

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
North Campus
Monday, Feb 11, 2008

- I. Call to Order. Chairman Matt Carpenter called the open session to order at 6:03 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, Chris Bender, Clark Miller, Steve Tomberlin, and Lisa Sutton. Steve Pope arrived at 6:05 p.m. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President.

Matt Carpenter made a special presentation to Dr. Chris Leland for his service on the TCA Board of Directors. Dr. Leland expressed his gratitude for the honor of serving the school.
- III. Spotlight Recognition. Dr. Sojourner presented teacher and MathCounts coach Beth Adams. She introduced the following students who competed at the chapter (city-wide) competition of MathCounts: Michael Brown, Kenny Crane, Jason Loving, Quint Mediate, Steven Murphy, Jake Purvis, Holly Stuart, and Evan Willis. Special congratulations went to Michael, Kenny, Jason, and Jake for placing 3rd out of 14 teams, and earning a trophy. Jason Loving also placed 10th as an individual and will be representing TCA at the state competition in early March.
- IV. Board Development – Book Reports. In a continuing series of presentations highlighting the formation of TCA’s mission, values, and philosophy, Steve Tomberlin led the Board in a participative exercise in narration, using the book, When Children Love to Learn, by Elaine Cooper.
- V. Interviews of TCA Director Candidates and Selection of TCA Board of Director. To select a director to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Chris Leland, the Board interviewed three candidates: Vance Brown, Wendy Hammack-Smith, and Lisa Ruth (Prepared statements at Attachment 1). The Board then voted by written ballot, and Vance Brown was appointed to fill remainder of Chris Leland’s term.
- VI. Comments
 - A. From the Audience. Kevin Collins summarized an e-mail request from a former TCA family for an exception to policy to invoke legacy status for their daughter now (at semester), instead of waiting until the beginning of next school year in August 2008. Mark Hyatt and the Leadership Team recommended that the Board consider this exception to policy.

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve an exception to policy to invoke legacy status at mid semester for the requesting family. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

The remainder of the audience asked to defer the comment period until agenda item VIII.C.
(Reconfiguring Elementary Programs)

B. From the President. Mark Hyatt reminded everyone of the upcoming Character Conference, announcing that all teachers and staff will attend.

C. From the Administration.

1. Peter Hilts reported, based on observations and evaluations, that we have some technically excellent teachers, who are also great at relationship-building.

2. Leesa Waliszewski praised our staff of teacher-leaders such as grade level reps to coordinate major events for students, and department teams to ensure curricular excellence.

3. Hal Meyer announced that the scheduling process for high school has begun, with the kickoff on Wednesday night.

4. Russ Sojourner offered kudos to teachers Candace Muir and Phil Eaton for superb execution of our 5th annual Science Fair.

5. Diana Burditt expressed gratitude to the East staff and PTO. She highlighted Louise Lobosco's work on the Jump for Heart event--students earned \$650 for the American Heart Association. She announced that CSAP testing is just around the corner.

6. Don Stump commented on how well our teachers are inspiring the joy of learning in our students. He described the recent Spelling Bee as a safe, encouraging environment.

D. From the Board.

1. Matt Carpenter read a statement (which will also be sent via Special Delivery), denouncing recent anonymous e-mails by a group calling themselves "TCA Parents Unite." The e-mails were vindictive and threatening in nature, so he will also put this matter into the hands of the police. He decried this type of behavior as not appropriate within the TCA community. Clark Miller also read a prepared statement denouncing the tactics and behavior of "TCA Parents Unite." Steve Tomberlin urged the audience, and the larger TCA Community, to join together to shut off this type of behavior. Steve Pope expressed regret that our Board members had received such e-mails.

2. Clark Miller described how he had enjoyed "Shadow Your Child Day." He echoed the praise for the Science Fair.

3. Steve Tomberlin reported on a meeting with administrators from a Charlotte Mason school in Washington D.C. He complimented everyone at TCA for the work they are doing here.

4. Chris Bender praised our senior program as a gift for our students, and commended Peter Hilts and his team, including the Administration and teachers. Peter Hilts thanked the Board for the decision made two years ago, approving this program. Chris Bender closed by thanking the Elementary Principals.

