

The Classical Academy  
975 Stout Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Regular Meeting  
February 13, 2006

I. Chairman Chris Bender called the open session to order at 6:05 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, Dick Travis, and Matt Carpenter. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President.

III. Spotlight Recognition.

North Elementary

Brook Peckham - 1<sup>st</sup> place, Geography Bee, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Jonathan Lee - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Geography Bee, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Lynnae Supplee - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Spelling Bee, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

East Elementary

Rachel O'Connor - 1<sup>st</sup> place, Spelling Bee, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Zach DeMeyer - 1<sup>st</sup> place, Geography Bee, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

IV. Comments

A. Audience:

1. Jamie Calcara discussed his perception that there are differences in the experiences of students who have been at TCA for many years, and those students that are newer to TCA. He was concerned that the experience is not significantly different for long-time students between elementary/junior high, and high school.

2. Jim Kretchman presented his ideas regarding increasing the class size limit. He informed the Board that his main concern (and that of other founding parents with whom he has spoken) is that the culture be maintained. He feels that if constantly worrying about having enough money to run the school eroded the culture, then he is for adding to the class size. \* AMENDED TO INCLUDE

3. Karen Birch commented on the Science Fair, stating how stressful meeting all the qualifications has been for her children. She recommended having only one year mandatory for participation, suggesting that it would be better to eliminate the 7<sup>th</sup> grade requirement. Mrs. Birch also told the Board that she struggles with allowing her son to participate on the wrestling team when it is conducted as a co-educational program.

JIM'S COMMENTS THAT IF THE BOARD INCREASES CLASS SIZE TO REINSTATE THE POLICY OF NOT ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS PAST 4TH GRADE.

Dick Travis summarized by stating that there are a lot of great ideas posed during this portion of the meeting. After some discussion it was decided that if further action was to be taken on a parent-suggested idea, any Board Member could bring it up again in the "Other Business" section of the meeting for future action.

B. President and Administration:

1. Mark Hyatt noted conference materials from the TCA/D-20 Character Symposium that were in the Board Member packets, saying that the conference was so well received that many TCA attendees asked that this symposium be expanded next year to allow all the staff to attend.

2. Kevin Collins presented the operations update (see attachment). Chris Bender thanked Lori Shaw for all of the work she did to bring the new TCA website online, and expressed how well the design represented TCA. Mr. Collins also gave an update on the telephone system at the request of Dick Travis, and will look into the issues brought up by Mr. Travis.

3. Don Stump told the Board that Central did not participate in the geography and spelling bees this year but will next year when 6<sup>th</sup> grade is added. Mr. Stump briefed the Board on the integration of the arts into the curriculum, and how they will make modifications for next year.

4. Mark Wertheimer remarked on the high level of questions and the enthusiasm of the students regarding the spelling and geography bees. He spoke of a teacher's creativity in using a cooking experience to teach sequential writing skills. Mr. Wertheimer explained his system of presenting commendations to students for good behavior by going to classrooms and publicly identifying good behavior in front of peers. Under this system he also makes a call to the home, and students get their picture on the wall in the office.

5. Veronica Varland was very excited about how busy North Elementary has been. The North PTO came up with the idea of having a Groundhog Day celebration, where parents would "shadow" their students all day. The event was a huge success with over 130 parents sitting side by side with their students the entire day. The staff embraced the experience, and parents now understand why their child is so tired at the end of the day! North Elementary also spent a week celebrating Mozart's birthday with many activities, including performances by high school teachers and Mrs. Varland playing the piano as "Mr. Mozart." The staff also celebrated Mrs. Rachel O'Donnell's selection as "teacher of the year" – an honor bestowed on her by her peers. Mrs. Varland reported that third grade CSAP testing starts tomorrow and the talent show is coming up.

6. Leesa Waliszewski explained to the Board the World View lessons being taught as part of our Senior Rhetoric course. This is designed to send our graduates out the door with an understanding of various world views and their effects on culture and perspective. This idea stemmed from conversations Mrs. Waliszewski has had with Jim Kretchman, Cathryn Supplee, and Chris Leland, among others. Mrs. Supplee has really carried out this vision and partnered with Bruce Casson, Dave Khaliqi, Zach Holmes and Doug Hering in putting these lessons together. Jeremy Reed will be following up later this spring with an overview of high school literature and world view influence. Although Mrs. Supplee hadn't had a chance to read through the survey responses, the students gave her a thank you card and gift certificate in appreciation of her efforts in making these experiences part of the curriculum.

