

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Monday, Aug 13, 2007

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Chris Leland called the open session to order at 6:02 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, Matt Carpenter, Lisa Ruth, Steve Tomberlin, Chris Bender, Lisa Sutton, and Clark Miller. Also present: Steve Pope, Director-elect and Mark Hyatt, President.
- III. Spotlight Recognition – Peter Hilts congratulated 9th grader Ethan Hahn on his award of Runner-up at the AFCE National Science Fair, for his experiment on cold fusion.
- IV. Board Development – A continuing series of presentations highlighting the formation of TCA’s mission, values, and philosophy. Several “book reports” will be presented over the next several months, focusing on books used to develop TCA’s mission and core values. Lisa Ruth reported on the book Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know by E. D. Hirsch, highlighting the major themes of a decline in literate knowledge, and loss of a common shared cultural literacy. Matt Carpenter cited ten principles from The Educated Child by William J. Bennett. He recommended this book as a reference tool for parents to read at each stage of their child’s development. Steve Pope asked if we should change anything, as a result of these readings, and Matt Carpenter suggested that some of the key components might be valuable in strategic planning and in measurements. Chris Leland praised Leesa Waliszewski and her team for our students’ high level of cultural literacy.
- V. Comments
 - A. From the Audience. Karen Birch inquired into the outcome of two agenda items from the July meeting, and offered a suggestion for the Calendar Subcommittee to consider, regarding bus service expectations.
 - B. From the President. Mark Hyatt opened by commending Diana Burditt and Kevin Collins and their teams for the outstanding renovation work at the East Campus. He then reported on the TCA-hosted Legislative Town Hall—nearly 100 people attended to hear leaders discuss the topics of charter schools and school choice. President Hyatt then offered insights into the first meeting of Governor Ritter’s P-20 Education Council, and expressed the hope that the committee can discuss the importance of character education. He is also continuing to meet with Representative Merrifield and representatives from both the Colorado Education Association (CEA) and Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), to perpetuate a dialogue on support and funding for charter schools. He then announced a recent donation of \$93,000 in furniture from Estes Park, due to a suggestion from a TCA parent.
 - C. Operations Update. Kevin Collins reported on the concept for the Calendar Subcommittee, citing his intent to obtain a variety of representation, and to use an accelerated to review the issues. Steve Tomberlin offered examples of various constituent groups, including representatives from each campus, the faculty, activities (both internal and external to TCA), parents with students in elementary and

secondary, bus users, etc. Mr. Collins then highlighted Operations issues from Attachment 1. He then presented staff retention statistics for the last several years (Attachment 2). Following the report on student attrition numbers, Chris Leland indicated that retention and class size are likely to be important issues with the parent community in the coming years. Mark Hyatt updated the Board on contributions toward installation of athletic field lights. The Board wished Kevin Collins a happy birthday.

D. Administration

1. Finance. Doug Hering reported that our annual audit went well, and was completed ahead of schedule. He then announced that last year's President's Initiative on Safety resulted in such marked improvement that our premiums will be reduced. Since this reduction was due to a great team effort by all TCA employees, we're planning to increase the amount of the return bonus from \$300 to \$350 for all employees. Mark Hyatt shared that the two President's Initiatives for 07/08 will be "Safety" for the staff and faculty, and "Mutual Respect" for the students.

2. Dean of Instructional Philosophy.

a. Leesa Waliszewski shared highlights of the new teacher training, citing the big dividends we are accruing by leading our training with a focus on TCA's philosophy.

b. She then reviewed the CSAP information presented in Attachment 3, describing this data as one of several measurements we use to assess ourselves. We'll be sharing this with our teachers, and next month the principals will offer some specific goals. Mark Hyatt emphasized that while this is only one indicator of success, it appears that the longer that students stay in the TCA system, the better they perform. He alerted the Board to anticipate more state emphasis on longitudinal assessment. This should give teachers better data so we can tailor instruction for each student

3. Principals Peter Hiltz and Don Stump reported on preparations for the beginning of school at our secondary and elementary schools.

