



THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, 6:00-9:05 P.M.

LOCATION: VIRTUAL/REMOTE MEETING - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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.



NOTE: The TCA Community may watch the TCA Board Meeting by accessing TCA's YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjLU7ocFQ1gy7czWYfGk8qg> when the meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

	Presentation Time/Start Time
I. Call to Order (6:00 pm)	1 min (6:00) (6:00)
• The Chair (Mr. Moulton) called the meeting to order at 6:00.	
II. Pledge of Allegiance/Mission/Roll Call	2 min (6:01) (6:01)
• Roll call: (Dr. Andre; Here // Mr. Fradette; Here // Mrs. Goin; Here, phoning in// Mr. Hannan; Here // Dr. Mayfield; Absent// Mr. Moulton; Here // Mr. Rudder; Here) A quorum was present.	
III. Approval of Agenda	2 min (6:03) (6:02)
• Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to approve the agenda and was seconded with the following change:	
• Celebrate TCA is moved to the June board meeting	
• Discussion: None	
• <u>Vote: By a roll call vote of 5-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Temporarily lost phone connection // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)</u>	
IV. Celebrate TCA (Junior High Paper Airplane Competition)	5 min (6:05) (6:03)
Action: (Harris)	
Motion: (Info)	
Rationale: to highlight accomplishments of TCA students, staff, and parents	
• Moved to June Board meeting	
V. Comments from the Audience	10 min (6:10) (6:04)
• Mr. Matt Carpenter discussed the challenges his family and others are having with COVID quarantines; risk to mental health, loss of extracurricular activities,	
◦ In favor of loosening the restrictions; difficult going from online learning to in-person learning	
VI. Comments from the Board of Directors	5 min (6:20) (6:06)
• Mr. Rudder: Grateful to hear from parents and what they are thinking during COVID pandemic	
• Mr. Hannan: Thanked the PRC an CRT for their continued efforts to address the challenges that COVID brings to TCA	
• Mr. Moulton: Thanked the PRC and CRT for getting us to a very productive place in trying to better understand the challenges COVID brings to TCA and appreciates the intentionality Mr. Coles brings to the discussions	
VII. Board Development (Core Values Summary)	15 min (6:25) (6:09)
Action: (Upchurch, Galvin, Walker)	
Motion: (Info)	
Rationale: to rediscover the essentials of TCA's Core Values and Educational Philosophy	
• Mr. Galvin, Mrs. Walker, and Ms. Upchurch summarized the past two years of discussing the Core Values by highlighting the following:	
◦ Core Values is a guide to how we achieve our mission to produce exemplary citizens	

- Developing the Core Values was a 2 year project with the goal documenting the beliefs of the founding parents.
- Adherence to our Core Values “keeps TCA, TCA” and grounds us, even though cultural norms may change around us

VIII. Legislative Update

10 min (6:40) (6:32)

Action: (Miller)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review current legislatives initiatives/activities at the state

- Legal Counsel Brad Miller shared details of current statute SB20-163 involving medical and non-medical vaccination exemptions.
 - To begin public school attendance (at TCA and elsewhere) next school year (August 2021), parents who don't wish for their child to be vaccinated (not related to the COVID vaccine), there are two ways to file a non-medical vaccine exemption:
 - 1) File a Certificate of Non-medical Exemption with a signature from an immunizing provider,
 - OR 2) File a Certificate of Non-medical Exemption received upon the completion of an online education module.
- Requirements involving this statute are legally binding, superseding parents' ability in previous years to write their own statement of non-medical exemption.
- TCA will NOT be able to exempt the school or students from these requirements.

