

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy: CFA

Board Meeting

April 7, 2015

Location: Grammar School Music Room

Present: Ronda Alexander, Ted Bell, Phillip Byers (via phone), Paul Foley, Andy Francis, Sally Harbin, Jeff Powell, Jason Ruff, and Donna Trimble

Not Present: Jerald DeLaGarza, Nick Longerbeam, and Paula Staley

Others Present: Joe Maimone, Jason Cole, 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 wished a happy birthday to board member Sally Harbin, including song and cake, and thanked Horsehead Corporation for their donation toward the parking lot fund.

Minutes:

The March board meeting minutes were presented. Jeff Powell made the motion to accept the minutes, and Jason Ruff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

Paul Foley noted that the budget through February 28 (see attachment 2a-f) was on track. Mr. Foley moved to accept the budget as presented with a second by Ted Bell. Motion was approved unanimously.

Specials Presentation:

Ted Bell made a motion to amend the agenda to include a presentation by the grammar school's specials team. Motion was seconded by Jeff Powell and unanimously approved. The team, represented by Laura Daigle, Patty Kean, and Ashley Henderson, used a video, created by Karen Allen, to show events and activities which take place during the K-5 specials times at the grammar school.

Continuing Business:**Team CFA Report:**

Paul Foley noted about the conference in June in Denver and that the board packet included a copy of "Around the Network."

Forum Report:

Joe Maimone noted a couple of updates for the Forum. Work is being done on the playground at the grammar school. Jason Cole explained chips have been delivered and grass seed has been planted in the back field. The Burgundy and Gold Committee raised over \$5,500 in its recent fundraiser and will be giving out over \$15,500 in scholarships soon. Mr. Maimone noted Joseph Maimone will be reporting on the alumni survey at the next board meeting, and he wanted to remind the Community Relations Committee about participating in May Fest in Rutherfordton the first Saturday in May.

Director's Report:

Joe Maimone presented the report. He noted the lottery went off "extremely well." Kindergarten had 141 applications, over the 130 last year. With only 83 spots available, it was a difficult lottery. First, second and third grades all went to wait lists for the next year, with a total of 191 students on the overall wait list. Paul Foley asked how the grammar school will handle up to 120 second graders, and Jason Cole explained that by adding one or two children to each of the five sections, through natural attrition, and perhaps adding an additional student, the overflow will be managed.

Committee Reports:**Executive Report:**

No report.

Community Relations:

No report.

Curriculum:

Sally Harbin noted the committee had not met recently but has one scheduled in the next couple of weeks. Paul Foley asked if the committee could look into the question about books' availability and cost, noting that the school's reputation is well deserved and needs to be protected. Mrs. Harbin explained that was the focus of the upcoming meeting.

Finance:

Paul Foley noted that from the committee's recent meeting, they would like to recommend renewing the contract with Darrell Keller in auditing the retirement plan and to formalize the third party vendor verification process. Mr. Foley made the motion to formalize the process with a second by Sally Harbin. The motion passed unanimously.

Facilities:

Jason Ruff said that while the committee had not met recently, they do have a meeting scheduled in a couple of weeks in order to prioritize summer plans. He also noted there had been some maintenance issues at the upper campus and that Horsehead had made a commitment to the parking lot project at the grammar school. He hopes to help that particular project move forward this month by getting estimates for the next board meeting.

Fundraising:

No report.

Legal Affairs:

No report.

Personnel:

No report.

Ad hoc Vision:

Joe Maimone noted it had been a busy month with visits to other schools for design ideas and to prospective properties. He noted it has been slow progress but it is a big job.

New Business:

Upcoming meetings: The next few board meetings are scheduled for May 5 (upper campus), and June 2 (grammar school) at 5 p.m. followed by the Burgundy and Gold dinner at 6:30 p.m., and a meeting in July.

Parent/Student Handbook updates: Joe Maimone noted there was nothing in the packet on these, but work continues on them

Admin duties for board approval (att. 8): Paul Foley recommended that the executive committee meet with administration to review the changes before board approval is given.

Thesis presentation on year-round schedules (att. 9): Joe Maimone noted this was for the board's information only. When questioned about the possibility of year-round school, he explained the schedule works better for grammar and perhaps middle school rather than high school with the students' activities and work schedules.

Report from Office of Charter Schools Consultant visit on March 26 (att. 10): Joe Maimone noted it was the first time this particular consultant had been to Thomas Jefferson and that it was a very positive visit.

Contracts: Paul Foley made the motion to renew the contract with Mr. Keller for the retirement service audit with a second by Sally Harbin. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Foley made the motion to accept the updated TJCEF lease whose amount Edith noted should go down in July. Jason Ruff made a second,

and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Foley also made the motion to approve the contract with Kelly Dailey of Dailey Therapy Services for speech therapy services with a second by Ted Bell. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bell made the motion to approve the contract for Heather Ensley, who will be replacing Mary Swanson, with a second by Jeff Powell. The contract was approved unanimously. Sally Harbin made the motion to approve the contract with David Davis, new dean of students at the high school, and Jason Ruff made the second. The motion also passed unanimously.

Parents for Educational Freedom video: Prior to the board adjourning for the evening, Mr. Maimone received a copy of the video by the Parents for Educational Freedom demonstrating the inequity in local funding for the school, especially from Cleveland County, and presented the 4 ½ minute video to the board. Overall comments were positive about the video's message.

Ted Bell made the motion to adjourn. Sally Harbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board adjourned at 6:40 p.m.