

# THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016, 6:00-8:51 P.M.

NORTH CAMPUS - TCA ROOM 2213/2214 (SECONDARY)

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens, equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.



# **AGENDA**

Presentation/Question Time/Start Time

I. **Call to Order** (6:00 p.m.)

1 min (6:00) (6:00)

• Mr. LaValley (TCA Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Mission/Roll Call

5 min (6:01) (6:01)

• Roll call: (Mr. Carter; Here, //Mr. Dubois; Absent //Dr. Harrington; Here // Dr. Jennings; Here // Mr. LaValley; Here // Mr. Moulton; Here // Mr. Rudder; Here // Mrs. Van Vleet; Here)

III. Approval of Agenda

5 min (6:06) (6:02)

- Motion: Dr. Jennings moved to approve the agenda and was 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0-1 the Board approved the motion. (Mr. Carter; Yea // Mr. Dubois;

  Absent // Dr. Harrington; Yea // Dr. Jennings; Yea // Mr. LaValley: Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder;

  Yea)
- IV. **Comments from the Audience** (Audience members have 5 minutes to address the Board) 5 min (6:11) (6:03) (NOTE: Per procedural rules if more than one person is speaking on the same topic we request that one or two specific spokespersons speak on behalf of the group)
  - There was only one audience member to make comments before the Board
    - o Mr. Graham Jennings (TCA Student Body President)
      - His comments to the Board outlined his concerns with the new student body election system that includes a vetting process that decides which candidates can appear on the ballot..
      - Mr. Jennings entire presentation to the Board can be found at Attachment 1 of these minutes.

# V. Celebrate TCA (State Science Fair Participants)

10 min (6:16) (6:05)

Action: Harris Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to highlight accomplishments of TCA students, staff, or parents

- Eleven junior high students (10 projects) and the 2 high school students will represent TCA at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair in April competing for bragging rights and cash prizes. 7 of the 12 projects placed at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair this past weekend! The following participated:
- State Fair Invitation
  - Matthew Hileman [12] Mono-directional Laser Communications for Small Satellites –won \$150 Special Award Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, also won Special Award SPIE \$150, also won from US Dept of commerce-Summer Employment and also won \$1000 scholarship from Colorado School of Mines renewable for 3 years
  - o Kevyn Kelso [11] Building a High Resolution FDM 3D Printer out of a Bedframe –Won Special Award Frank Armbuster Foundation
  - o Serena Balke [8] Highlighting: Helpful or Hoax? Grand Award Honorable Mention
  - Jonathan Haerr [8] Circumstantial Morality-Won 1st Place Behavioral and Social Sciences 1st place \$200, also junior Division Best Awards 3rd place \$50

- o Johnathan Pollard [8] Making Biking Available to the Visually Impaired –Won Special Award Eppler Family Microprocessor kit valued at \$100,also won grand award 2nd place for Engineering
- Sachi Rohilla [8] Dirty is the New Way to Clean –Won Special Award SACNAS \$50
- o Benjamin Wilson [8] Aerostat Communication System –Won \$100 Special Award Institute of electrical and Electronics Engineering, also won grand award Honorable Mention
- o Nathaniel Brim [7] Effects of Zinc and Magnesium Dissolution in Cathodic Protection Systems –Won special Award from American Vacuum Society \$100, also Special Award ASM International \$150, also won \$200 Special Award Trout Unlimited, Grand Award Winner 2nd place environmental Sciences \$100
- o Anjali Chaparala [7] Protect It or Forget It –Won grand award 3rd place Medicine and Health \$50
- o Psalm Delaney [7] Mutation from Radiation
- o Ryan Hook & Hayden Russell [8] Selecting Music to Select Your Grade
- Corinne Watson [8] From the Trees to a Fireplace to... Your Garden?

#### VI. Comments from the Board of Directors

5 min (6:26) (6:15)

• Dr. Jennings read through the article (When Success Leads to Failure) Dr. Sojourner had provided the Board last week. The article referenced decisions (academic success vs integrity or intellectual curiosity) as "either\or" choices rather than "both\and" possibilities. He felt that we might have priorities among the article's choices, we should strive to do both.