IX. President's Report and COVID Response Update

20 min (6:50) (6:43)

Action: (Sojourner)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to highlight cabinet activities (Pres., Ops, Academics, HR, Finance)

- Dr. Sojourner highlighted the following items from his report:
 - DAS Report
 - Dr. Sojourner noted that in the DAS report that our high school continues to be one of the best in the district, state, and nation (determined by U.S. News and World Report)
 - #1 in District 20
 - #2 in El Paso County
 - #14 in Colorado
 - #115 Charter School in the nation
 - #451 High School in the Nation
 - Top 2.25% in the United States and in Colorado
 - Kindergarten enrollment is down across the state as well as the nation
 - Currently, we are expecting 25-30 vacant kindergarten seats
 - Budget
 - We are using ESSER funds from the federal government to defray costs to renovate the North Campus High School 1st and 3rd floors
 - Next year's budget already has these projects earmarked
 - Begin work on the 1st floor in June
 - Begin work on the 3rd floor in late fall or early winter
 - Staff Compensation
 - The state education budget/parent donations look optimistic which will allow us to do the following:
 - 4.5% across the board pay increase
 - \$1,000 returning bonus
 - \$1,500 compensation bonus
 - COVID Update
 - Dr. Sojourner relayed positive news about continued loosening of COVID protocols and restrictions, and highlighted many of the upcoming end-of-year events that we look forward to with great anticipation, especially regarding our graduating seniors.
 - Dr. Sojourner also reassured the Board that we don't anticipate any of our schools closing before the end of the year (contrary to a rumor regarding our traditional high school).
 - He shared the following line from an upcoming community communication: *“As I've mentioned repeatedly lately, there is SO much to celebrate, and we look forward to starting the 2021-22 school year as close to normal as possible. We anticipate that all of our students and staff will be back in our buildings full time, unmasked, engaging in activities missed because of this year's restrictions, with parent volunteers in our hallways and classrooms, celebrating greatly reduced (or eliminated) quarantines, and greatly reduced (or eliminated) protocols. We can't wait!”*

X. Consent Agenda

3 min (7:10) (7:17)

Board Directed items to be removed from Consent Agenda:

Motion: (Vote) to file the Consent Agenda

A. Finance

1. March Financials
2. Auditor Engagement

3. Quarterly Financial Summary
4. Review Form 990

B. Board Policies

1. Naming of Campus Buildings and Facilities FF-TCA
2. Board Philosophy Regarding Student Attire JICA-TCA-B
3. Administrative Organization CC-TCA
4. PRC Committee Update
5. PR-TCA Policy

C. Survey Ballots and Systems Three Year Contract

- **Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to file the consent agenda and was seconded.**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)**

XI. **Minutes April 12, 2021** 2 min (7:13) (7:18)

Action: (Swanson)

Motion: (Vote) to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes

Rationale: to provide a record of the Board meeting for files

- **Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes and was seconded.**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)**

XII. **Discussion Agenda Items**

A. Items removed from Consent Agenda

B. Cabinet Level Reports

1. **Preliminary Budget Review for Next FY** 15 min (7:15) (7:19)

Action: (VanGamble)

Motion: (1st Read)

Rationale: to review the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year

2. **Student Fee Schedule** 5 min (7:30) (7:42)

Action: (Jolly/Birkey)

Motion: (Vote) to approve the student fee schedule for the 2021-2022 school year

Rationale: to review and approve the student fee schedule for the 2021-2022 school year

- **Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to approve the student fee schedule for the 2021-2022 school year and was seconded..**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)**

3. **Annual Parent Survey Analysis** 30 min (7:35) (7:44)

Action: (Jolly)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review the results of the Annual Parent Survey

- Wes Jolly, TCA's Director of Academic Services, provided a presentation on the annual Parent Survey results.
- This year, our participation rate continued to be high – greater than our historical average, affirming continued passion and interest by our parent community.
- Even in a COVID year, the data received is important for principals to determine their school's strengths and areas for growth.
- Staff and teachers continue to be what parents say is the best thing about TCA.
- This year we experienced some dips in perceptions regarding Academic Preparation and Communication, and positive takeaways involved Safety, Character, and Positive Response Rates.
- As Mr. Jolly shared, *"We are not about excuses or undue praise – we will use the results to better ourselves."*

