



THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014, 6:00-10:00 P.M.

NORTH CAMPUS – TCA ROOM 2213/2214 (SECONDARY)

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.

MINUTES

Presentation/Question Time/End Time

- I. **Call to Order (6:00 pm)(6:07)**
 - The Board Chair (Dr. Woody) called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call** 5 min (6:05)(6:09)
 - Attendance: The following Board members were present: Mr. Carter, Mr. Dubois, Dr. Harrington (arrived at 6:21 pm due to wx), Dr. Jennings, Mr. LaValley, Mr. Ramsdell, Dr. Woody, and Dr. Sojourner (non-voting member of the Board).
- III. **Welcome Dr. Jennings as a Voting Member of the TCA Board (Carter)** 5 min (6:10)(6:12)
 - Dr. Jennings completed all the requirements necessary to become a voting member of the TCA Board.
 - He will be a valuable member of the Board and we look forward to working along side him.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** 5 min (6:15)(6:17)
 - **Mr. Carter moved to approve the agenda and was 2nd.**
 - Discussion: None.
 - **Vote: By unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the Agenda.**
- V. **Comments from the Audience (Audience members have 5 minutes to address the Board)** 10 min (6:25)(6:33)
(NOTE: Per procedural rules if more than one person is speaking on the same topic we request that one or two specific spokespersons speak on behalf of the group)
 - Cheryl Darnell (See prepared comments Attachment 1)
 - Central Campus Capital Construction Concerns
 - Common Core Concerns
 - Rich Van Eaton (See prepared comments Attachment 2)
 - Baseball Field Capital Construction Concerns
 - Dr. Sojourner commented on the following:
 - TCA is pursuing a BEST grant that is grander in scale than previously anticipated; moving from \$100,000 of thousands to millions of dollars)
 - The Central Campus will not be delayed; the process to access needs for the Central Campus and determine costs will run parallel with our request for BEST funding
 - We want to ensure we get all of the appropriate inputs and we make smart decisions with the funds we have
- VI. **Celebrating TCA (Guys and Dolls Musical)** 10 min (6:35)(6:38)
 - Tim Gallagher and Nate Scattebo performed one of the routines from Guys and Dolls; great rendition.
 - They reminded the board that they could see the last performances of Guys and Dolls on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 pm.
 - Those that have seen the performance had only high praise for the show.
- VII. **Board Development (How Children Succeed Homework; Chapter 1 and 2)** 15 min (6:50)(6:50)
Action: Brown
 - Mrs. Brown was home sick. Mr. Galvin conducted the discussion.
 - Discussion topics included:

- Importance of passing down values
- Is character etched in stone or is it malleable?
 - At TCA, character is not taught separately but woven through out lessons in all classes
- Do kids need hardships to overcome in life just to know that they can?
 - Goal is to become an exemplary citizen
 - Failure helps us grow
- Administration will continue to challenge staff at reading and review at least 4 books a year to continually grow our understanding of character
- The administration is reviewing CPA vs GPA

VIII. **Conflict Resolution** (Date of Birth Deadline to Enter Grade Levels) 10 min/5 min (7:05)(6:58)

Action: Woody

Motion: for the TCA Board to take action on the appeal presented (Vote)