#### VII. Board Development (Conducting Public Business on Personal Email Accounts)

10 min (6:31) (6:18)

Action: Miller Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to provide the Board with additional information concerning current events or trending information in education

- Mr. Miller discussed the complications with using personal e-mail accounts for TCA business act ivies rather than using a TCA e-mail address
  - One complication is being asked for a CORA request; if you use a personal e-mail for business it can be searched for business activities/conversations associated with the school
  - Even if you leave the Board, there is a 3 year statute of limitations whereby they can come back and request CORA information from you within that time frame
  - o TCA's internet service has time limits that it keeps e-mails in your inbox as well as items that you delete for 30 days unless you save them to a file
  - There is no requirement to save every e-mail you receive or generate
- The Board recognized that it would be in its best interest to start using TCA e-mails
  - The Board should work toward using TCA assigned e-mail addresses to conduct TCA business
  - By the next Board meeting it would be helpful that everyone start using their assigned TCA e-mail addresses
    - If you need help you may contact TCAs IT department at <u>tcahelpdesk@asd20.org</u> or call Mr. Gronski at 488-6212.

#### XIII. Report of the President & Cabinet Spotlights

5 min/10 min (6:41) (6:29)

Action: Sojourner Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to highlight cabinet activities (Pres., Ops, Academic Services, and Advancement)

- Dr. Sojourner highlighted the following items form his report:
  - o Titan of the Year: this year we had the most nominations for Titan of the Year that we have ever had
    - It was magical to hand out the finalist awards to the various winner and see the expressions on their faces
  - o Practice Baseball Field: we are on the threshold of one of the largest fundraising drives at TCA to raise additional funds for the practice baseball field
    - Mr. Rudder has been very helpful in providing his expertise and services in designing a Sports Complex fundraising brochure to help attract donors to this project
  - o Artificial Turf: With the help of Mr. Tubb, Mr. Miller, and Mr. VanGampleare, TCA recovered the \$16,000 spent toward acquiring used turf to lay on our baseball field
    - These monies will be allocated toward the turf for the baseball field
  - O Standardized Testing: this year the testing rules seem ambiguous
    - Currently, the 95% rule for student testing is in effect until we hear differently from the State School Board or Commissioner of Education. Also, in effect is the parent's right to opt their children out of testing which becomes confusing for school administrators and parents.
    - We urge parents to allow their children to take the tests as well as letting parents know that they have the option of not taking the tests; we tend to represent the statutory and policy requirements associated with testing
    - Unfortunately, with the variety of testing taking place and not being to evaluate all of our students, we don't have enough data to accurately make informed decisions about the results of the tests

- As we speak, I know that at least 10% of our parents have opted their children out of taking tests, last year at this time it was 40%.
- I know there will be more as our testing progresses
- I tend to represent the statutory and policy requirements associated with testing but advise parents that they still have the ability to make choices for their children
- There is wording in the federal ESSA policy about the 95% testing requirement and what it means for states; however, we are bound by what Colorado interprets it to say

#### IX. Consent Agenda

5 min (6:56) (6:49)

Board Directed items to be removed from Consent Agenda:

Motion: to accept the Consent Agenda (vote)

- A. Minutes: 9 Mar 2016, 14 March 2016 (Swanson)
- B. Written Reports of the President and Cabinet
  - 1. Human Resources (Schulz)
    - a. Matters Relating to Personnel Action
  - 2. Finance (VanGampleare)
    - a. February Financials
  - 3. Board Policies (Governance Committee)
    - a. Naming Buildings
    - b. Advancement Philosophy
  - 4. SAC Minutes
    - a. East Elementary, April 4, 2016
- Motion: Dr. Jennings moved to approve the consent agenda and was 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Discussion: None

## X. Discussion Agenda Items

- A. Items removed from Consent Agenda
- **B.** Cabinet Level Reports
  - 1. Operations Capital Construction Report (Monthly)

5 min/10 min (7:01) (6:50)

Action: Tubb Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review progress on all TCA capital construction projects

- Central Campus ground breaking ceremony is on June 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.
  - o Same day a USAFA graduation
  - o Development plan for the central campus has been approved by the city
  - o Mr. Tubb asked the Board if the information he is providing them (specifically the schedule) is helpful to them; if so, he will include them in next month's report (there was no confirmation one way or the other from the board)
  - He also included cost breakdowns and costs against contingency
- Baseball Ground Break is on May 31, 2016; will get back to you about the time
  - o Already in the process of looking at bids for subcontractors
- CP Modular
  - There is a delay based upon an incorrect survey (where the actual location of the East campus should be rather than where it is currently situated) done when the East Campus was built; 22 foot error
    - The original surveyor admitted the error based upon an incorrect starting point but a new survey had to be taken
    - The modular should be in place by the end of May and completed by the end of the summer
- Dr. Jennings said that the renovation of the classroom cabinets looks nice and was worth the savings to be able to add in the perimeter road that should help with car pool

