

The Classical Academy  
975 Stout Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Meeting  
Central Campus Gymnasium  
Monday, October 20, 2008

I. Call to Order. Chairman Matt Carpenter called the open session to order at 6:03p.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, Steve Pope, Lisa Sutton, Vance Brown, and Jim Kretchman. Chris Bender via telecom. Clark Miller excused. Also present: Mark Hyatt, President.

III. Comments

A. From the Audience

Karen Birch, a TCA parent, reminded all that the state playoff soccer is a home game on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also was concerned that the new East Gym will not be big enough to host sporting events. As a parent, she didn't want to see what happened at the North Campus (with the after-market lights) happen with the new East Gym and after-thoughts about building a brand new gym and not having it big enough for all TCA sports tournaments. She recommended the Board and Administration consider building it big enough for all of the TCA family as a second facility.

B. From the Administration

Mark Hyatt commented on the outstanding TCA Homecoming 2008. Around 1500 students, family, and community were in attendance generating more excitement than any other TCA event! He thanked all who helped make it happen and the spirit set a new standard at TCA.

Kevin Collins spoke on Operations Fall Break projects. Ops fixed the retention pond area and its back in serviceable condition. The team is working new software for hiring and assigning substitutes. The Registrar finished the October Count, with the Annual Report on the Board Meeting Agenda for November.


Leesa Waliszewski presented the results of the "Zoomerang" survey of those 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers with 16 kids in their class. After open conversations with the team of teachers, the survey was a second way to confirm what the team was already working on. The top two highlights included the difference in class dynamics with 16 students compared to a 20 student classroom. Also, the survey provided positive feedback for lunchtime spent with the students. The answers matched what Leesa's team had heard anecdotally from the beginning of the school year. Its not a big difference between 20 and 22 students, but a big difference between 16 and 20 students. Finally, the plan is to survey parents with children in the Lab School classrooms later this semester.

The IPDs are also working on the November 2008 Building the Passion Conference. All are welcome – the Conference is scheduled for the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Peter Hilts heard many positives from parents regarding the excellent Parent/Teacher Conferences. Congratulations to the excellent teachers and their efforts. He added all fall sports teams that could qualify for playoffs did qualify for playoffs and set a new mark for TCA.

Russ Sojourner noted that 50-75% parents (vice the approx. 15-25% in public schools) come to meet with teachers during conferences. Both teachers and parents echoed how great this conference experience was.

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.



Russ continued to discuss the Fall 2008 Mountain Lab. He thanked Lisa and Jim for joining in the experience. There was one broken bone, one dehydrated student, and finally, Russ sent their first-ever student home for behavior. This Mountain Lab was the largest group ever with 191 kids.

Finally, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the ITBS tests on Tuesday, Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will still be on their regular schedules.

Diana Burditt echoed the secondary principal's thoughts on great Parent/Teacher Conferences. The students and the teachers came back refreshed from Fall Break and is glad to be back. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are also taking the ITBS tests this week.

Don Stump's Central Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> graders went to Camp Alexander. He wanted to give kudos to Ruth Miller – she did an outstanding job.

Mark Hyatt announced the new Director of TCA's Secondary Home School Extension – Mary Perez. She comes to TCA from 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Early Colleges Charter Schools. Mary's also a math teacher and adjunct professor at PPCC. She will start in January as a .8FTE – go full-time in May.

The School Psychologist, Tammy Branan and Matt Sutton, do a wonderful job with our students. Many students drop in and visit; Tammy and Matt try to never turn anyone away.

Mark introduced this Fall's Parent Workshop which will be presented on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the North Campus. The guest speaker is Tim Sanford who will present Part I in Fall 2008 and Part II in Spring 2009 about dealing with adolescence and how to make it easier.

Finally, Mark shared that the Colorado League of Charter Schools are offering a Conference on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Half-day admission is free to parents.

#### C. From the Board

Vance Brown repeated the staff's statement about homecoming and how it was a milestone in the history of the school. It exemplified how to build community. Thanks to everybody who made that happen. Vance is excited about the future at TCA.

From a parent's point of view, Chris Bender really appreciates the effort teachers put into conferences. He apologized for having to join via phone but looks forward to the meeting.

#### IV. 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- Handout (September 8<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>) – Not included.

