

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

February 3, 2014

Location: Grammar School Music Room

Present: Ronda Alexander, Ted Bell, Phillip Byers (via phone), Jerald DeLaGarza, Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Nick Longerbeam, Jeff Powell, Jason Ruff, Paula Staley, Donna Trimble

Others Present: Jason Cole, Joe Maimone, Jeff Ziegler, Cathy Kinter

Opening:

The meeting opened at 5:45 p.m.

Pledge

Prayer

Public Comment:

No public comment

Chairman's Moment:

Andy Francis thanked everyone for coming and encouraged everyone to come to board meetings whether or not they have to be in attendance.

Fifth Grade Presentation:

The fifth grade team (Georgia Maimone, Lyn Boeckx, Lisa Baxter and Lora Varga) demonstrated various topics, field trips, projects, activities and events from throughout the school year in Core Knowledge to the board through Videograms by Shutterfly. Mrs. Boeckx also presented some of the DAR writing award winners, who included Maggie Hemdon, Logan Kinter, Erin Murray, Zee Rempson, Eden Rollins, and Morgan Wantuch.

Minutes:

The December board meeting minutes were presented. Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to accept the minutes, and Ted Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Paul Foley noted the December 31 budget (see attachment 2a-e) was on track and accurate. He made the motion to accept the recommendation with changes attached. Ted Bell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Continuing Business:**Team CFA Report:**

Paul Foley presented the report, which is included in the packet. He informed the board that one school, Ridgeline in Arizona, will be leaving the network at the end of the school year.

Forum Report:

Christie Herndon presented the report, which is included in the packet. She noted that the Forum is in the process of updating the sign in front of the grammar school to say "Core Knowledge School of Distinction." She also reported the Forum has met its fundraising goal for the year and is looking forward to giving teachers and departments monetary gifts. Staff appreciation dinners will be held Feb. 6 at the upper campus and Feb. 13 at the grammar school. The Forum's next meeting is at 5:30 Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Paula Staley asked for an update on selling uniforms to families in need. Concerns from the Forum included privacy issues and lack of inventory. After much discussion, it was agreed counselors can provide a free uniform to a student in need. If the family requires additional clothing, they can send \$5 per item to be provided if available.

Director's Report:

Joe Maimone presented the report. He said it's been a busy month of the school. Upcoming events include a guitar concert on Feb. 5, a dance performance at the end of the month, and Open House on Feb. 27. There have been 199 new applications as of today with most being grammar school applications and 90 for kindergarten.

Before committee reports, Paula Staley asked to bring an important matter to the board's attention. She noted that the parking lot at the grammar school has been a dangerous situation and that the school has a legal obligation and would be held negligent if the situation is not addressed. Lengthy discussion followed. Mrs. Staley made the suggestion to use money from the Forum, business donations, etc. , to create a parking lot separate from drop off and pick up sites. Jason Ruff noted the parking lot has been discussed in every facilities' meeting for the past year, and that he believes the first step is to enforce the plan that is in place. He said that perhaps the biggest problem is those parents not following the car line procedures. Jason Cole noted he has placed barriers in the rows closest to the building to obstruct cars from traveling to near children and that an Alert Now will be sent noting the growing concerns about the safety of the children in the parking lot and reminding parents of the parking plan. Other suggestions including sending children home of offending parents, having bus drop-off off-site of the school, and adding more bus services. Andy Francis ended the conversation noting the barriers will be put into place, emails and Alert Now messages will be sent out, and increased enforcement in areas of most concern, and administration can report back to Jason Ruff on any improvements or further concerns.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

No report.

Community Relations:

No report.

Curriculum:

Sally Harbin noted the committee had met and discussed several issues. The report (see attachment 6A) included continuity in subjects between grades, availability of textbooks, and savings on books. She noted the committee will probably meet again later in February.

Finance:

Paul Foley noted the committee had nothing to add to the budget report, but had met at 4:30 p.m. prior to the board meeting.

Facilities:

Jason Ruff noted the committee had met in January and discussed the grammar school parking lot issues in addition to an extensive list of summer projects. He also said that the school is approaching a place where decisions need to be made. Although the 2020 Vision committee is meeting and progressing, he said that there are indicators of major repairs which are going to be required, and a plan is needed for the short-term or long-term as determined by the 2020 Vision.

Fundraising:

No report.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel:

Paula Staley noted she and Jason Cole are working to update the employee handbook to coincide with state law. She said the entire personnel committee will meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23, to go over the handbook so that it will be ready to present to the board at the March meeting.

Ad hoc Vision:

Andy Francis noted the committee had met and has had a lot of good input. It will meet again on Feb. 17 and then again before each monthly board meeting. Joe Maimone noted a picture is needed of the proposed building and/or land in order to proceed to help gain contributions.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meetings are scheduled for March 3 (upper campus), April 7 (grammar school), May 5 (upper campus), and June 2 at 5 p.m. followed by the Burgundy and Gold dinner at 6 p.m.

Lottery Protocol: Joe Maimone noted changes were incorporated into this reading (attachment 7) of the protocol. He reminded the board that the lottery will begin at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Leitner Auditorium of the upper campus. Sally Harbin made the motion to accept the protocol with Jerald DeLaGarza providing the second. Motion passed unanimously.

2015/16 School Calendar: Joe Maimone noted that there were no changes made from the proposed calendar. Jerald DeLaGarza made the motion to pass the calendar for the upcoming school year, and Jason Ruff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PSAT Fall 2014 Testing Summary: Jeff Ziegler provided data (attachment 9) which allowed the board to see the school's results for students from eighth through 12th grades. Mr. Ziegler noted the above average scores our students earn are due to the classical and Core Knowledge curriculum provided by hardworking teachers.

CFA Conference: Board members planning to attend the conference include Sally Harbin, Jerald DeLaGarza, Jason Ruff and Donna Trimble.

Contracts:

A three-year renewal with Acadia Northstar was proposed at the same rate the school currently pays. Before a contract is approved, Paul Foley suggested checking into the cost of a one-year agreement and learning what our "significant" discount is for signing a three-year deal. He noted there is a large penalty for breaking the contract and perhaps the school should see what the cost per student is and if there are other termination clauses. Ted Bell moved the motion be tabled after Sally Harbin withdrew her motion and Jerald DeLaGarza his second.

Closed Session:

Ted Bell made the motion to move into closed session to discuss privileged matters as set out in NCGS Section 143-318.11(a)(3). Jeff Powell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board moved into closed session at 7:13 p.m.

The board moved back into open session at 7:23 p.m.

No action was taken during closed session.

No further business was discussed.

Ted Bell made the motion to adjourn. Jerald DeLaGarza seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board adjourned at 7:23 p.m.