#### 2. Staff Climate Survey

5 min/10 min (7:16) (7:08)

Action: Schulz Motion: (Info)

Rationale: allow the TCA Board to review results of TCA's staff climate survey

- Mrs. Schulz highlighted the following items from her report:
  - o This year was the 7<sup>th</sup> year of giving the survey
  - o We had a 78% participation rate; highest we have ever had
  - Out of 69 questions, the answers to 58 questions shoved improvement from last year
    - The question that showed the most improvement was about compensation

- The question scoring the least had to do with being able to work effectively given the facilities we have
- Overall, this was an incredibly positive climate survey

#### 3. Student Fee Schedule

Action: Jolly
Motion: (1<sup>st</sup> Read)

Break (7:32)

Rational: to review student fees prior to approving the budget

- Mrs. Birkey highlighted the following items from her report:
  - Changes from last year to this year
    - The fees scheduled are in a new format and now include the student impact if fee is not paid in order to be compliant with Colorado statues
    - Band fees increased
      - Expenses increased due to state competitions and transportation needs
      - The Band has two fundraisers each year that helps them purchase necessary equipment
        - o Christmas tree and evergreen sales
        - o Chili dinner
    - Most of our activity programs run in the red due to coaching wages, cost of supplies, and hiring officials
    - Both the federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program and TCA helps students by providing subsidies for students who can't afford fees on a case by case basis
    - AP fees increased
- In May the Board can get an estimate of the average cost for expenses incurred by the average student at TCA. Yes we can provide that for you.

## 4. Student Count Estimate/Preliminary Budget Review

5 min/10 min (7:41) (7:37)

5 min/5 min (7:31) (7:16)

Action: VanGampleare Motion: (1<sup>st</sup> Read)

Rationale: to review estimated student count and prepare for budget review

- Mr. VanGampleare reviewed the proposed budget for next year highlighting the following items:
  - o We are projecting 3363 FTE next year
  - o The legislature is still working on the details of the education budget for next year
  - o MLO is funded at the ceiling at \$2.6 M; It is anticipated to be funded at this maximum level in future years, as well
  - Overall next year staff will get at least a 1.2% salary increase based upon COLA. Other adjustments are made based upon career progression, merit pay, and recognition. The overall increase to wage expense for existing positions is projected at 2.5%. These steps honor the compensation model.
  - O Staff benefits are projected to have a 10.1% increase, with medical insurance projected to increase by 15%
  - o PERA contribution for TCA went up to 19.4% while the individual contribution remain at 8%
  - The budget includes a recommendation to replace all lighting at all campuses with led lighting
    - Conservatively estimate \$75,000 yearly savings
  - By the end of June we will have about 78 days of cash reserves in the General Fund

#### 5. Curriculum Review/Text Review Secondary

5 min/5 min (7:56) (8:07)

Action: (Jolly)

Motion: (Vote) to approve changes to the secondary curriculum Rationale: to review/approve changes to the secondary curriculum

- Motion: Mr. Carter moved to approve the changes to the secondary curriculum review/secondary text review and was  $2^{nd}$ .
- Discussion: None
- Vote: <u>Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0-1 the Board approved the motion. (Mr. Carter; Yea // Mr. Dubois; Absent // Dr. Harrington; Yea // Dr. Jennings; Yea // Mr. LaValley: Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)</u>

#### C. Board Level Reports

1. Board Summer Retreat (Topics, Time, Date)

5 min/10 min (8:06) (8:08)

Action: LaValley

Motion: (Info) to discuss options for the July Board Summer Retreat

Rationale: to determine the topics, time, and date for the Board's Summer Retreat

- The Board discussed moving the dates of the Board's July Strategic Planning Retreat from Saturday to Friday and from an all-day event to a 7 hour afternoon; this would save staff more time to be with their families in the summer before school starts
  - Changes to the Board's Strategic Planning Retreat will be changed when they vote on approving next year's Board Meeting Schedule
- If the Board has any topics for the retreat, they should e-mail them to Mr. Carter to consolidate and determine an agenda for the Board's Strategic Planning Retreat
- Generally speaking, 5 hour could be devoted to reviewing TCA's Strategic Plan with the remaining 2 hours focused on Board Development training
- 2. Review/Approve Next Year's Board Meeting Schedule

