

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Meeting
North Campus
Monday, June 8, 2009

- I. Call to Order. Chairman Matt Carpenter called the open session to order at 5:05p.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, Clark Miller, Chris Bender, Vance Brown, Lisa Sutton, and Jim Kretchman. Also present: Ron Mast and Jim Woody; Directors-Elect.
- III. Executive Session - per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) and (h) for the purpose of hearing two families to separately discuss their children.

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Clark Miller, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(f) and (h) at 5:07p.m., for the purpose of hearing two families to separately discuss their children. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Moved by Chris Bender, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn to public session at 10:12p.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Comments

Peter Hilts announced that Newsweek published its top 1300 high schools in the country, and TCA is number 259 on the list and tops in Colorado Springs. All 1300 schools are in the top 5% of public school. This puts TCA in the top 1.5% academically of all high schools in America. The Board congratulated Peter and the faculty and staff of the high school.

V. 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 (Feb 9th, Mar 9th, Mar 19th, Apr 8th, Apr 13th, Apr 23rd, and May 11th)
- B. Monthly Financials
- C. Operations Update

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Vance Brown to approve the Consent Agenda Items, minus the May 11th Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. Approved by unanimous vote.

VI. 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. Colorado Department of Education Review Update
Item: To inform the community of the next steps in response to District 20's Plan
Presenter: Matt Carpenter
For: Discussion/Vote

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Matt Carpenter shared with the Board the letter District 20 sent to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) in response to their investigation. The next step is for TCA to respond to the letter by July 1st. The letter will include future TCA actions and their implementation dates. Mark Hyatt is regularly working with the District.

Mark Hyatt said the District and TCA agreed to an internal controls audit this summer. The District did a Request for Proposal (RFP) and have chosen a company, EDK, LLC., out of Denver. Typical internal controls audit falls into the approximately \$10k price range. The current auditor, Wendy Swanhorst, is not doing the audit because it is a specialty that her company does not do.

Ron Mast provided the Board a copy of his proposal for a change to Board Election policies. He recommended 3 changes in conjunction with CDE's recommendation:

- a. Hire an outside agency to retain the vote count and ballot boxes
- b. On top of the early voting opportunities, add an online voting option to increase member participation. The online voting would need to be complete prior to the early voting.
- c. Publish the voting tallies. This is something TCA has not done in the past.

Jim Kretchman was concerned about publishing the election results. If we do publish the elections results, he feared it would go against the TCA culture. The community members who run for the Board took a risk and it is hard to lose. Jim emphasized that he also wanted to protect the TCA community. Pat Richardson said that "publishing results" does not necessarily mean sending the election results out via email; it may simply mean to share the results when asked.

Pat Richardson concluded that TCA was asked by the District to develop a plan to correspond with the District's recommendations. She advised that TCA may consider including such language as "To adhere to the culture of TCA, we respect and honor the dignity of anyone in the TCA community who would like to run for the Board of Directors. We will not publish the results of the election, but rather make the election results available by request."

B. Naming of TCA Campuses

Item: To discuss the naming of The Classical Academy campuses

Presenter: Mark Hyatt

For: Information/Discussion

Mark Hyatt presented the Board the option of naming the TCA campuses. Leesa Waliszewski added that this is an opportunity to bring identity and a personality to the different schools. She recommended naming the campuses after those who have made a difference in history, possibly even including a local person who has made a difference in children's lives, Dr Barbara Swaby.

Ron Mast liked the idea and said it was similar from when TCA changed its mascot from the Eagles to the Titan; a name change driven by the students. He presented it as a possibility of the students getting involved.

Jim Kretchman asked that the name still be identified with the TCA community (ie TCA Lincoln Elementary vice just Lincoln Elementary). He preferred to keep the names "as is" for now and discuss at a later time.

Vance Brown worried about dividing the campuses and losing the concept of one school, one identity.

Steve Pope liked the current names of East, Central, and North, stating that it takes the focus off of different campuses and keeps an overall TCA identity.

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Diana Burditt was not sold on either side. She liked the historical perspective of renaming the school, but also appreciates the tradition of East Elementary. Leesa Waliszewski added how a name change may bring a fresh start to East.

