



THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

NORTH CAMPUS – SECONDARY SCHOOL, 1ST FLOOR, ROOM
1102

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

Allotted Time/Start Time

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------|
| I. | Call to Order (6:00 pm) | 1 min (6:00) (6:00) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Board Chair (Mr. Fradette) called the meeting to order at 6:00 | |
| II. | Pledge of Allegiance/Mission/Roll Call | 2 min (6:01) (6:01) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Roll call: (Dr. Andre; Here // Mr. Fradette; Here // Mrs. Goin; Here // Mr. Hannan; Here // Mrs. Johnson; Here // Dr. Mayfield; Here // Mrs. Wittleder; Here). A quorum was present. | |
| III. | Approval of Agenda | 2 min (6:03) (6:02) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to approve the agenda and was seconded.Discussion: None<u>Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mrs. Johnson; Yea // Dr. Mayfield; Yea // Mrs. Wittleder; Yea)</u> | |
| IV. | Celebrate TCA (Grandparent's Day) | 5 min (6:05) (6:03) |
| | Action: (Harris) | |
| | Motion: (Info) | |
| | Rationale: to highlight accomplishments of TCA students, staff, and parents | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">This month, several fifth and sixth grade students shared their memories which were read during the recent Grandparent's Day assemblies at our three elementary schools.During Grandparent's Day TCA welcomed over 1600 grandparents, with special performances by every elementary grade level.This is just one of the ways TCA honors and expresses our gratitude for the relationships our students have with their grandparents, and with the elderly in our community. | |
| V. | Comments from the Audience (Audience members have 3 minutes to address the Board) | 5 min (6:10) (6:17) |
| | (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) | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The following parents made comments to the TCA Board:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Elizabeth Giesman: Discussed D20 mask protocolsMichelle Haerr: Discussed parent autonomy, partnership with TCA, and the EACGinny Paas: Discussed parent choice related to masksAllison Redd: Discussed the upcoming EAC meeting, charter schools in Colorado, and the EACKelli Hawkins: Shared parent petition related to TCA's mask policyJulie Simmons: Discussed parent choice related to mask and quarantines | |
| VI. | Comments from the Board of Directors | 5 min (6:15) (6:34) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mrs. Goin: Announced she was resigning from the board; a search committee will be formed to help the Board find her replacement; Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Goin, Mr. Hannan, Dr. Sojourner, Mr. Swanson will be on the committeeMrs. Wittleder: Provided a shout out to all the people who made Field Day such a successMr. Fradette: Thanked all of the people who provided comments from the audience for their courteous and thoughtful commentsDr. Andre: Provided a shout out to all the people who made Grandparents Day such a fun experienceDr. Mayfield: Complimented the Wellness Task Force for taking care of students and staff; warned of the increase of mental health cases (anxiety and depression) he has seen (up 50%) over the past year | |

- Mrs. Johnson: Visited Mrs. Leaf’s class, at Central Elementary, and was impressed at how she encouraged respectful acceptance of those wearing masks in her classroom

VII. **Board Development (Character Development: “Endurance” Book Study)** 15 min (6:20) (6:45)

Action: (Jolly)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to reinforce good practices of effective school Boards and to better understand TCA values

- Mr. Jolly, over the past 7 years, has organized a book club with book selections associated with the 24 character traits emphasized by the VIA Institute of Character
- Some of the Board members attended the most recent book club about the book “Endurance”; detailing Ernest Shackleton’s quest to cross Antarctica
- The Board members said that Shackleton displayed the following main traits:
 - Hope
 - Perseverance
 - Teamwork
 - Leadership
 - Humanity
 - Social Intelligence

VIII. **Legislative Update** 10 min (6:35) (6:58)

Action: (Miller)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to update the Board on Colorado Legislative actions

- Mr. Miller discussed two issues that are causing charter schools some difficulties:
 - Executive Sessions; Important to stay on topic during executive session and not add other topics that were not part of the reason behind the Executive Session
 - Special Education; Ensure that charter schools understand the rules surrounding accepting special education students; schools can expect the Colorado Legislature to develop bills associated with special education students
 - TCA has adopted appropriate policy and practices related to special education.

IX. **Report of the President (and Covid Update) & Cabinet Spotlights** 15 min (6:45) (7:11)

Action: (Sojourner)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to highlight cabinet activities (Pres., Ops, Academics, HR, Finance)

- Dr. Sojourner highlighted the following items from his report:
 - Importance of Grandparents Day and how it fits in with our Core Values
 - Make a Wish Foundation is our K-12 fundraising charity this year
 - From the DAS report, Monday we will be having our annual Passion Conference
 - It is a time to relax and rejuvenate; discover new interests and enjoy each other’s company
- COVID Update
 - We had a four-day high school COVID reset that may have been exacerbated by the homecoming dance; everything back to normal
 - We have been able to maintain our no mask policy due to being able to separate our students in class by 3 feet, resulting in few health department mandated quarantines
 - We are still dealing with COVID cases but not to the extent we were last year; quarantines have decreased dramatically since last year
 - El Paso County Public Health Department does not foresee a mask or vaccine mandate and are willing to work with TCA
 - We have added a COVID dashboard to the TCA website that indicates how many positive COVID cases we have had and what school they occurred at; in addition, we have a FAQ list

X. **Consent Agenda** 3 min (7:00) (7:39)

Board Directed items to be removed from Consent Agenda:

Motion: (Vote) to file the Consent Agenda

- A. Finance (VanGambleare)
 1. August Financials
- B. 2022 TCA Election Timeline
- C. SAC Minutes
 1. Junior High, September 15, 2021
 2. Central Elementary, September 21, 2021
 3. North Elementary, September 21, 2021
 4. East Elementary, September 27, 2021

- **Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to file the Consent Agenda and was seconded.**
- Discussion: None

- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mrs. Johnson; Yea // Dr. Mayfield; Yea // Mrs. Wittleder; Yea)**

XI. Minutes: September 13, 2021

2 min (7:03) **7:40**

Action: (Swanson)

Motion: (Vote) to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes

Rationale: to provide a record of the Board meeting for files

- **Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes and was seconded.**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mrs. Johnson; Yea // Dr. Mayfield; Yea // Mrs. Wittleder; Yea)**

XII. Discussion Agenda Items

A. Items removed from Consent Agenda

B. Cabinet Level Reports

1. Annual Operations Report (Safety and Security Program Assessment)

10 min (7:05) **(7:41)**

Action: (Sojourner, Pacht)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: To provide the Board with a yearly review of Operations Performance in accordance with TCA's Strategic Plan

- Mr. Kevin Pacht, Director of Operations, gave an annual update on the safety/security programs and processes at TCA.
- Safety, security, and health of our students and staff remains our highest priority. Annual campus inspections and assessments have helped us to remain compliant, while validating our current programs, protocols, and efforts.
- Mr. Pacht also stressed our continual focus on improvement through planning, process development, and training, which leads to increases in our security, safety, and ability to respond during emergency events.

C. Board Level Reports

1. Education Alliance of Colorado (EAC) Funding Request

20 min (7:15) **(8:00)**

Action: (Goin)

Motion: (Vote) to approve paying an additional \$2,100 in dues to the EAC for the 2021-2022 school year

Rationale: to review dues for EAC in 2021-2022 school year

- **Motion: Dr. Mayfield moved to fund the EAC at \$5.00 per student and was seconded.**
- Discussion: The discussion for increasing TCA's contribution to the EAC from the current approved amount of \$16,300 (approved in the 2021-2022 Board Budget motion) to a contribution of \$5.00 per student centered on the following topics:
 - Introduction of the EAC, progression of the start-up and funding over the past year, and benefits/wins last year
 - Determining the increased cost vs the value of hiring a lobbyist to help mobilize parents
 - Stewardship of TCA funds
 - Value of increased investment vs importance of TCA supporting EAC at same PPR level as other Charters (TCA supporting at 2x the next highest school vs other schools all fund at \$5.00)
 - Determining the costs of educating charter school parents on the issues facing charter schools, determining which issues parents should be concerned about, and with mobilizing parents to contact legislators against bills that potentially could harm charter school autonomy
 - Other discussion addressed TCA unused revenues being applied to fund EAC, confirming EAC is requesting a firm \$5.00 cap that will not increase, needing great precision in allocating these funds, and the importance of TCA's existing investment in starting the EAC.
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 4-3 the Board disapproved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Nay // Mr. Fradette; Nay // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mrs. Johnson; Nay // Dr. Mayfield; Yea // Mrs. Wittleder; Nay)**
- **Motion: Mr. Hannan moved to fund the EAC at \$4.50 per student and was seconded.**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mrs. Johnson; Yea // Dr. Mayfield; Yea // Mrs. Wittleder; Yea)**

2. Election Process Review

10 min (7:35) **(8:25)**

Action: (Johnson)

Motion: (Discussion)

Rationale: to review and amend election process

- Mrs. Johnson reviewed her ideas for updating the election process
- Her primary interest was to allow transitioning Board Members (upon being elected) to be able to attend Executive Sessions (not to vote) to hear information that may be important for them to vote on after they have transitioned to the Board in August (able to vote then)

D. Board Communication 5 min (7:45) (8:37)

Action: (Secretary)

Rationale: to develop and approve of communication update to community

- Mrs. Goin resignation
- Appointment Committee to search and recommend a replacement
- Safety and Security
- EAC funding at \$4.5 per student
- Celebrate TCA

E Future Board Agenda Items 5 min (7:50) (8:46)

1. Quarterly Financial Summary, Info, VanGambleare, Nov
2. Internal Financial Control Report, Info, VanGambleare, Nov
3. Quarterly FAC Report/Audit Review, Info, VanGambleare, Nov
4. Budget Projection, Info, VanGambleare, Nov
5. Annual State Assessment/Student Achievement Report, Info, Jolly, Nov
6. Annual Accreditation Status, Info, Jolly, Nov
7. Annual Year Financial Review (Previous FY), Info, VanGambleare, Nov
8. President Bi-Annual Board Feedback, Executive Session, Fradette, Nov
9. ASD20 Monitoring Report Summary, Info, Sojourner, Nov

F. Comments from the Board of Directors 5 min (7:55) (8:44)

- Dr. Mayfield: Thankful for healthy debate.
- Mrs. Wittleder: Thanked the EAC for what they do.

XIII. Adjournment (Approx. 8:00 p.m.) (8:00) (8:46)

- **Motion: Mr. Fradette moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded.**
- Discussion: None
- **Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Fradette; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Mrs. Johnson; Yea // Dr. Mayfield; Yea // Mrs. Wittleder; Yea)**

Sonya Wittleder
TCA Board Secretary