E. From the Board

1. Steve Pope inquired whether we should develop and administer a TCA-specific assessment test, above and beyond CSAPs.

2. Lisa Sutton recounted the success of the 7th grade Back to School Party, thanking parents Sarah McGuire and Lorelei Coyle for their contributions to the event.

3. Chris Bender described the great presentations by our founders at Heritage Night, and how important it is for the TCA community to maintain that touchstone connection. He asked that the Board revisit the issue of appreciating our staff.

4. Steve Tomberlin praised the New Teacher Orientation. He observed great enthusiasm, and a variety of perspectives elicited by Steve Wright's thought-provoking presentation.

5. Chris Leland also highlighted Heritage Night, specifically citing Vance Brown's description of the "heart" of TCA's community as touching and profound way to depict the intangibles that make up much of our culture. He challenged the entire community to think about what they might put into a TCA time capsule, for future generations.

- F. Hail & Farewell. In a bittersweet presentation, Chris Leland bade farewell to Treasurer Lisa Ruth. Each of the directors expressed their personal appreciation for her leadership, tenacity, perspective, and heart. On behalf of the Leadership Team, Mark Hyatt emphasized that TCA is a better school because of Lisa Ruth's leadership. Chris Leland then presented a gift on behalf of the Board.

Chris Leland called for a break at 7:28 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:39 p.m.

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. Approval of Minutes. Moved to Discussion Agenda.
- B. End of Year Review, FY06-07. Moved to Discussion Agenda.
- C. Plan for Annual Policy Review / Publishing Directive Guidance. Kevin Collins presented the plan to accomplish an annual review of all TCA policies (Attachments 4 and 5).
- D. Subcommittee Report - Ten Year Anniversary Plan. Moved to Discussion Agenda.

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. Approval of Minutes. The minutes at Attachment 6 were approved as amended.
- B. End of Year Review, FY06-07. Doug Hering reviewed the End of Year Statement (Attachments 7-10), and announced that the year ended well under budget, with the very successful Spring Fling accounting for several of the deltas. Chris Bender asked why we are short on spending revenue, and Dr. Hering responded that we are still working with D20 on some reconciliations. Steve Tomberlin inquired whether it would be more prudent to purchase our modulars instead of renting them long-term. Lisa Ruth suggested that it might be time to assess our designated funds, and take appropriate action. Mark Hyatt will present a report of unused designated funds, and compare it with our organizational priorities.
- C. Subcommittee Report - Ten Year Anniversary Plan. Mark Hyatt presented an update on the plans to commemorate TCA's 10-year anniversary (Attachment 11), and announced that the date for the formal commemoration will be Saturday, September 29th, from 4:00pm – 6:00pm at the North Campus.
- D. Highly Qualified Status of TCA Teachers. Mark Hyatt described the painful process of dismissing three great TCA teachers due to updated requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. He described the potential \$350,000 fine as an example of "creeping bureaucracy," impeding charter schools' abilities to operate with minimal constraints, and undermining the Charter Schools Act. Steve Tomberlin suggested that we develop a long-range planning consideration on how to establish our sources of income so that TCA has as much ownership of revenue sources as possible. Chris Leland recommended the Directors educate themselves on NCLB and the five additional pending requirements. Mark Hyatt alerted the Board that there is also a movement towards licensing principals and administrators.

- E. Charter Review. Kevin Collins affirmed that there were no changes to Attachment 12 since the first read, and requested approval for our charter renewal package.

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve the Charter Renewal Package as submitted. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