Rationale: to determine whether the Board will hear the appeal

- **Motion: Mr. Dubois made the motion for the TCA Board not to consider the appeal to waive the requirements of the K-3 birthday cut-off dates and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics:
 - The Board reviewed an appeal to grant an exception to the administrative policy of cutoff dates for K-3 students to enter their respective grades. Although Dr. Sojourner could have waived the birthdate cutoff, it is prudent for the President to include the Board in decisions that may have a profound impact on our philosophy as well as the unintended consequences such decisions have on other policies. The review included:
 - The appeal
 - The TCA President's support and need to implement the policy as written; without exception
 - Reviewing the registrar's wait list policies and procedures
 - Previous Board discussion/input to the policy
 - The policy (as it is currently written) is enforced by the Cottage School Program Principal (CSP), Registrar, Director of Academic Services (DAS) and President with no exceptions to ensure students are not placed in a position that puts them at risk of struggling or falling behind at TCA and is in the best interests of children. Historical evidence bears this out and is substantiated by teacher input.
- **Vote: By roll call vote, the TCA Board passed the motion. (Mr. Carter, YEA; Mr. Dubois, YEA; Dr. Harrington, YEA; Dr. Jennings, YEA; Mr. LaValley, YEA; Mr. Ramsdell, YEA; Dr. Woody, YEA)**
 - The Board's unanimous vote not to hear the conflict resolution appeal reinforces their support for the administration's policy as well as the administration's (CSP, Registrar, DAS, and President) decision making process regarding current K-3 birthdate parameters.
 - The Board's vote precluded further discussion on the possibilities of hearing a waiver to the policy and any permanent changes to the policy proposed in Agenda Item IX.

IX. **Conflict Resolution Waiver Request; If necessary** 10 min/10min (7:25)(7:00)

(Date of Birth Deadline to Enter Grade Levels)

Action: Woody

A) Motion (if required): to grant or disapprove a waiver to the policy (Vote)

Rationale: to determine whether a waiver to policy is justified in this specific case

B) Motion (if required): to change the current policy permanently based upon the proposed waiver (1st read)

Rationale: to determine if the current policy needs to be changed

- **Motion: None**
- Discussion Topics:
 - Based upon the vote in the previous item, further motions, discussion, and votes were not considered.
- **Vote: None**

X. **Report of the President & Cabinet Spotlights** 5 min/5 min (7:35)(7:17)

Motion: to receive the report

Rationale: to review progress on President's Goals and highlight cabinet activities (HR, Ops, Academic Services, Finance, and Advancement).

- Discussion Topics:
 - Dr. Sojourner presented the TCA Monitoring Report to D20; described as the best one to date
 - The administration is facilitating discussions with our staff in regards to Paul Tough's book and what TCA believes
 - Pay and compensation
 - This year, on average teachers received 7% pay increase

- In addition, non-teaching staff will receive a 2.1% bonus in October 2014 and a 2.1% bonus in February 2015
- It means a great deal to the staff; every custodian was appreciative for the added income and thanked Dr. Sojourner
- Testing requirements
 - Important for us to continue to communicate with parents
 - We will continue to be true to ourselves and not change who we are
 - We don't believe in chasing test scores
 - We sent out e-mails to parents prior to the test scores being released and have only had 3 responses; we will compile responses on Dec 19
 - We wanted to curb the fear that test scores would go down and explain the testing requirements
 - Given the appropriate opportunities, we will continue to bolster our argument against Common Core

XI. Consent Agenda

5 min (7:40)(7:23)

Board Directed items to be removed from Consent Agenda:

Motion: to accept the Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: Oct 6 (Harris)
- B. Written Reports of the Executive Director and Cabinet
 1. Human Resources (Schulz)
 - a. Matters Relating to Personnel Action
 2. Finance (VanGambleare)
 - a. September Financials
 - b. Internal Financial Control Report
 - c. Endowment Review
 3. Board Policy Review
 - a. Conflict Resolution (KE-TCA)
 4. Minutes
 - a. North Elementary SAC Minutes, Sept 9, 2014
 5. Board Committees
 - a. FAC
 - b. Training
 - c. Governance
 6. Quarterly FAC Report/Audit Report
- **Motion: Mr. Dubois moved to approve the consent agenda and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics:
 - Mr. Miller was reminded to provide a disclosure statement that his spouse works for TCA and to amend his sunshine law review by putting it on official letterhead from his office.
- **Vote: By roll call vote, the TCA Board passed the motion. (Mr. Cater, YEA; Mr. Dubois, YEA; Dr. Harrington, YEA; Dr. Jennings, YEA; Mr. LaValley, YEA; Mr. Ramsdell, YEA; Dr. Woody, YEA)**

XII. Discussion Agenda Items

A. Items removed from Consent Agenda

B. Cabinet Level Reports

1. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

5 min/10min (7:55)(7:45)

Action: Collins

Motion: to approve the capital construction program outlined by the administration in the read ahead provided. (Vote)

Rationale: to provide guidance and vision to complete capital construction projects with revenues from bond refinancing, sale of the Scarborough Property, and fundraising donations.

- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved to approve the capital construction program outlined by the administration and was 2nd. See below.**

TCA Board Motion

TCA Capital Construction Program Funds Authorization

November 10, 2014

- Whereas: The Classical Academy sold (upon closing) its Scarborough property for a net gain of \$944,000.
- Whereas: The Classical Academy refinanced the 2004 year bonds for a net gain of \$6.1 million.

- Whereas: The Classical Academy will continue to fundraise to acquire approximately \$1 million over the next three years for capital construction projects.
- Whereas: The Classical Academy will apply for Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant funds and seek award of up to \$3M in matching funds.

The TCA Board authorizes the TCA President to expend up to \$100,000 to develop design specifications and cost estimates for a range of project options in the following areas:

- Central Elementary expansion and renovation to include possible additional classrooms, restrooms, HVAC, asphalt/sidewalks, artificial turf playing field, etc.
- North Elementary auxiliary gym to include possible mat and weight room, locker/shower rooms, copy center and receiving area, etc.
- North Secondary softball/baseball field to include possible road paving, landscaping, field prep and install, bleachers and lights, etc.
- College Pathways modular install to include possible dry unit, ramps, utilities and furnishings, etc.
- East Elementary and Cottage School playground to include possible range of play equipment, landscape and ground preparation, etc.

The TCA Board requests the TCA President report back to the Board when the design specifications and build options have been determined. The design process should include needs' analysis and inputs from interested stakeholders (principals, staff, parents, coaches, etc.) and coordination of the designs/options with applicable contractors, architects and outside experts.

- Discussion Topics:
 - Capital Construction Program Priorities
 - Fundraising part of the equation
 - BEST Grant Opportunity
 - Ensure we get input from customers (Schools, TCA Community, Architects, Builders, etc.)
 - Administration will report back to the Board as the process progresses (about a 6 month process)
 - Removing modulars at Central Elementary is part of the renovation plan
- **Vote: By roll call vote, the TCA Board passed the motion. (Mr. Carter, YEA; Mr. Dubois, YEA; Dr. Harrington, YEA; Dr. Jennings, YEA; Mr. LaValley, YEA; Mr. Ramsdell, YEA; Dr. Woody, YEA)**

Break 10 min (8:05)(8:01)

2. **Annual Registrar Report** 5 min/5 min (8:15)(8:20)

Action: Martinez

Motion: to receive the report (Info)

Rationale: to review the student enrollment at TCA

- Discussion Topics:
 - Registrar Staff Changes
 - Smart Choice-New Admissions Platform
 - Historical Enrollment Overall/By School
 - Attrition Overall/By School
 - Withdrawal Reasons
 - How deep can we go into the withdrawal reasons (Do we know how many left for sports reasons? No, it was not on our exit interview form)
 - Wait List
 - Student Population Demographics
 - D20 CAP
 - Number of in district vs out of district students

3. **Advancement Program Review** 10 min/5 min (8:30)(8:47)

Action: Simpson

Motion: to receive the report (Info)

Rationale: to review the state of Advancement at TCA

- Discussion Topics:

- TCA Advancement Team
- Advancement Purpose
- Constituencies
- Primary Processes
- Advancement Strategic Objectives and Goals
- History and Metrics
- Recent Analysis
- Current Plan and Initiatives
- Contact Calendar
- Passive Fundraising List

4. **Quarterly Financial Summary** 5 min/5 min (8:40)(8:49)

Action: VanGamble

Motion: to receive the report (Info)

Rationale: to review the financial quarterly position of TCA

- Discussion Topics:
 - Titan Club responsible for building business partnerships
 - Looking at major donors more carefully
 - Personal contacts with donors by phone