4. **Annual Charter Contract Review** 5 min (8:05) (8:26)

Action: (Coles)

Motion: (1st Read)

Rationale: to annually review and approve changes to the Charter Contract Between TCA and ASD20

- Mr. Coles reviewed the changes to the Charter for next year
- A majority of the changes came with recurring costs associated with the services TCA purchases from ASD20; for example, network access

5. **Review of Student Search Policy/Procedures** 15 min (8:10) (8:32)

Action: (Sojourner)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review TCA policy, parent's rights, and differences between ASD20 associated with student Searches

- Dr. Sojourner highlighted the following items:

- TCA adopts ASD20's policy on student searches
- Very rarely are students searched at TCA
 - Usually a search occurs when there is reasonable suspicion a student was seen with an unauthorized object; knife, drugs, tobacco, vaping, etc.
- Mr. Peterson (TCA CP-CSP) confirmed it is very rare to have a student searched at TCA
- Officer Jaramillo stated, at TCA it is much more about building relationships with students and making them feel safe; rare to have a student searched here. It does happen, but usually based on tips from other students.

C. Board Level Reports

1. Educational Alliance of Colorado (EAC) 5 min (8:25) (8:46)

Action: (Moulton/Goin)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to provide additional information on the progress of the EAC

- The EAC continues to gain traction by attracting parents who want to know more about charter schools and the issues that face charter schools; currently 2000+ members have signed up to become parent advocates

2. Annual Board Evaluation/Results 15 min (8:30) (8:51)

Action: (Moulton)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review the results of the Board Self Evaluation

- Mr. Moulton reviewed the results of Board Self Evaluation and highlighted the following items:
 - Overall, the responses to this year's evaluation were positive and will be constructive going forward
 - We have a lot to be proud of as well a couple of areas that proved to be challenging during the COVID pandemic
 - Challenges include:
 - Visiting schools more often
 - Clear communication between board, administration, and parents to increase trust
 - Free flow of ideas/information
 - Oversight vs. operational control

3. July Off-Site Discussion 5 min (8:45) (9:11)

Action: (Moulton)

Motion: (Discussion)

Rationale: to determine topics for the July 16 Board Off-Site Working Session

- Examine questions on Board Evaluation
- How to maintain TCA identity in a changing culture
- Strategic Plan
- Board/President Goals
- What will the beginning of school look like

D. Board Communication 5 min (8:50) (9:17)

Action: (Secretary)

Rationale: to develop and approve of communication update to community

- EAC
- Parent Survey
- School Rankings
- COVID Update
- Legislative update (vaccinations)

E. Future Board Agenda Items 5 min (8:55) (9:23)

1. Annual Charter Contract Review, June, Vote, Coles
2. Quarterly FAC Report, June, Info, VanGampleare
3. Current Year Budget Revision, June, Vote, VanGampleare
4. President Annual Evaluation and Compensation Determination, June, Vote, Moulton
5. Adopt a School Board Assignments, June, Discussion, Moulton
6. Budget Approval for Next FY, June, Vote, VanGampleare
7. Annual Character Report, June, Info, Jolly
8. Appreciation Committee Annual Report, June, Info, Appreciation Committee
9. Training Committee Annual Report, June, Info, Rudder/Moulton
10. Board Evaluation Action Items, June, Discussion, Moulton
11. Confirm July Working Session Agenda, June, Discussion, Moulton

F. Comments from the Board of Directors 5 min (9:00) (9:24)

- Mr. Fradette: Good luck to TCA sports teams during their playoffs

XIII. Adjournment (Approx. 9:05 p.m.) (9:05) (9:26)

- Motion: Mr. Moulton moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded.
- Discussion: None

- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)**

Timothy Hannan
TCA Board Secretary