The Board and Administration decided to table the discussion for now.

C. Annual Policy Review

Item: Report on TCA Policy/Procedural Documentation

Presenter: Kevin Collins

For: Information

Kevin Collins stated the Administration have not added any new policies this year. He provided the Board an index of the current TCA policies and procedures, noting the eight Board policies.

Chris Bender asked the Board what the purpose was of this standing Board agenda item? Matt Carpenter replied that this is an opportunity for the Administration to inform the Board of any changes to policy. Clark Miller added that the Board previously discussed reviewing a selection of policies every 3 to 4 years. Kevin noted that some policies have been updated and putting an asterisk by those would be helpful for future years.

Steve Pope asked for an update on the East Campus. Kevin replied that August 31st is the start date for the school. The furnishings are scheduled to arrive on August 11th, with 2-3 days for teachers to set up their classrooms. The field cannot be started until the modulars are moved off of the land; scheduled to begin work on July 1st, taking 10 weeks for construction. All in all, the project is on-time and under-budget. Kevin concluded that he's working with Rick Mueller on ways to work the money back into the bond payments.

Mark Hyatt continued the Board's update by stating TCA was out of compliance in fire drills this last school year because they missed monthly drills. The District requested TCA report every month. Principals and Operations will work together to ensure compliance for the coming year.

Mark added that he's putting together a job description called Dean of Students. This person is anticipated to join the staff in August as an expert in counseling, school law, mediation, and conflict resolution. The position would report to the President.

TCA also plans to start School Advisory Councils (SACs). Every school will have a council; 7 total. Each council will consist of 7 members. Mark proposed that they could meet in conjunction with events that are already occurring at the schools, such as Principals Coffees. Ron Mast added that he provided the Board a handout with both the legal requirements of a SAC, along with his proposal on what this council looks like. Mark agreed that TCA needs to follow Colorado Law when establishing these councils. Ron added that the only difficult part is the voting piece; terms of office and how long they serve. The President's Office could assist with that process.

Vance Brown asked what authority the SAC would have. Mark replied that it is to make recommendations. Ron proposed the recommendations be in writing and provide the Board a quarterly report, for information only.

Jim Kretchman asked how SACs fit in with the established PTOs, stating there seems to be a fair amount of overlap in responsibilities. He added that it feels like it adds further confusion. Pat Richardson assisted in saying that the PTOs and SACs are independent of each other. The PTOs are about raising money for the school while the SAC is

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more for advising the school on budget items. Matt Carpenter added that PTOS work fundraisers and no tax money while the SAC works with Per Pupil Funds (PPF) – taxpayer – money.

D. Student Fee Schedule

Item: To approve the proposed fees for the 2009/10 school year

Presenter: Peter Hilts

For: Second Read/Vote

Peter Hilts presented the same document to the Board as discussed as a First Read. For ease of reading, the fees that were eliminated from last years fees were bold faced and crossed through. The new fees were also bold faced.

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Steve Pope, to approve the proposed 2009-2010 Student Fee Schedule as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote at 10:21p.m.

E. Flex-Block Scheduling Proposal

Item: To share the secondary flex-block schedule proposal

Presenter: Peter Hilts

For: Information/Discussion

Peter Hilts presented the Board a handout of the secondary flex-block scheduling proposal. Response to Intervention (RTI) mandates schools need to provide 30 minutes a week of instruction outside of the classroom. The flex-block schedule will include math and literacy instruction, along with Titan Teams on Friday (Titan Teams for 2009-2010 will include 20 kids and 2 teachers). Math and Literacy will be taught by intervention specialist. Any extra time during intervention will be used for silent sustained reading (SSR) for any book of the student's choice. The 30 block can also be used for student club activities, namely service clubs, to increase participation and community. Monday through Thursday, seniors in good standing may good off campus during the 30 block (equally a 50 minute block with lunch included). This will not include Fridays, Titan Time, or assembly time. Colleagues at other schools say enhanced penalties may be needed for students who choose to abuse the privilege. Finally, the high school will no longer check insurance, drivers license, and parental approval to ride with each other; it will fall into the hands of the parents.