5. **Senate Discussion** 5 min/5 min (8:50)(8:56)

Action: Sojourner

Motion: to disband the Senate as a sub-committee of the TCA Board (Vote)

Rationale: to review the purpose/necessity of the TCA Senate

- **Motion: Mr. LaValley moved to disband the Senate as a sub-committee of the TCA Board and was 2nd.**
- Discussion:
 - Senate duties can be accomplished by asking the SACs
 - Senate vs DAC roles are not the same
 - The Senate felt that there were not that many global issues that needed Board attention
 - Senate mission was not clear and seemed redundant to what was already being done
 - We want to ensure there is good communication to the SACs
- **Vote: By unanimous voice vote the Board approved the motion.**

C. **Board Level Reports**

1. **Grant of Authority (GOA)** 10 min/5 min (9:05)(9:37)

Action: Dubois

Motion: to approve the amended GOA

Rationale: to review the GOA and make adjustments as required

- **Mr. Dubois moved to approve the amended Grant of Authority and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics:
 - President and Board Chair to act expeditiously in getting legal advice without getting the Board together (Special Meeting)
 - Engaging TCA Legal Counsel outside of an emergency (get legal advice)
 - Attendance of TCA Legal Counsel at Board Meetings
- **Mr. Carter moved to form a GOA Committee of the Board to recommend changes to the current GOA and was 2nd. This tabled the original motion.**
- Discussion Topic:
 - There seems to be too many unanswered questions that we won't get to tonight
 - Items that take an inordinate amount of time to review/make recommendations/vote should be referred to a Board committee to review and make recommendations to the board.
- **Vote: By roll call vote (5-2), the TCA Board passed the motion. (Mr. Carter, YEA; Mr. Dubois, YEA; Dr. Harrington, YEA; Dr. Jennings, YEA; Mr. LaValley, Nay; Mr. Ramsdell, YEA; Dr. Woody, Nay)**
- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved that a GOA Board Committee consisting of Dr. Harrington (Chair), Mr. Ramsdell, Mr. Dubois, and Dr. Sojourner be formed to review and make recommendations concerning the current GOA to the TCA Board by the December 8, 2014 Board meeting.**
- Discussion Topics: None
- **Vote: By a voice vote (6 Yeas and 1 Abstain) the Board approved the motion.**

2. **Board Annual Self Evaluation** 5 min/5 min (9:15)(9:33)

Action: Woody

Motion: to receive the report (Info)

Rationale: to review the Board evaluation process

- Discussion Topics:
 - Participants have been selected for the evaluation by the SACs.
 - We are using the same questions from last year.
 - Evaluations are due to be completed by Nov 21, 2014
 - Data will be available at the December Board meeting.
 - D20's Superintendent and Legal Counsel have decided not to take the evaluation due to not knowing enough information about the Board to give fair evaluation and relegated this duty to the D20 Liaison (Mr. Weston).

3. **Board Member Evals of TCA President Due to Board Chair by November** 5 min/5 min (9:25)(9:35)
Board Meeting

Action: Woody

Motion: to review process to evaluate the TCA President

Rationale: to begin the process of evaluating the TCA President

- Discussion Topics:
 - Dr. Woody collected all of the Board Evals of the President.
 - Reminded the President that his Self Eval is due in December.
 - The Board will do a 360 of the President using input form the cabinet; due at the December Board meeting.

D. **Board Communication**

5 min (9:25)(9:39)

Board Communication Planned

Action: Carter

Rationale: to develop and approve of communication update to community

- Approval of the Capital Construction program

E. **Future Board Agenda Items**

1. Student Fee Schedules-Feb 2015 (Board)
2. 1st Read of Strategic Plan-Jan 2015 (Sojourner)
3. Report on the Effects of Increased Class Sizes in K, 1st and 2nd Grade have had on TCA (Jolly)
4. 990 Review-Feb 2015 (VanGamble)
5. Adopt a School Report-Dec 2014 (Board Members)

