

The Classical Academy
975 Stout Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Board of Directors Meeting
North Campus
Monday, February 7, 2011

I. Call to Order

Chairman Steve Pope called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

Board members present were Kirk Cameron, Jim Kretchman, Ron Mast, Steve Pope, Lisa Sutton, and Jim Woody. Matt Carpenter will arrive late to the meeting.

III. Comments

- a. Comments from the Audience Est. Time: 5 mins

IV. Consent Agenda Items Est. Time: 5 mins

- a. Admin/Ops Summary Report
b. December Financials
c. Minutes: January 20, 2010

Moved by Ron Mast, seconded by Jim Woody, to approve the consent agenda with modification provided by Jim Woody, at 6:09pm. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

V. Discussion Agenda Items

a. Core Values Update

i. Drill Down on part of our Core Values:

1. We value our responsibilities even above our rights when it comes to serving our fellow man and seek to foster a culture of service to others, both inside and outside of the TCA community.

ii. Discuss next steps for implementation

iii. Presenter: Betsy Brown

For: Discussion

Est. Time: 30 mins

Betsy Brown shared that the core value of valuing responsibility over our rights is an important Core Value for TCA. She spoke on the core value: "We value our responsibilities even above our rights when it comes to serving our fellow man and seek to foster a culture of service to others, both inside and outside the TCA community." She shared that she chose this core value because culture of service is one of the cornerstones of the TCA character program. Betsy also spoke about our mentoring programs and "mean girls" presentations as examples of service to others inside the TCA community, and talked about TCA day and student council led zoo day as examples of fostering a culture of service outside the TCA community. This core value is essential in developing exemplary citizens and in developing the whole child: mind, body and spirit. As a public school, a culture of service to others is one of the best ways for us to touch a child in the realm of "spirit".

The board asked questions about the character program, and we talked about Titan Teams, ways to improve and to train leaders. We also talked about expanding mentoring, about the parent seminar on "mean girls", and ways to get the word out about what is happening in the character program.

b. TCA Building Corp Update

- i. Update on TCA Building Corp and discuss/vote Building Corp board members for 2011
- ii. Presenter: Steve Pope / Rick Mueller For: Discussion/Vote Est. Time: 15 mins

Rick Mueller shared that TCA Building Corp is a separate company from TCA. It has its own separate board that meets throughout the year, and serves at the will of the TCA board. He gave a brief overview of how the Building Corp works alongside TCA. Rick also reviewed the amount of funds that are currently being held to pay interest on bonds held by the community. He said there is around one million extra funding that is currently in this funding. He shared that they are working on a plan to speak with the State Treasurer about deferring the funds placed into this fund to TCA. This has never been done before, so they are working through the details to make sure that everything is legal.

The board asked Rick Mueller for clarity on how this money could be reached, and where the Building Corp currently is in the process of asking the state for a different way to fund the bonds, since the fund is currently over the required amount.

Moved by Jim Kretchman, seconded by Kirk Cameron, to re-elect Rick Mueller, Lisa Ruth, and Chris Bender to serve as the 2011 Building Corp members, at 7:00pm. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

c. Budget & Finances: 2011-12 and beyond

- i. Update Board on latest information regarding on State funding
- ii. Presenter: Mark V./David B. For: Discussion Est. Time: 15 mins

Mark VanGamble shared that there is no significant changes in the proposed funding from the state for next year's budget. He reviewed the updated budget forecast and long range fiscal plan and main updates that had been made. He said that currently for the 2010-2011 fiscal year there is a projection of a positive surplus balance. For the 2011-2012 fiscal year there currently is projected a deficit. Mark shared that this information is from scenario one. The board has asked for three different scenarios, and this is the base scenario. He reviewed the saving that had been done to the 2010-2011 budget which is what created the \$211k surplus.

Ron Mast asked for two questions to be answered. The first was changes to payroll, and the second the increased number of enrollment for College Pathways.

Mark VanGamble shared that for the first question regarding changes to payroll was a proposed salary increase for staff of 2% for 2011-2012 fiscal year. He reviewed the numbers of FTE proposed for College Pathways. The biggest adjustment to the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget is the enrollment for College Pathways. It is showing that there is 375 FTE, which hopefully is on the conservative side. This changes increased revenue, and teacher and administrative FTE.

The board discussed what changes to the staff salary would need to be made to allow the salaries to be comparable to other schools and districts.

Matt Carpenter joined the meeting at 7:24pm.

Mark VanGamble reviewed the three different scenarios for the proposed budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. He said the major difference in the different scenarios is a different amount of giving.

The board reviewed different financial options to help cover the proposed budget deficit.

d. Budget Deficit and Future Funding Solutions

Dr. David Bohn shared that the issue is not the outcome but urgency. He said that the board wanted more of a timeline to give parents hope and come to a common understanding of the steps to get there.

Ron Mast said that this was a matter of cultural impact not necessarily an impact on student grades. The concern was more for the heart of the students than the grades of the students. Providing parents with the information of what is on the list to be reviewed by the administration will maybe provide parents with hope.