Chris Bender remembered that TCA intentionally kept our students on campus. Peter replied that distance and safety for students to leave campus during a 20 minute lunch period was considered. It was barely possible to leave campus and get back safely in time. TCA has not used lunch as a coherent experience for our students. We are not giving up something that has been culturally important.

Steve Pope asked if some seniors would be in RTI? If so, was it true that those seniors could not go off during that expanded time. Peter replied that seniors would be in RTI and would not be able to leave. Those seniors who may be lax in finishing their homework, for example, may be motivated so they, too, could leave campus with their friends. Steve was afraid kids may be stigmatized for not being able to go with their friends "because they're dumb."

Chris added that he was not in favor of students leaving campus; Steve Pope agreed. Chris added that the time could be used for something else. Lisa Sutton liked the idea of allowing students to leave campus, stating they already have a heavy load and if earned, should be able to have that privilege. Leesa Waliszewski offered that the seniors are months away from post-high school life experiences, which won't include the restrictions of high

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school. Peter and Steve agreed that students may choose to stay on campus to tutor, work with clubs, or just to stay.

F. Disciplinary Consequences Grid

Item: To present the Board the TCA disciplinary consequences grid

Presenter: Peter Hilts

For: Information/Discussion

Peter Hilts presented a handout for information to the Board. Mark plans to present the information to the District 20 Board at their July 23rd Meeting.

G. 08-09 Expenditures

Item: To provide a review of the TCA budget

Presenter: Doug Hering

For: Second Read/Vote

Doug Hering presented the Board the same 2008-2009 Expenditures as discussed during the First Read. To highlight, the changes from the current approved budget include a general administrative budget line item of \$260k for legal and professional fees, a loss of capital construction money forcing additional money to be paid out of the general fund that was not anticipated, and a \$50k cushion between now and the end of the fiscal year.

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to approve the proposed 2008-2009 Expenditures as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote at 10:15p.m.

H. Board Meeting Schedule & Agenda Item Review

Item: To determine the board meeting schedule and agenda items for academic year 09-10

Presenter: Matt Carpenter

For: Second Read/Vote

Matt Carpenter handed out the Board Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items for the 2009-2010 academic year, stating no changes were made since the First Read.

Moved by Clark Miller, seconded by Steve Pope, to approve the proposed 2009-2010 Board Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items as presented. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote at 11:23p.m.

I. Board Communication with TCA Community

Item: To discuss additional avenues of communication with the TCA community

Presenter: Ron Mast

For: Information/Discussion

J. Executive Session - per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) to complete the President's Annual Review for 2008-2009 and Compensation Plan and Objectives for 2009-2010.

Moved by Vance Brown, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn to executive session per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(f) at 11:34p.m., to complete the President's Annual Review for 2008-2009 and Compensation Plan and Objectives for 2009-2010. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

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Moved by Steve Pope, seconded by Jim Kretchman, to adjourn to public session at 12:54a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

- K. President's Compensation Plan and Objectives for 2009-2010
 - Item: To finalize the President's Compensation Plan and Objectives for 2009/10
 - Presenter: Matt Carpenter
 - For: Vote

Moved by Jim Kretchman, seconded by Steve Pope, to approve the proposed President's compensation as presented. Roll Call. Approved at 12:55a.m. (Carpenter, Pope, Miller, Kretchman, Sutton, Bender; Aye, Brown; Nay).

- L. Board Planning/Debrief/Additional Items
 - Item: To discuss future items the Board should discuss and debrief the board meeting
 - Presenter: Matt Carpenter/Steve Pope
 - For: Discussion

- M. Other Items

VII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Heritage Town Hall - Jul
- B. Board Officer Position Elections – Aug
- C. Hail and Farewell to Board Members – Aug
- D. Charter Review – Aug
- E. End of Year Review, FY08-09 – Aug
- F. Safety and Security Update (D20 Larry Borland & Kevin Collins) – Aug
- G. Mill Levy Update (Projections and Uses) – Aug
- H. Part Time Students & Athletics Update – Aug
- I. Review of Conflict Resolution Process – TBD
- J. Great Starts Programs Update – Sept

VIII. Adjournment

Moved by Vance Brown, seconded by Lisa Sutton, to adjourn meeting at 12:56a.m. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.