XIII. **Adjournment** (Approx. 10:00 p.m.)

(9:25)(9:42)

- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved to adjourn the meeting and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topic:
 - Think about if we need to have a Dec 3 work session.
- **Vote: By unanimous voice vote the Board approved the motion at 9:42 pm.**

Attachments:

- 1) Cheryl Darnell Prepared Notes (Comments from the Audience)
- 2) Rich Van Eaton Prepared Notes (Comments from the Audience)



Chris Carter
TCA Board Secretary

Public Remarks to TCA Board - from Cheryl Darnell, TCA Central parent - Nov. 10, 2014

I would like to reiterate what you have heard over and over and over from parents at Central. If safety and security are your number one priority, then there should be no question what belongs at the top of the list. The deteriorating, unsafe conditions at Central must be tended to. Getting rid of portables was made a priority at the old East campus, and East was built a brand new building. Getting rid of portables was made a priority at North, and completion of build out/renovations were made at North. All in the name of "keeping the students and staff safe." Why would you not follow suit with the third TCA campus?

If I'm hearing correctly, it was discussed at the working session to table doing anything with Central until TCA receives word on the possibility of receiving a grant that we must have the funds set aside to match in July. Why was this grant never mentioned during this entire Capital Construction Decision process? Once again, it seems like we have been misled and misinformed. So many of us gave so much of our time, thoughts, and energy to share input that you invited from us, implying that it was valued. Yet you never intended on spending \$8 million at this time? Many of us are also quite frustrated in our attempt to "pursue truth," a value of our TCA Creed, since some details surrounding the Capital Construction Plan were hidden or not clearly stated.

And speaking of being misled and misinformed, as you know, there is a growing number of parents very concerned with Common Core, and we are wondering why TCA has not taken a stronger public stance against it. Most TCA parents I talk with say, "I thought TCA was fighting Common Core." Because that's what was presented and perceived after the Town Hall Meeting last spring and through the Resolution we sent to the State. But Common Core is rolling right in to TCA, through the testing, data collection, and the silence about its presence in our schools.

Our Resolution is merely a piece of paper if there is no follow-up action behind it. And don't put all the work on one man, either. This is a fight to protect our school, our rights as parents and local educators to have a say in what is best for our children, and what TCA stands for altogether! It requires all administration, Board, staff, and families/community working together to understand, communicate, and resist what is REALLY happening through Common Core- NOT just passing on "talking points" that sound like everything will be just fine.

I've met with Dr. Sojourner and Wes Jolly, and I understand that in being chartered under D20, we are obligated to follow certain rules. I understand that TCA is afraid of losing its charter and funding if enough families refuse to have their children take the tests. And I'm talking CMAS AND PARCC. I am not convinced that CMAS "has nothing to do with Common Core." There's a lot of conflicting information floating around about it. And several schools already have MUCH MORE than 5% of students/families refusing the tests: students are protesting the CMAS in Boulder, 70% of parents have refused the CMAS in Fort Collins, 60% have refused in Cherry Creek, NOT A SINGLE

HS IN DOUGLAS COUNTY got 95% participation in CMAS, Castle View HS had 78% NOT test, Rock Canyon- about 60% did NOT test, and there's even more, including D11, but you're getting the point.

It is these tests that are forcing socialism and other political ideologies into our schools. By means of what has been likened to the "Trojan Horse." Most parents (and I would risk to claim many educators) have NO CLUE what is really coming down the pike, into our classrooms and into the minds of our children.

It is these tests which are feeding the data collection, which also violates our privacy- I doubt many know about the "embedded surveys" within the tests, collecting personal information about our children, which now will belong to the federal government, available for sharing with and selling to third party vendors.

I do not understand why TCA would be concerned with losing its charter and/or funding when we're quickly being forced to become like any other public school in the nation anyway- unless TCA cares more about our charter, money, and jobs than our children. The federal overtaking of our right to local control of education is going to eradicate charter schools altogether!