7. Russ Sojourner talked about the character program, and how a multi-media presentation titled "The Courage to Stand" which targets bullying prevention will be presented at the elementary schools. Dr. Sojourner expressed how impressed he was with student knowledge in the spelling and geography bees. He gave a brief overview of how the recent seventh grade orientation went at East.

8. Peter Hilts announced that Amanda Hu is TCA's 1<sup>st</sup> National Merit Scholarship finalist – a huge accomplishment. He also stated that Chad Vanderhart, Ben Curtis, and Gary Cronk all qualified for the High School Wrestling State Tournament. They will be competing this weekend at the Pepsi Center. Mr. Hilts commented on the enormous spirit and participation that is very evident in our high school athletics.

#### C. Board:

1. Lisa Ruth commented on how pleased she was with the recent character symposium that TCA organized. She believes that the information presented will benefit all of the students of the attendees around the state.

2. Matt Carpenter relayed to the Board his and his daughter's wonderful experiences going to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball games. The two of them also attended high school games to see what they were like and decided that although the players are competitive on the court, they are respectful off – an excellent recommendation for our coaches and athletic department.

3. Dick Travis also commented on the high school athletics program, expressing his respect for our coaching staff after he witnessed unsportsmanlike behavior from other schools/teams.

4. Chris Leland commented on the Colorado Springs Charter Academy's visit to TCA to learn from us. Mr. Leland expressed his desire to maintain the culture initiated by the founding parents, regardless of the size of the school or the presence of those founding parents in our community.

5. Chris Bender presented the Candidate Packets to community members interested in running for one of two open positions on the Board of Directors. For those not in attendance at the meeting, Board candidate information is available at the TCA website.

#### V. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report. Jim Woody presented the General Fund, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Preliminary Month End January 31, 2006, Unaudited; and Balance Sheet – General Fund, as of January 31, 2006. The following quarterly reports were also presented by Dr. Woody: Unaudited Consolidated Statement of changes in Net Assets, as of December 31, 2005; Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheet, as of December 31, 2005; General Fund, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Revised 2005-06 Mid-Year Revision; and All Funds, Statement of Changes in Net Assets Budget 05-06. All reports are available as an attachment. Jim Woody noted that he had e-mailed January General Fund financials to the Board members for preview and didn't intend to review them unless there were questions. There were no questions. Jim Woody and Doug Hering then reviewed the Second Quarter FY 05/06 All Funds reports. The large change in Fund Balance from budgeted was explained and it was noted that the revised budget to be presented in Agenda Item #1 would

explain how the increase would be used. The Second Quarter Consolidated Balance Sheet was also reviewed and the undesignated cash balance in the General Fund was highlighted.

## B. Approval of Minutes

*Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Lisa Ruth, to approve the minutes from the previous TCA Board Meeting on January 9, 2006, with amendments. Roll Call. Approved by majority vote.*

*Chris Bender called for a break at 7:54 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:06 p.m.*

## VI. Agenda Items

1. Revised FY 05/06 Budget. Jim Woody and Doug Hering reviewed the Statement of Changes in Net Assets/General Fund and All Funds, with details available in the attachment. Rationale for changes from the originally adopted budget were presented and discussed. Dr. Woody noted that he would be asking the Board for an approval vote of the revised FY 05/06 Budget at their March meeting and also presenting a proposed FY 06/07 budget for a first read.

2. Fundraising Update. Mark Hyatt asked to combine this and agenda item 9, Gym/Theatre/Commons Complex, and after a brief update, turned the presentation over to Rich Haynie, TCA's Director of Development. The following is an overview of Mr. Haynie's presentation:

TCA Development Campaigns . . . Public Phase and launch for all 3:

### **Endowment (faculty/staff bonuses)** - currently has 2 efforts

1. Broad based - mailings to start in March to TCA families.
2. Lead gifts - events hosted by the Board of Directors.

Goal: \$1 million

### **Titan Club** - currently has 2 efforts

1. Broad based - membership drive, kickoff event February 27, 2006.
2. Lead gifts – face-to-face solicitations.

Goal: \$250k-300k per year

### **Performing Arts Center (PAC)** - combination of facilities consisting of theatre, athletics and educational classrooms; currently has 1 effort

1. Kroc family gift.

Goal: multi-million dollar facilities; up to \$30 million

How the stage is set:

\*TCA in-house potential

-Greater than 50% of families in top zip code; discovered in past few months of demographic study.