The board would like to see timely communication to the community on the topics that have been discussed. The main concern to be addressed quickly is allowing honors classes grades to be weighted.

Jim Kretchman shared that those types of policies can suck the life out of the students and parents. If there are things in place that go against the philosophy and values of TCA, they are board issues. If there are policies in place that need to go, even if they are at the administrative level, the board has the right to remove them.

Steve Pope said the board is tasking Dr. Bohn to have Hugh DiPreto meet with the people he plans on meeting with regarding weighting honors classes grades, and communicate to the board the outcome. Then, at the March meeting, revisit this topic.

Dr. David Bohn said that he feels the need of urgency that the board has shared and the need to make a decision regarding changes requested. He thinks they need to provide Hugh the opportunity to speak with his teachers, and then move forward with communication. He wants to be part of the communication to the parents because he wants it to really provide hope and the communication needs to be done in a special way so that the message is relayed to the parents.

- f. BREAK (approximately 8:30p.m.) Est. Time: 15 mins

Chairman Steve Pope called for a 10 minute break at 10:15pm. The meeting reconvened at 10:34pm.

- g. Parent Questionnaire
 - i. Review and provide input re: 2010-2011 Parent Questionnaire (content, timeline, & format).
 - ii. Presenter: Kevin Collins For: Discussion Est. Time: 10 mins

Kevin Collins gave a brief history of the parent survey and parent questionnaire. These two items alternate years. He reviewed the different sections that will be included in the questionnaire and pointed out some important topics the board requested be part of these two items.

Kirk Cameron shared that he did not like the wording in the notes to the parents about the reason we would like them to do the questionnaire and also what was found in the parents survey last year.

The board shared their feedback on what they would like to have removed from the questionnaire. Kevin said that he would make those suggested changes and asked if there were any additional questions they would like to have added.

Dr. David Bohn suggested a question be added that was along those lines of, at your grade level what are your three prominent concerns or issues that are facing your students today need to be addressed.

- h. FAST Committee Proposal (for March meeting)
 - i. Brief update on FAST and recommendations for documenting structure and responsibilities.
 - ii. Presenter: Jim Woody For: Discussion Est. Time: 10 mins

This topic has been moved to the March Board meeting.

- i. Board Advisory Council
 - i. Discuss needs and review possible candidates
 - ii. Presenter: Ron Mast For: Discussion/Vote Est. Time: 10 mins.

Jim Woody gave a brief update on Scott P, and that he has sent communication to the board regarding his background. He shared that he invited him to attend the next three board meetings so the board can get to know him before he is nominated to the Board Advisory Council.

Jim Kretchman said that if TCA is in need of legal advice, he asked Brad Miller if it would be a problem if there was person on the advisory council who is a lawyer, outside of our general counsel, giving TCA legal advice. Brad responded that this could be a problem. He shared that if our general counsel was willing to be on our advisory council and not charge TCA that would be wonderful.

Jim Woody shared that he would push back a little on Brad's concern. He shared that it can be good to have several opinions to consider when having to make a decision. Because this is just an opinion and the board does not have to follow the counsel. It might be good to have fresh advice outside of the normal TCA realm.

Jim Kretchman shared that outside of the legal counsel he is okay with having individuals give their opinions and serve on the Board Advisory Council.

- j. Board Committee Updates
 - i. Brief updates from each committee: Board Structure, Board Training/Orientation, Strategic Plan, Appreciation, Core Values
 - ii. Presenter: Board Reps For: Info/Discussion Est. Time: 5 mins

Jim Kretchman shared that the appreciation committee will be presenting the Titan of the Year award on Friday. On another topic he said that the Core Values committee should be disbanded since the document has been completed and the ball has been handed over to the administration.

Dr. David Bohn briefed the board on the next steps of the strategic planning committees. He said they will be meeting in the next week to review progress and see if they need additional direction.

Jim Kretchman asked for an overview of the current progress of the strategic plan, how the core values tie into it and a large picture of the process.

- k. Communication from Board to Community
 - i. Presenter: Steve Pope For: Discussion Est. Time: 5 mins
- l. Board Debrief / Future Meeting Schedules and Agenda Items
 - i. Item: Confirm next meeting dates and discuss any known agenda items
 - ii. Presenter: Board Chair For: Discussion Est. Time: 5 mins

- VI. Executive Session Est. Time: 20 mins
 - a. Provide performance feedback to TCA President, pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. sec. 24-6-402(4)(f).

Moved by Kirk Cameron, seconded by Jim Woody, to adjourn to executive session pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. sec. 24-6-402(4)(f), at 11:11pm. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

Executive session began at 11:24pm.

Moved by Jim Woody, seconded by Kirk Cameron, to adjourn to public session, at 12:08am. Roll Call. Approved by unanimous vote.

VII. Future Agenda Items

- a. Future Agenda Items
 - i. Student Support Services - Overview of current operations - March
 - ii. Process for SACs to communicate to TCA President – Marc
 - iii. Safety, Safe2Tell, and Security Update – March or April
- b. Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2011
 - i. March 14th, April 11th, May 9th, and June 13th

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:09am.