Common Core does not allow TCA to teach according to our philosophy of education. Our students WILL continue to fail these tests, as we've seen in states across the nation who are 2 years deeper into this than we are, states which are frantically trying to back out now. And as we continue to show failing scores, we will be forced to teach to the test- which will eradicate the ability of TCA to teach according to its foundational beliefs, principles, and philosophy of education.

Our mission statement declares, "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." NOT-- "the Common Core-slanted foundation of knowledge." PLEASE be the voice that you should be for your students, staff, and parents, publicly speaking out and staying on top of our district and state with TCA's opposition to Common Core and the associated testing/assessments and data collection.

1. Thank you for the opportunity to address you guys again... Having served on a non-profit board for 8 yrs.....deep appreciation for you and your position, willingness to tackle the tough issues, and your desire to make the very best decisions in the interest of all TCA. There is something special to me about the collective wisdom of a board.
 2. As you know, TCA has been given a tremendous blessing, millions of dollars to put towards things that were just pipe dreams, and unrealistic a few months ago. We should all be very excited for this opportunity for all of TCA.... But for some reason this has not been the case for some, and lack of celebration for TCA that I expected... It's really had me scratching my head over the last few days.... Why the back and forth, tension and consternation?
 3. The bottom line is we all love our kids fiercely and we want the best for them....whether they're at North, Central, East, doesn't matter... we want the best for our kids.
 4. I'm afraid people have missed the real reason we are advocating so much for a field. I believe a field supports TCA mission, school spirit, revenue generation....all nice to have's, but that's not the 'must have' reason we are advocating so much. The must have reason is SAFETY. That has been the #1 reason for this field all along. – Much of the TCA community doesn't realize.. our players drive, themselves/others, typically on the interstate to everything....practices, games... we create hundreds of real scenarios per year where our children's safety and lives are at risk..... (read 2008 Study on Teen Driving fatalities)
 5. The administration has done a good job and the top 3 (1a, 1b, 2) are on the list because they address safety and security issues.... But the problem and cause of the tension, is that the top 2 (way they're grouped) hijack all the money we have TODAY for a period of time and may delay the actual construction of smaller projects. So, at some point or another in this process, someone has been afraid they are going to be on the outside looking in....because it could impact the safety of the kids we love. –I appreciate the administration's efforts, to find a way to address them all... but only so much money...thus.... The unenviable position the board and administration are in....
 6. How do you manage that? Runs the risk that one group's safety concerns appear more important than another's?
 7. The main reason for me addressing you tonight is we've placed the bulk of campus projects into "priority" buckets 1a, 1b... so we end up talking about inequity between campuses and historical distribution of funds, and inconveniences instead of actual safety/security risks. And we potentially leave significant safety/security concerns on the outside looking in or **unnecessarily delayed** while the risks continue.
 8. All that to say, I support continuing the vote tonight to approve the dollars for needs/design/estimates so things start to move forward.
 9. **But also suggest**, when it comes to funding projects at construction level, you look at them separately. Categorize each individual project according to safety risk:
 - a. Inconveniences that pose no real security/safety threat
 - b. Risk of Injury/Illness
 - c. Risk of Death/Fatality
- If it's not a safety risk, but inconvenience, it drops behind construction projects that address safety. There are compelling stats that may help sort out and prioritize- I've gathered some of those I would be glad to share at the appropriate time.
10. What I'm about to say is where I'm coming from personally, my point of view, not implying I know where others motivations/concerns for these projects come from.....Perhaps a school shooting has touched your family's life, or you've lost a teenage family member in a car accident.. I have had my children attend classes in mobiles at East and other D-20 schools, walk in snow & rain outside from one class to another, I have had kids cross carpool lines to get

to/from parking lots, and **I've handed the keys to my 16 yr old son. For me, nothing compares to the latter in terms of concern..**

11. So when the designs/bids come in quickly for field, security entrances, HVAC, etc.... please don't let the design work, planning, and waiting on grants for the larger items tie all the money up for months and perhaps years, and delay the opportunity to move forward on these smaller, highly impactful and significant safety projects, that could happen now.