



THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015, 6:00-10:25 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/Start Time

- I. **Call to Order** (6:00 pm) 1 min (6:00)(6:04)
- The Board Chair (Dr. Woody) called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. This meeting is a dual meeting including the Building Corp. Board of Directors.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call** 5 min (6:01)(6:05)
- TCA Board—The following TCA Board members attended: Mr. Carter, Mr. Dubois (on the phone), Dr. Harrington (arrived at 6:30 pm), Dr. Jennings, Mr. LaValley, Dr. Woody, Dr. Sojourner (non-voting member).
 - **Building Corp. (BC) Board—The following members attended: Mr. Bender, Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Mast (arrived at 6:08 pm), Mrs. Roy (excused). They are here for the Bond Refinancing portion of the meeting and will leave after signing the refinancing documents.**
- III. **Approval of Agenda** 5 min (6:06)(6:10)
- **Motion: Mr. LaValley moved to approve the agenda and was 2nd.**
 - Discussion: None
 - **Vote: By a roll call vote of 5-0 (TCA) and 3-0 (BC) the Boards approved the agenda.**
 - **Mr. Carter, Yea; Mr. Dubois, Yea; Dr. Jennings, Yea; Mr. LaValley, Yea; Dr. Woody, Yea.**
 - **Mr. Bender, Yea; Mr. Carpenter, Yea; Mrs. Mast, Yea.**
- IV. **Comments from the Audience** (Audience members have 5 minutes to address the Board) 10 min (6:11)(6:11)
(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)
- There were no comments from the audience.
- V. **Celebrating TCA** (Central Campus Service Project; raised \$3,000 for Rwanda) 10 min (6:21)(6:12)
- Mrs. Stanford explained how her class raised money for orphans in Rwanda to pay for uniforms to attend school.
 - Without uniforms, children are not allowed to go to school. Consequently, children without uniforms do not receive an education.
 - Her class raised \$3,000 which enabled 300 children buy uniforms to attend school.
 - This coincided with TCA's lesson in CARING.
- VI. **Announcement of Board of Director Candidates** 5 min (6:31)(6:20)
- Action: Woody
- Motion: to approve going forward with the 2015 TCA Election based upon having the required number of Board candidates (more than 2). There are 4 candidates running for election,
- Rationale: to determine if the minimum number of candidates for the 2015 Board Election have applied in order to conduct an election
- **Motion: Mr. LaValley moved to approve going forward with the 2015 TCA Election based upon having the required number of Board candidates (4) to run for the TCA Board of Directors and was 2nd.**
 - Discussion:
 - Dr. Woody announced the 4 candidates for this year's election:
 - Mr. Buckhouse
 - Mr. Farney
 - Mr. Moulton

- Mr. Rudder
 - Dr. Woody and the Board thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve on the TCA Board.
- **Vote: By a 5-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the motion. (Mr. Carter, Yea; Mr. Dubois, Yea; Dr. Jennings, Yea; Mr. LaValley, Yea; Dr. Woody, Yea).**

Break 5 min (6:36)(6:25)

VII. **Bond Refinancing** 10 min/50 min (6:41)(6:34)

Action: Barry Arrington/Russ Caldwell/Mark VanGambleare

Motion: to approve the 2008 Bond Refi Resolution (vote)

Rationale: to review the 2008 Bond Refi documents, approve the 2008 Bond Refi documents, and sign associated paperwork

- **Motion: TCA Board; Mr. LaValley moved to approve the 2008 Bond Refinance Resolution and was 2nd.**
- **Motion: BC Board; Mr. Bender moved to approve the 2008 Bond Refinance Resolution and was 2nd.**
- Discussion:
 - Barry Barrington and Hester Parot provided highlights from the refinancing process and documents.
 - Two series of Bonds 215A and 215B.
 - The cost of issuing the new bonds was the lowest to date of any charter school in Colorado (Great Deal).
 - TCA received a S&P BBB rating (best/highest rating of any charter school in the nation)
 - The closing on the Bonds takes place on Feb 17, 2015.
- **Vote: By a 6-0 roll call vote, the TCA Board approved the motion to refinance TCA's 2008 Bonds.**
 - **(Mr. Carter, Yea; Mr. Dubois, Yea; Dr. Harrington, Yea; Dr. Jennings, Yea; Mr. LaValley, Yea; Dr. Woody, Yea).**
- **Vote: By a 3-0 roll call vote, the BC Board approve the motion to refinance TCA's 2008 Bonds.**
 - **(Mr. Bender, Yea; Mr. Carpenter, Yea; Mrs. Mast, Yea).**

Break (7:08 to sign bond paperwork)