VII. 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 (Dec 10 and Jan 4) was deferred to the March meeting, and removed from the Consent Agenda.
- B. Monthly Financials for Jan (Attachments 2 and 3)
- C. Operations Update (Attachment 4)

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve items B and C on the Consent Agenda. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

VIII. 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. Announce Board of Director Vacancies. Chris Bender announced the three vacant seats for the upcoming election--those currently held by Matt Carpenter, Clark Miller, and Lisa Sutton. Candidate packages are available, and petitions are due March 6th. Contact Chris Bender and/or Lori Salgado with any questions.
- B. East Campus Facilities. Mark Hyatt opened by requesting permission to exceed the Grant of Authority to execute over \$50,000 through this school year, in order to continue to house our East students in D20 facilities. The rental costs average \$18,000 per month, and the total impact to the budget would be an estimated increase of between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Also, if we extend classes into June, the costs might be higher. Matt Carpenter suggested that this not be a separate vote, but that it be included in the first read on the budget process. Mark Hyatt then reminded the Board that although our students are safe, there is still a lot of stress on families and teachers.

Kevin Collins provided several attachments (Attachments 5 - 11), highlighting a number of issues of concern with the construction bids for our RFP (Request for Proposal) process. The industry standards and costs per square foot are discouraging, with one contractor withdrawing because they could not meet our cost-per-square-foot requirements. The TCA East Design Committee met on Feb 4th, and will meet again tomorrow. We received the core soil sample and geo-tech reports today. Since we're in the middle of the RFP process, Mr. Collins asked the Board to consider a special Board meeting on February 28th, so we can provide additional updates before a contractor is selected, and stay on our desired timeline. He thanked D20 for helping us to compress our timeline, and achieve our objectives. He then presented Chris Coulter, the D20 Executive Director of Construction Management.

Chris Coulter reviewed a conceptual timeline, which would target August of 2009 to begin classes in the new building. He reported that 10 contractors were qualified during the RFQ (Request for Qualification) process, and four were selected to present a proposal. During the RFP process, we'll engage in intensive design conferences with each contractor, based on what we asked for, and we'll value engineer each proposal. We'll be very cautious as we examine what each contractor includes in their square-foot cost. Since D20's average cost-per-square-foot is about \$200, we'll be looking for creativity on the part of the contractors to reach our desired cost of \$110/sq ft.

Matt Carpenter asked for an update on our request for a waiver for contact hours. Mark Hyatt reported that we have submitted the request to D-20, and they will petition the Colorado Department of Education. Although we are pretty well caught up on our curriculum, our intent in this request is to increase our options--if this is waiver approved, we can determine whether we will exercise some, all, or none of it.

The Board and Leadership Team then wished a very happy 50th birthday to Diana Burditt.

Matt Carpenter called for a break at 8:13 p.m. During the break, Leesa Waliszewski conducted a tour of the Lab School classroom in Modular 9 for the Board members. The meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

C. Reconfiguring Elementary Programs. Leesa Waliszewski presented a preliminary proposal to incorporate many of the aspects we've been exploring in our Lab School (Attachment 12). We would aim for a philosophical "hybrid", not a pure Charlotte Mason approach, with a graduated implementation, rather than all at once. The Board would need to approve the proposed maximum class size of 16. Doug Hering provided an income statement model (Attachment 13) for the proposal. Matt Carpenter then opened the floor to audience comments.

1. Jim Kretchman expressed shock and sadness over Matt Carpenter's statement of denouncement (Item VI.D.1.), reminding the TCA parent community that we have a unique role, and should be responsible to send a message to our peers.

2. Mary Kretchman asked the Board to defer a decision on the proposal to reconfigure elementary programs for the coming year, in order to thoroughly investigate it, and develop the buy-in from teachers and parents, since this appears to be a shift in philosophy.

3. Jim Kretchman praised the Instructional Philosophy Team, and asked that they consider his comments within that context. He asked for awareness that this was a "course change," and requested due diligence as it is considered.

4. Cheng Hsieh concurred with the previous comments, and asked if we have done a risk assessment on this proposal, specifically how students will react to this change. He observed that one month was a short period in which to make this decision. He thanked Diana Burditt for her leadership.

5. Leslie Giesbrecht questioned the impact on students when they enter 7th grade, if some students have had fewer years with this methodology than others. She also inquired whether we were increasing the workload on our teachers, by reducing the number of tutors. She asked whether we would lose money by reducing class sizes. She closed by commenting that many parents did not expect or choose this when they first became part of TCA.

6. Jamie Lifto's questions were read by proxy by David Robinson. She was concerned about reducing tutors and Spanish instruction time. She asked how this new proposal would address students with special needs. She closed by asking for clarifications on rumors about students being required to clean school bathrooms.

7. Diane Palermo spoke in support of the current 5th grade Latin program. She requested clarification on TCA's definition of "classical" education, and the role and value of Latin in our curriculum.

8. Brenda White highlighted four concerns about this proposal: Loss of tutors, lack of staff input, classroom space, changing a successful system, and potential for a reduction in teacher pay. She requested the Board weigh all aspects of this decision carefully.