5 min/5 min (8:21) (8:16)

Action: LaValley Motion: (Vote)

- Motion: Mr. Moulton moved to approve the next year's Board Meeting Schedule with the following changes and was 2<sup>nd</sup>:
  - Move Special Meeting on Wednesday, Nov 9, 2016 to Monday, Nov 7, 2016
  - Move Special Meeting on Wednesday Mar 8, 2017 to Monday, Mar 6, 2017
  - Move Board July Strategic Planning Retreat from Saturday, July 23, 2016 to Friday, July 22, 2016 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.
  - Move Board July Strategic Planning Retreat from Saturday, July 22, 2017 to Friday, July 21, 2017 from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: <u>Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0-1 the Board approved the motion. (Mr. Carter; Yea // Mr. Dubois; Absent // Dr. Harrington; Yea // Dr. Jennings; Yea // Mr. LaValley: Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)</u>

Rationale: to review/approve next year's Board Meeting Schedule

3. Review/Approve Board Strategic Calendar

5 min/5 min (8:31) (8:21)

Action: LaValley

Motion: (Vote) to approve the Board Strategic Calendar for 2016-2017

Rationale: to review/approve the 2016-17 strategic calendar

- Motion: Mr. Rudder moved to approve the Board Strategic Calendar and was 2<sup>nd</sup> with the following changes:
  - Move Revenue Projection for next FY from January to March
  - Move Budget Projection Report (5 Years) form March to April
  - Move Preliminary Budget Review Budget Review (1<sup>st</sup> Read) for Next FY from April to May
  - Move Budget Approval for Next FY (Vote) from May to June
- Discussion:
  - Mr. VanGampleare suggested this change for two reasons:
    - First, there are still a few uncertainties with the state's Education Budget with respect to PPF at this time of year; the budget is still in flux and a 1<sup>st</sup> read would be better timed for May rather than April
    - o Second, TCA's budget sequence would align with ASD20's
  - Based upon the resequencing of the 1<sup>st</sup> read and the vote for the next year's budget approval, the Revenue Projection for next FY and Budget Projection Report (5 Years) should be moved to allow better sequencing of information to the Board during the budget approval cycle
- Vote: <u>Vote:</u> By a roll call vote of 6-0-1 the Board approved the motion. (Mr. Carter; Yea // Mr. Dubois; Absent // Dr. Harrington; Yea // Dr. Jennings; Yea // Mr. LaValley: Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)

#### D. Board Communication

5 min (8:41) (8:27)

Action: Secretary

Rationale: to develop and approve of communication update to community

- Science Fair
- Ground Breaking Ceremonies
- Results of Staff Climate Survey

# E. Future Board Agenda Items

5 min (8:46) (8:29)

- 1. Board Committee Policy, May, Governance Committee (Vote)
- 2. Student Uniform/Dress Code Policy, May, Governance Committee/Dr. Sojourner, (Discussion)

- **3.** Student Fee Schedule, May, Jolly, (Vote)
- **4.** Quarterly Financial Summary, May, VanGampleare (Info)
- **5.** Current Year Budget Revision, May, VanGampleare (1<sup>st</sup> Read)
- 6. Budget Approval for Next FY, May, VanGampleare (Vote) Changed to June
- 7. Charter Review, May, Tubb (1<sup>st</sup> Read)
- 8. President Evaluation Feedback Discussion, May, LaValley (Info)
- **9.** Parent Survey Analysis, May, Jolly (Info)
- 10. Advancement Plan for Next Year, May, Sojourner, (Info)
- 11. Adopt a School Report, May, Board (Info)
- 12. Board/President Goals Determined, May, LaValley/Dubois/Sojourner (1st Read)
- **13.** 990 Review, May, VanGampleare (Info)

## XI. **Adjournment** (Approx. 8:51 p.m.)

(8:51) (8:30)

- Motion: Mr. Carter moved to adjourn the meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: <u>Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0-1 the Board approved the motion. (Mr. Carter; Yea // Mr. Dubois; Absent // Dr. Harrington; Yea // Dr. Jennings; Yea // Mr. LaValley: Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)</u>

#### Attachment:

1) Mr. Graham Jennings Audience Comments Notes