- F. Vision Subcommittee Report. Lisa Ruth augmented the information in Attachment 13, and proposed the following vision statement: "Shaping students to make a positive impact on their world." She reported that the subcommittee is also continuing work on a more detailed vision description. Chris Bender asked how the vision statement would be used separate from the mission statement. Chris Leland explained it would serve as an abbreviated version of TCA's essence. Steve Tomberlin described it as an integration of the mission, core values and philosophy. Diana Burditt urged that it add tangible detail to help others visualize what the mission statement will look like. Chris Bender asserted that the proposed statement shows no distinction about TCA, and urged that this statement should mark us as unique, and ensure we stand out from every other school. Chris Leland summarized the key points of the discussion as centering on "distinctiveness" and "future-driven." Chris Bender concurred that a 10-year vision will help us determine what we need to work on now. Chris Leland suggested that our current mission statement could be a combination mission/vision statement. He will clarify the charge to the Vision Subcommittee, and their next report will be due at the September meeting, with the goal of a final draft at the November meeting.
- G. Proposed Code of Conduct Revision. Steve Tomberlin proposed a change to the bylaws, Article 3, Section 3.2 (last sentence), from a 3/4 percentage of directors, to a fixed number of 5 (of 7) to remove a Director. Chris Bender noted that having a percentage allows for unplanned things like an absent or recused director. Lisa Ruth and Steve Tomberlin urged that we clarify the policy now, so that we are not in the position of interpreting the policy during a crisis. Steve Tomberlin proposed the following addition be made at the end of the current sentence [emphasis added]: Any Director may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by a vote of three-fourths of the other Directors then in office, **to be rounded up in a fractional vote.** This proposal will be voted on at the September meeting.
- H. Board Elections and TCA Family Voting. Matt Carpenter opened a discussion on the processes for increasing voter turn-out for board elections, and for increasing informed voters. He asked if there was interest in making it a requirement for voters to attend an event at which the candidates spoke. Chris Bender asked if that event should be limited to the annual meeting. Steve Tomberlin described the ideal of a very involved, very dedicated parent, and asserted that we shouldn't sacrifice the quality of voter for the sake of voter convenience. Chris Bender suggested that we not create more opportunities to vote without simultaneously creating more opportunities to educate the voters. Steve Tomberlin expressed concern about the level of voter commitment, and averring that higher standards will result in a higher percentage of involvement. Clark Miller observed that if voting was restricted to a single meeting, that it could allow a minority to determine the election. Lisa Ruth recommended shortening the election campaign period, suggesting that it fragments our community. Chris Leland and Matt Carpenter will lead a review of the policies for our election process, succession plan, and induction process, and will report in October.

Chris Leland called for a break at 9:32 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

- I. Board Officer Position Elections. Chris Leland opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair, Board Secretary, and Board Treasurer.

1. Matt Carpenter and Steve Tomberlin were nominated to serve as Board Chair. Private ballots were tallied, and Matt Carpenter was elected Board Chair.

2. Chris Bender was nominated as Board Secretary, and Clark Miller was nominated as Board Treasurer. Each ran unopposed, and both were elected to their respective offices by a voice vote.

Chris Leland thanked the community for the opportunity to serve TCA as the Board Chair. He looks forward to working with the new officers, and to the joy of taking on new challenges.

J. Induction of New Director. Steve Pope repeated the affirmation, and was inducted by Chris Leland as a Director of the TCA Board.

VIII. Other Business

- A. The Board Clerk asked all directors have their yearbook pictures taken on Friday at the North Campus.
- B. Mark Hyatt was asked to propose some dates for Board and Lead Team offsites/working sessions.
- C. Steve Pope will work with Matt Carpenter to discuss annual goals and objectives for the Board, and the Board meeting format.

IX. Future Agenda Items

- A. Disposition of Titan Trust Review (Stewardship) – Information
- B. CSAP Report – Information
- C. Endowment Review – Information
- D. Calendar Subcommittee Report – Information
- E. Verification of Accreditation Absolutes – First Read
- F. Designated Non-PPF Monies – Discussion
- G. Vision Subcommittee – Information/Discussion
- H. Staff Appreciation and Board Involvement – Discussion
- I. Proposed Code of Conduct Revision – Vote
- J. TCA President's Annual Objectives for 2007-2008 – Information
- K. Review of Board Policies for the Election Process, Succession Plan, and Induction Process – Information/Discussion (Oct)
- L. By-law Review and Revision and Standing Subcommittees of the Board – First Read (Nov)

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 9:58 p.m., and to invite outgoing Director Lisa Ruth to attend. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

X. Executive Session

- A. President's Annual Review (End) – Vote

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Chris Leland, to move out of Executive Session at 12:04 a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Steve Tomberlin, to adjourn at 12:05 a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Matt Carpenter
Chairman

Chris Bender
Secretary