

**The Classical Academy
Board of Director's Meeting
November 14, 2011
North Campus – Rooms 2213/2214**

I. Call to Order 6:09pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Mr. Cameron - present

Mr. Carter - present

Mr. Leland - present

Mr. Mast - present

Mr. Palmer - present

Mr. Pope - present

Mr. Woody - excused

III. Comments from the Audience

Jim Kretchman – (1) shared a story of being stopped at a table out eating and complimented the Veteran's Day Assembly – it was good to celebrate and congratulate our veterans; (2) Jim had attended speech by Nicolas Carr – author of *The Shallows: What the internet is doing to our brains* – question came to how should schools be handling this issue – maybe the time the children are at school should be a safe haven from onslaught of media/internet impact; good to see how TCA has maintained the interactive face to face.

IV. Consent Agenda Cameron/Carter (roll call – passed unanimously)

Minutes from 10/17

Minutes from 11/7 Special Session

September Financials

Ops Report

Approval of matters relating to Personnel Actions

V. Farewell to Dr. Coulter (D20 Board)

Ron introduced Dr. Gary Coulter to honor him for his service to TCA and his time on D20. Steve Pope – comments on his great impact on TCA and serving as an advocate for the school and its vision.

Jim Kretchman – comments on how much he is respected and honored.

Presentation of painting and gift card from TCA Board. Remarks from Dr. Coulter – thanks and ease in being the TCA Liaison – in D20 even in its mission statement development there was an echo of “virtuous character” as a core to public education. It has been helpful for someone

to share the values of TCA. TCA is a shining example of what public education should be. Honor to serve.

VI. Discussion Agenda Items

A. Core Values Presentation

Report from Philips Exeter Academy

(moved at 6:29pm – since Dr. Bohn is at another TCA meeting he would be at the meeting shortly)

(Returned to item at 7:33pm)

Dr. Bohn, Mr. DiPretore, Mr. Joseph Friedly, Mr. Jerome Simpson – went to Philips Exeter Academy –

Mr. Simpson described the trip and what was learned even with their large endowment and high standards, the sense of the campus is the small community, high value of student voice, teachers are facilitators/cooperative learning, low tech issues, traditional approaches to education. Take away was the value of interaction of the students. Aligns well with TCA values. What was going on around the tables (Harkness Tables) was a good expression of our own philosophy.

Mr. DiPretore – Going to a place that is different yet the same, is that you get a better concept of who you are. High sense of community – “student voice” – student’s doing the work of learning. More of the engagement and not straight lecture. Some teachers were very aligned with it, some not as closely. Intense model. Invest a great deal of work into process.

Dr. Bohn – went because of the “tables” as the process of learning. It is a powerful metaphor for where we gather many times with family and community. Educational conversations around the table as well. Students were expected to the work of learning. Example of The Shallows – Nicholas Carr – Teachers were welcoming – very encouraged with what we do already at TCA. Learning is a community experience.

B. Open Forum with TCA Community

Ron – introduced what the concept of the Open Forum and how it would operate – December’s will be about the First Floor

Allison Castalana – Question about field trips – To be dealt with later in the meeting.

Returned to Open Session – Catherine Morrison. Son Josh spoke – came to TCA with high expectations – what was missing was the extra curricular activities. Son is part of College Pathways. Request CP students do extra curricular activities –

Explanations from Mr. Mast and Mr. Hilts and Mr. Wright about our state, CHSSA, and D20 policies as it relates to CP students being involved with TCA sports and activities – that the net result was that if students had been a part of the FT program and transferred into the CP program and they were already in HS sports/activities, TCA would be their “home” school and thus they could continue playing, but that otherwise students had to enter the lottery for involvement in their “home” D20 school.

C. Conflict Resolution Appeal to the Board

Requested modifications to HS policy to allow for retroactive weighting of Honors course

(also moved because the presenters were not present – move on to First Floor buildout) – Returned to topic at 7:50pm Diana Ginn – Statement included comments about why the retroactive action is applicable. Honors course weighting should be harder courses. Administration response has been that in the past there were no standards for what made honors consisted of... used English honors courses as an example of each of those honors courses included more work and harder levels of challenge. Daughter Ashlee spoke in favor of retroactive policy change.

Karen Pfeiffer – son is in similar situation.

Questions and discussion with Mr. DiPretore about the process of retroactive implementation. High level of administrative detail to change.

Mr. Hilts, commented on the history of weighting and honors. No policy actions were taken by the board on the appeal.

Action items: (1) direct Dr. Bohn, Mr. DiPretore and Mr. Mast to draft a letter that can be sent out to college/universities to explain our weighting system and waiver options; (2) task Mr. Palmer and Mr. Carter to investigate the larger issues related to grade/GPA issues.

Break 9:00pm -

D. Capital Construction Plans and Status Update (done at 6:40)

- Mr. Collins reported on process of selecting architect, project managers, construction company and contractor(s).
- Costs so far are within costs for first floor. (\$57/sq ft)
- Potential weight room building construction in between athletic fields. Questions about square footage and costs associated from Mr. Mast. (\$500,000)
- Addition information was proposed for revamp of third floor administrative area.
- Ready to begin the design and development phase.
- Mr. Pope asked question about the financial numbers that include having weight room inside vs weight room out. Mr. Collins referred to the packet of information from Elder Construction on the options.
- Mr. Cameron asked question of what would happen with third floor possibility. Mr. Collins, it depends on what “domino” effect would be for band and/or language labs, etc. if space was used for specific needs.
- Mr. Mast – what happens to admin team with a potential move to modular in terms of electrical/power needs. Mr. Collins – it would need to be scoped out for needs if becomes an option.