VIII. **Board Development (Common Core)** 15 min (7:41)(7:32)

Action: Sojourner/Jolly

- Mr. Jolly highlighted the following items:
 - So far TCA has spent \$219,000 on testing
 - Includes increasing our number of computers to 540 (including portable lap tops)
 - Even if all testing stopped today, the funds we have used to upgrade our computers will be worthwhile
 - Currently there are 8 bills at the legislature (more to follow) concerning data that will be distributed from the testing to reducing the number of tests given
 - Pendulum is swinging towards less testing
 - There is a lot of misinformation being passed along about data mining
 - TCA will be providing an alternative study option for students who are opting out of testing as will other D20 schools
 - As yet, the state has not determined legality of waiver option; 5 school districts out of 178 have already asked for waivers pending the ruling
 - Parents do have the option to opt out of testing however, the TCA administration is not promoting this course of action due to the accreditation concerns associated with not having 95% of students in a school taking the test

IX. **Report of the President & Cabinet Spotlights** 5 min/5 min (7:56)(7:52)

Motion: (Info)

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

- Dr. Sojourner highlighted the following items from his report:
 - Dr. Sojourner will be sending out monthly e-mails to the community that discuss large issues affecting TCA (usually not more than 2-3 paragraphs)
 - The advancement program is farther ahead in donations (at this time of the year) than in other years
 - The Palmarium will be pushed out to parents and coincides with our character topic
 - I want to emphasize that TCA is not teaching to the standardized tests; recently there have been rumors that we are teaching to the test.
 - On the contrary, we have been giving instruction to students (in elementary school) on how to use computers to take tests.
 - There is a difference between teaching to the test and teaching students how to use a platform (computer) to be able to most effectively use this instrument to take the test.

- We have given students two, 30 minute session on how to use the computer to take standardized tests
- CDE classification of CP students (difference between full and part time students)
 - Homeschool or *transcript* students (not receiving a diploma from TCA) are now only eligible for part-time funding by the state. Students receiving a diploma from TCA will be credited as *full-time* for funding eligibility.
 - This will have a financial impact on TCA this year but we will be able to absorb the costs.

X. **Consent Agenda**

5 min (8:06)(8:18)

Board Directed items to be removed from Consent Agenda:

Motion: to accept the Consent Agenda (vote)

- A. Minutes: Jan 12, Feb 4 (Swanson)
- B. Written Reports of the Executive Director and Cabinet
 - 1. Human Resources (Schulz)
 - a. Matters Relating to Personnel Action
 - 2. Finance (VanGambleare)
 - a. December Financials
- C. Board Policy Review (Board)
 - 1. Relations with District Charter Schools (LBD) Adopted from ASD20
 - 2. Relations with District Charter Schools Procedures (LBD-R) Adopted from ASD20
 - 3. Board Self Evaluation (BC-TCA) Part of Board Agreement Policy (No Changes)
 - 4. Site Based Management (ABB-TCA) Governance Committee Suggested Changes
- D. SAC Minutes
 - 1. N Elementary Minutes, Sept 10, 2014
 - 2. N Elementary Minutes, Oct 8, 2014
 - 3. HS Minutes, Jan 29, 2015

- **Motion: Mr. LaValley moved to accept the Consent Agenda and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics: None.
- **Vote: By a 6-0 roll call vote, the Board approved accepting the Consent Agenda. (Mr. Carter, Yea; Mr. Dubois, Yea; Dr. Harrington, Yea; Dr. Jennings, Yea; Mr. LaValley, Yea; Dr. Woody, Yea).**

XI. **Discussion Agenda Items**

A. **Items removed from Consent Agenda**

B. **Cabinet Level Reports**

- 1. **School Calendar Review (16-17)** 5 min/5 min (8:11)(8:19)

Action: Jolly

Motion: to approve the draft 2016-17 School Calendar (vote)

Rationale: review/approve the draft 2016-2017 School Calendar

- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved to approve the draft 2016-2017 School Calendars.**
- Discussion Topics:
 - The Board will see these calendars again next year and vote to approve them
 - Nothing has changed on the calendars since you last reviewed them
 - The calendars meet all of the Board's planning requirements
- **Vote: By a 6-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the draft 2016-2017 School Calendars. (Mr. Carter, Yea; Mr. Dubois, Yea; Dr. Harrington, Yea; Dr. Jennings, Yea; Mr. LaValley, Yea; Dr. Woody, Yea).**

- 2. **Quarterly Financial Report** 5 min/10 min (8:21)(8:21)

Action: VanGambleare

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review the TCA's financial state of affairs

