachers. Steve Pope thanked parents for all their comments over the last few months, and then he and Chris Leland reviewed the timeline for the calendar committee process. Steve Pope suggested the Board to analyze why we have Fall Break, and suggested that we could perhaps find ways to encourage parents to use fall break to travel for educational purposes. Matt Carpenter shared an e-mail from a parent, along with comments from a survey of high school students. He then opened the floor to audience comments.

1. Joanne Kaiser thanked the Board and Committee for considering all the options. She inquired about snow days and delays, and clarified that only Option 6 included core finals days before Christmas. She expressed support for Option 6, especially the latest start date possible.
2. Ryan Frost expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing parents to speak and share views. He also expressed support for Option 6, especially the alignment of Fall Break between Elementary and Secondary as a way to respect family time. He commended the Board and Lead Team, especially for ending earlier, enabling families to take advantage of community programs that begin earlier in the summer.
3. Jill Phillips supported both Option 6 and Option 5. She asked that the Board consider dismissing Elementary students a week earlier, since they have extra snow days.
4. Jesse Florea joined her support to those who were in favor of Option 6. She asked why the semester needed to end on Jan 16<sup>th</sup>, and Peter Hilts responded that although core finals will occur before Christmas, that elective finals will still occur after the break, and the later date ensures enough review time upon return.
5. Kirk Cameron expressed appreciation, and deferred further comment, indicating that his questions were previously answered.

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6. Dawn Enger also thanked the Board, citing her new appreciation for how long and intricate the committee process has been. She approved Option 6, and asked the Board to consider starting Secondary classes on the Thursday of the second week of Aug, as it eases the transition back to school, and provide an additional buffer for snow days.

7. Karen Birch described Option 6 as a great compromise, and thanked the Board for listening to the Lead Team and teachers. She suggested that the parameter governing Fall Break be worded more ambiguously, to provide flexibility in case Fall Break ever needed to be shortened. She closed by highlighting the “Charting the Course” discussion last week, and here anticipation of continued discourse.

8. Julie Matheson favored Option 6, but also approved Option 5. She appreciated the alignment with other District 20 school calendars, while still maintaining Fall Break.

9. Darlene Smith thanked the Board for enabling parents to be involved on the Calendar Committee—it helped everyone understand the many competing variables that make these decisions so difficult. She requested that the Board keep Fall Break, and if necessary, look at cutting other areas first.

Matt Carpenter thanked the Lead Team and parents for their willingness to work through this process.

*Moved by Matt Carpenter, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to accept the proposed Option 6 calendar for 08/09, and the associated policy. Discussion continued.*

Chris Leland asked Kevin Collins to review the calendar parameters. Chris Bender suggested approving only the calendar tonight, and the policy at the next meeting. Clark Miller asked about the level of detail required, and Leesa Waliszewski suggested that some items be articulated administratively, but perhaps not in the policy document. Chris Leland recommended that both the calendar and policy be approved together, and asked for a recess to permit a breakout group to re-craft the wording on the policy.

*Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Steve Tomberlin, to hold a recess. Approved by unanimous vote.*

*Matt Carpenter called for a break at 7:22 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.*

Before reading aloud the amended policy (Attachment 26), Kevin Collins reported that the adjustments take out some of the specificity, and the policy will be formalized in the appropriate administrative documents. Chris Bender confirmed language requiring close alignment with District 20 calendars.

*Moved by Chris Leland to make a friendly amendment to the previous motion, offering the policy changes as read. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

Steve Tomberlin and Steve Pope suggested several ideas to encourage families to use Fall Break for educational-based travels. Chris Bender agreed to represent the Board, and meet with the three PTOs in January; he will provide an update to the Board at the February meeting. Chris Leland described the new calendar policy as an excellent opportunity to express the values that we’re supporting. He thanked the Lead Team for synthesizing the calendar discussions, and he praised Kevin Collins and his staff and committee for the time they invested in reaching this decision.

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VII. Other Business. None.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- A. October Count / Registrar Report
- B. Audit Review
- C. Quarterly Review
- D. Charlotte Mason "Lab School" Update – Information
- E. By-law Review and Revision and Standing Subcommittees of the Board – First Read
- F. Hazing: Update on Policy, Actions, etc.
- G. Board Development – Book Reports (Steve Pope and Steve Tomberlin)
- H. Review of Board Policies for the Election Process, Succession Plan, and Induction Process

IX. November 10<sup>th</sup> Working Session Agenda Items

- A. Board Goals/Objectives for 2007-2008 (Steve Pope and Matt Carpenter)
- B. Board Administrative Processes - By-law Review and Revision and Standing Subcommittees of the Board (Chris Bender and Lisa Sutton)
- C. Vision Subcommittee (Steve Tomberlin)
- D. Building Community Within the Classroom Structure (Mark Hyatt)

*Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 8:03 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

X. Executive Session

*Moved by Chris Leland, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn to public session. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

*Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to approve the TCA President's Annual Objectives for 2007-08. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

XI. Adjournment

*Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Clark Miller, to adjourn at 10:52 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

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Matt Carpenter  
Chairman

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Chris Bender  
Secretary