-IRS statistics point to a 2-3% donation level from gross income.

--This zip code encompasses greater than \$100,000 income level.

--If we could realize a 1% donation result and 500 families responded, this would mean \$500,000 raised annually toward goal.

-Titan Club activities membership has been set at \$300 per year; we have also committed to a golf tourney (May 22) and solicitation of lead gifts.

--If 450 families join the Titan Club, this would result in \$135,000 annually.

--Golf tourney (61 conducted) netted between \$40k and \$200k+.

--Lead gifts feasible pyramid or table totals \$160,000; 40k (1), 20k (2), 10k (4), 5k (8).

\*Community potential (currently 3 foci)

-Golf event offers numerous corporate sponsorships.

-Foundation proposals that right now would target interest in education, character development and community involvement with TCA.

-Kroc legacy gift (up to \$30 million that would not involve TCA family).

3. Community Service Policy. Dick Travis had two reasons for bringing this up: the first, discuss, clarify, and possibly modify the current Community Service Policy. The second is to open the dialog on the various levels of policy that now exist at TCA and to distinguish Board policy from administration implementation. He presented two possible resolutions for future discussion which may be seen in the attachment.

4. School Calendar Approval. Kevin Collins reviewed the process, identifying the changes made because of previous Board input. The Board reviewed suggested changes to the Calendar Development-Philosophy & Parameters Policy Directive and discussed changes related to the current survey. It was reiterated that the Board sets the policy included in the Directive and the Administration develops a calendar based on the policies' parameters.

*Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Lisa Ruth, that the Board accept the identified changes to the Calendar Development-Philosophy & Parameters Policy Directive 501-05. Roll Call. Approved by majority vote. Chris Leland, yea; Dick Travis, yea; Lisa Ruth, yea; Chris Bender, yea; Clark Miller, yea; Lisa Sutton, no; Matt Carpenter, yea.*

*Chris Bender called for a break at 10:04 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:14 p.m.*

5. Curriculum Review Plan. Leesa Waliszewski presented this document as an information item only, giving the Board an idea of the seven-year plan for reviewing our curriculum. One or two K-12 content areas will be reviewed each year involving parents, teachers, and administration. Budget projections have been given to Doug Hering and Jim Woody so that they can incorporate these reviews into future budgets. This will allow for the replacement and/or enhancement of various aspects of the curriculum in a step manner that will not overburden the budget on any given year. Chris Bender asked Mrs. Waliszewski to send a Special Delivery to the TCA community outlining

the basic content areas of discussion each year in the cycle and giving parents a heads-up that there will be upcoming opportunities to give feedback and to serve on the review committees.

6. High School Home School Extension. Peter Hilts identified the modification of the draft presented during the January 9, 2006 Board Meeting. This document may be seen in the attachment.

*Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Clark Miller, to accept the High School Home School Extension Proposal, as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

7. New Course Approval. Peter Hilts and Hal Meyer presented to the Board a listing of classes they would like to offer to secondary students for the 2006/2007 academic year. These courses would be implemented only if several criteria were met, including student interest, staff/facility availability, and budget funds.

*Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Dick Travis, to accept the Proposed Course Additions for 2006-2007, as written. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

8. Endowment. Jim Woody presented an update on the endowment, with details available for review in the attachment. Dr. Woody publicly thanked Rick Mueller, whose financial genius has been extremely beneficial to TCA.

9. Gym/Theatre/Commons Complex. See agenda item 2.

VII. Other Business: None.

VIII. Future Agenda Items:

1. Community Service Policy.
2. Enrollment Policies Review.

IX. Executive Session:

*Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Chris Leland, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 11:30 p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

X. Adjournment:

*Moved by Dick Travis, Seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn at 12:10 a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*



Chris Bender  
Chairman



Chris Leland  
Secretary