- PPCC on-line courses are growing more expensive for CP students
- TCA has 46 days of cash reserves (about \$385,000)
 - It takes about \$70,000 count towards one day of cash reserves for TCA
- We have \$425,000 more in the GF than last year at this time
- If you are concerned with the high variance of funds spent, TCA buys a majority of its educational resources at the beginning of the year, the variance will continue to decrease as the year progresses

- 3. **Curriculum Review (Elementary)** 5 min/10 min (8:36)(8:26)

Action: Jolly

Motion: to approve the elementary curriculum changes and costs (vote)

Rationale: to review/approve the changes to the elementary curriculum and any associated costs

- **Motion: Dr. Harrington moved to approve the changes to the elementary math curriculum and the continued use of Core Knowledge scope and sequence for elementary**

science and history as presented by Mr. Jolly (Director of Academic Services) in his report and was 2nd.

- Discussion Topics:
 - Math curriculum review (Need to order books now so that teachers can review them before the start of the new school year)
 - 1st grade through 4th grade: Saxon Math
 - Switching from Saxon to Pierson in 5th Grade (earlier and more natural transition; better logic and problem solving than waiting until 6th grade to transition and better prepares students for Junior High math requirements)
 - 6th Grade: Pierson
 - Common core will be stamped on the books but that doesn't mean it is "bad"
 - Our staff has gone through the texts and found them to be aligned to TCA's curriculum
 - Costs fit in with current budget plan
 - TCA will continue to use the Core Knowledge scope and sequence for elementary science and history.
- **Vote: By a 6-0 roll call vote, the Board approved the changes to the elementary math curriculum and the continued use of Core Knowledge scope and sequence for elementary science and history. (Mr. Carter, Yea; Mr. Dubois, Yea; Dr. Harrington, Yea; Dr. Jennings, Yea; Mr. LaValley, Yea; Dr. Woody, Yea).**

Break

10 min (8:51)(8:41)

C. Board Level Reports

1. Governance Committee Report

5 min/20 min (9:01)(8:56)

Action: Woody

Motion: to approve changes to the following policies: Board Meetings (BE-TCA), Board Decision Making (BEC-TCA) (votes)

Rationale: to review the progress of the Governance Committee and provide suggested updates to Board policies for approval by the TCA Board

- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved to approve the changes to the Board Meeting Policy (BE-TCA) including Mr. Miller's (Board Legal Counsel) amendments and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics: None
- **Vote: By unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the changes to the Board Meeting Policy (BE-TCA).**
- **Motion: Mr. LaValley moved to approve the changes to the Board Decision Making Policy (BEC-TCA) including Mr. Miller's (Board Legal Counsel) amendments and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics: None
- **Vote: By unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the changes to the Board Decision Making Policy (BEC-TCA).**

2. TCA Board of Directors Vacancy Discussion

15 min (9:26)(9:10)

Action: Woody

Motion: TBD

Rationale: to determine how to fill the vacant Board of Director's position due to the unfortunate resignation of Mr. Ramsdell due to health, family and business concerns

- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved to not fill Mr. Ramsdell's vacant position on the Board and to allow the position to be filled by the upcoming election and was 2nd.**
- Discussion Topics:
 - Mr. Ramsdell's position on the Board is one of the positions up for election this year
 - It would take time (at least two months) to select a replacement and then the interim director would need to get appropriately trained to be able to vote (could delay the process by another month, at least)
- **Vote: By unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the motion not to fill Mr. Ramsdell's vacancy on the Board and wait for the results of the election to fill the vacancy.**

D. Board Communication

30 min (9:41)(9:25)

Board Communication Planned

Action: Carter

Rationale: to develop and approve of communication update to community

- Bond Refi
- Celebrate TCA
- Board's decision not to refill Billy Ramsdell's seat on the Board
- Board Candidate Announcement

E. Future Board Agenda Items

10 min (10:11)(9:26)

1. Board Work Session-Mar 4, 2015 (Woody)
2. 1st Read of Strategic Plan-Mar 9, 2015 (Sojourner)
3. Grant of Authority-Mar 9, 2015 (Harrington)
4. Board Budget-Mar 9, 2015 (Dubois)
5. 990 Review-Mar 9, 2015 (VanGambleare)
6. Board Retreat/Work Session-Jul 11, 2015 (Penrose House)
7. Report on the Effects of Increased Class Sizes in K, 1st and 2nd Grade have had on TCA-Jun 8, 2015 (Jolly)

XII. Adjournment (Approx. 10:21 p.m.)

(10:21)(9:27)

- **Motion: Mr. Carter moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm.**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned the meeting.**



Chris Carter
TCA Board Secretary