9. Debbie Balke offered her opinion that next year is too early to implement this, since parents have not been adequately informed.

10. Janet Olson concurred that we appear to be moving too quickly to implement this proposal. She asked when students with special needs will receive help, since they are currently pulled out of Spanish class.

11. Brian Barr described how impressed he is by the Administration, and their efforts to help TCA constantly improve. He indicated that he preferred making this proposal optional, rather than mandatory for all students. This would allow parents to determine which children might benefit most from it.

12. Cheryl Lyn Sandbakken asked the Board to consider three things. First, a teacher team of five might be more difficult to effectively manage. Second, she expressed concern and mixed feelings about losing Latin. Finally, the Spanish teachers have improved the curriculum so much this year, and we're seeing great results.

13. Barb Childress indicated that the price of this proposal would be too high for classicists. She also cautioned that data from a self-selected sample, such as this year's Lab School, can lead to fallacious conclusions

14. John Robillard applauded the fact that TCA is open to new ideas. However, this program appears to be "helicopter-ish," with teachers hovering over students. He asked that this proposal be put in front of the parents for a longer period before making a decision.

15. Kirk Cameron described TCA as a hybrid school, with elements of different philosophies, and that we are always looking for the best combination. He supported taking additional time to consider this proposal.

16. Betty Jo Bolt thanked the Administration for "stretching" her to consider new ideas. She asked that communication on this issue be provided in an easy-to-read format. She requested that we involve, consult, and trust the teachers, and move as slowly as we can.

Leesa Waliszewski reiterated that this is a preliminary proposal—discussions are just beginning, and we'll be exploring details in conversations with a variety of constituent groups. Mark Hyatt emphasized that the Board needed to hear this proposal first, and then provide direction. This makes it difficult to hold community forums in advance of a proposal. Matt Carpenter and Steve Tomberlin thanked the Administration for constantly rising to the challenge of fulfilling our mission statement. Steve Pope indicated that we should not lose the momentum that we have gained on the Lab School experiment. Mark Hyatt thanked the audience for their candid, civil comments, and asked that they continue to bring concerns forward.

- D. School Calendar Review (08/09 and 09/10). Kevin Collins indicated that the only changes since the last meeting were to correct typographical errors (Attachments 14 - 20).

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Clark Miller, to approve the 2008/09 and 2009/10 school calendars as presented. Roll call. Approved by unanimous vote.

- E. TCA Building Corp - Appoint Directors. This item was postponed to the next meeting.
- F. Current Year Budget Revision. Doug Hering presented a first read (Attachments 21-22), indicating that the PPR is much higher, due to the lab school effect. The payroll line is on budget, and the only other major revenue item change is a net gain, since we won't complete the sewer project this year.
- G. Fund-raising Report. Mark Hyatt opened with a quick update on grants—thus far this year we've garnered \$145,400, and we're applying for \$1.5M in other grants. We've received \$293,000 in donations to the Titan Trust, and Springfling has not even begun. We've met the \$50,000 goal for the endowment, and have collected \$168,000 in pledges and contributions for the East Campus.

Matthew Monberg has compiled a report on fundraising for the East Campus, which will be e-mailed to the Board. The motto for the capital campaign will be "One for All." Steve Pope confirmed that portions

of Springfling contributions will help with the East building project, and Matt Carpenter announced that the Springfling may become a Fallfling.

- H. Quarterly Review. Doug Hering provided a quarterly review of all funds, with highlights from the monthly General Fund (Attachments 23 - 24). He announced that our relationship with Integrity Bank has resulted in time savings and a better return on our investments. Therefore, we're in a reasonable financial position to begin the building process for the new East Campus.

Steve Pope departed the meeting at 11:16pm.

- I. Core Values Committee Report. This item was postponed until a future meeting.
- J. Encourage Use of Fall Break to Enhance TCA Philosophy. Chris Bender announced that he will be discussing this idea with all of the PTOs, and he will make a report at the March meeting.

IX. Other Business

X. Future Agenda Items

- A. Announce Board of Director Candidates – Information
- B. Current Year Budget Revision - Vote
- C. Preliminary Annual Budget (for next fiscal year) - First Read
- D. Endowment Review - Information
- E. Code of Conduct for Leadership Volunteers - First Read
- F. Core Values Committee Report
- G. Encourage Use of Fall Break to Enhance TCA Philosophy

XII. Executive Session

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Clark Miller, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4) (f), Personnel and Discipline Matters, at 11:30 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Moved by Steve Tomberlin, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to adjourn to public session at 12:15a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

XIII. Adjournment

Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Matt Carpenter, to adjourn at 12:17 a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Matt Carpenter
Chairman

Chris Bender
Secretary