B. Monthly Financials

*Moved by Vance Brown, seconded by Jim Kretchman, to approve the Consent Agenda Item (Approval of Minutes not included). Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote at 6:35p.m. Chris Bender abstained.*

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## V. 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. Update on TCA East Campus

Item: To inform the Board of progress since September 8, 2008 Board Meeting

Presenter: Mark Hyatt

For: Information

TCA sold the bonds in the middle of market fluctuations. The closing date is October 30, 2008 – the same day TCA plans to “start moving dirt.” We ended up paying a higher interest rate than desired at approximately 7%. TCA can refinance if/ when interest rates turn around. The impact of the interest rate comes to an annual mortgage payment of \$1.16M vice \$900k.

Due to the nation’s financial crisis, the building will not be completed by first day of school 2009. At the November 10, 2008 Board Meeting, Mark plans to present contingency plans for East and CSP students next fall. Once all of the legal contracts are signed, TCA will have a good “start date” for class, anticipating it would take 11 months to build a new facility. Chris Coulter, the construction lead, will brief the Board on the progress at the next meeting. Matt recommended keeping the “Update on TCA East Campus” as a recurring item on the Board Meeting Agenda.

### B. Revised 2008-2009 Budget

Item: To present to the Board the revised TCA budget (with MLO, without MLO)

Presenter: Doug Hering

For: First Read

Doug presented TCA financials both with the Mill Levy Override and without the Mill Levy. The General Fund without the Mill Levy shows major changes since April coming from the change of plans to not rebuild at the Scarborough Campus. The Capital Construction Grant is no longer “highly likely” since the state changed the whole process for accessing grant monies. The new committee hasn’t approved any grants yet – likely we’ll get something, but not what we expected.

The TCA financials with the Mill Levy Override bring in \$409k sometime between January – May 2009 (shown in the PPR line). Some would go to the initial payments on the first floor, along with a percentage paid to the staff as a one time stipend/bonus. Currently, the polls show slightly over 50% in favor of passing the Mill Levy Override, demonstrating that every vote counts.

The Second Read/Vote is on the November 10, 2008 Board Meeting Agenda.

*Moved by Vance Brown, seconded by Jim Kretchman, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) at 7:05p.m, for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and requests from two families. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

The following agenda items were discussed by the Board during Executive Session:

TCA Presidential Objectives

Item: To finalize Presidential Objectives for 2008-2009

Presenter: Matt Carpenter

For: Vote

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*Moved by Jim Kretchman, seconded by Steve Pope, to adjourn to public session at 11:08pm. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

*Moved by Steve Pope, seconded by Vance Brown, to approve TCA President's Objectives #1-4 and #8-10, as proposed, at 11:09pm. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*

Vote on TCA President's Objectives #5, 6, and 7 will defer to the November 10, 2008 Board Meeting Agenda.

C. Approve TCA Charter

Item: To approve TCA Charter with D-20

Presenter: Mark Hyatt/Kevin Collins

For: Vote

The Charter represents a 6 month process of working with District 20. Kevin provided a copy of Charter at the September Board Meeting for First Read and didn't receive any feedback.

*Moved by Vance Brown, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to approve The Classical Academy Charter. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote at 11:10p.m.*

D. Mill Levy Override Message

Item: To discuss the message the Board would like to send to the TCA Community

Presenter: Matt Carpenter

For: Discussion/Vote

Although the TCA Board cannot spend TCA funds towards Ballot Issue 3A, they can send out a Special Delivery Resolution, along with private individuals and businesses contributing funds. Yard signs were handed out during Homecoming Week and a webcam sent from parents to other families. The Board is drafting their resolution to send to the TCA Community.

Future Agenda Items

- A. Registrar Report – Nov.
- B. Audit Review – Nov.
- C. Quarterly Review – Nov.
- D. Board Code of Conduct – Nov.
- E. Board Orientation – Nov.
- F. Succession Planning – Nov.
- G. Grant of Authority – Nov.
- H. Fundraising Philosophy/Report – Nov.
- I. Teacher Compensation Plan – Nov.
- J. Parent Survey Plan – Dec.
- K. New Course Proposals – Dec.
- L. General Fund Revenue Projection, FY09-10 – Dec.

IV. Adjournment

*Moved by Lisa Sutton, seconded by Steve Pope, to adjourn meeting at 11:27p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.*