(Dr. Bohn joined the meeting at 6:45pm)

- Will follow East building process in terms of bidding out subcontract parts of projects. Should save money.
- Mr. Mast – weather issues/delays – Mr. Collins – as an indoor project less impact by weather. Should lose minimal time.
- Lengthy discussion of timing on the need to decide additional project plans.

Motion: The TCA Board of Directors approves the additional construction potential for the floor space conversion of the current administrative area on the third floor to increase the overall Guaranteed Maximum Price to \$3.0 million from the originally approved \$2.5 million with an overall goal of creating adequate space for all students within the building. (Pope/Carter – passed on a roll call vote)

Cameron aye

Carter aye

Leland aye
Mast aye
Palmer aye
Pope aye
Woody excused

(return – to earlier items)

Return from BREAK 9:16pm

E. TCA Board Member Election Process Update

Mr. Collins updated the board on the potential policy implications and bylaws implications. Next step is the alignment of process changes; discussion of what some of those changes and implications. More detail from Mr. Woody would be forthcoming.

F. Parent Survey Status/Next Steps

Mr. Collins – Overall report on potential questions;
(tape transfer difficulty for five minutes between (9:33-9:38pm)

Conversation about changing the wording on Titan Trust to Annual Fund; include a question about response to bullying; concern on rating system on first two questions about how people are forced to rank order; change first two questions to be a top five check marks, not rank order.

**Steve Palmer added a positive note for Hugh and staff on compliments from parents to staff who had excited their student in a new ways. Thanks from the parents and board.

G. Annual Fund Report

Mrs. Stump – Annual giving fund to this point as of Nov. 14, 2011 – Goal - \$1 million; so far \$524,000 pledged and collected;
Mr. Cameron - question about strategies for first of the year; Mrs. Stump – not entirely clear but have spent a large amount of time on system integration; however plans for specific campus leaders and perhaps larger events for all community. Campus strategies will include events as well including a celebration event in Spring 2012.

H. Status of various inquiries

1. Collection of fees via online payment system (Mr. VanGamplere report on collection of fees through pay port – but coming in from

various avenues – collected or waived \$190,000 in various fees to this point; about 70% of collection online through “Pay for it” software; about \$70k in tech fees this year compared to \$5k at this point last year; Mr. Mast question of whether these are mandatory fees vs. voluntary fees? Mr. VanGamble clarified that most of these fees are mandatory. Need to do a better job with CP fee collection – it was unclear up front to those CP parents)

2. Field trip plans for elementary

Mrs. Simpson reported (and reviewed handout on list of typical field trips and costs); the bottom line is cost, and bus availability; looking for common experiences though needed to be limited because of risk and costs.

J. Board Governance 2011-2012 Goals & Improvements

- a. Strategic Plan Committee Update
- b. Draft Bylaw Review (Steve Pope sent an email with some updates; board – will own those revisions after December meeting) Action: Steve will email copy/proposed preamble to board.

- c. Initiate TCA Governance/Organizational Audit
Motion : To approve TCA Governance Audit not to exceed \$13,000 (Carter/Cameron)
Friendly Amendment – Raise amount to \$15k

Mr. Cameron aye
Mr. Carter aye
Mr. Leland aye
Mr. Mast aye
Mr. Palmer aye
Mr. Pope aye
Mr. Woody excused

- d. Board Goals w/ owners

Mr. Pope introduced establishing goal agenda – Proposed schedule for addressing these issues;

Added to list Board Clerk duties.

- e. Board Governance issues from July Board Retreat

- 1. Pain Points – Joint Board/Admin Subcommittee Problem Solving Process (first read as practice document not policy – work through as board needs –

and as admin suggests. Mr. Pope reviewed and board agreed to use it as practice for issues like the staff evaluation that Mr. Stump and Mr. Sojourner are holding on.

2. Radar Screen – Mr. Cameron – first read of Radar Screen and Dashboard Proposal – creation of list of priority items (Mr. Cameron happy to manage that list); once item is on list – identify a priority list – then create/identify POC resource person; process to review every 2-3 meetings on list; goal to stimulate discussion;

Dashboard – more regular reporting function for specific metrics; suggested categories include – student retention data; staff retention data; testing; academic data; breakout of specific financial data; fee collection data, etc.

3. Catalog/analyze board roles and link to current policy (move to February meeting for link to Bylaw revision)

I. TCA Presidential Objectives

Peter Hilts – overview of how core values could be graphically represented on website – takes tree graphic and current data rich current core values document. Demonstrated various web site options.

(David feeling ill; thus reduced comments and discussion)

Questions; Mr. Mast on update on homework late policies; alignment of elementary and secondary policies; Mr. Pope and Mr. Carter – same issue has come up with 6th grade parents especially. Has been tasked to principals. Will update after first of the year.

Mr. Cameron – question of communication between parents and teachers (and students) – item #4 improving overall strategy with parent perspectives and student workload and keeping up with it.

Dr. Bohn readdressed the use of CAST company to align mission and vision with how those values are communicated in the classroom, and at service levels. If we are going to talk about our core values how are we being distinctive to others.

J. Board Training/Conferences

CASB Dec 9-11
CLCS Feb 23-24

K. Board Communication

Mr. Carter updated on blog logistics. Perhaps a topical blog could launch after first of the year. Additionally, have talked with Mrs. Brown (character and culture) with teacher forums at Central to begin process.

L. Future Board Meeting Schedule and Agenda items

July 27-28, 2012 – Board Retreat – Hide-away

VII. Executive Session

No items necessary to enter executive session

Adjournment 11:55pm (Carter/Pope) Passed on voice vote