

# THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020, 6:00-8:44 P.M.

LOCATION — VIRTUAL/REMOTE MEETING - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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.



NOTE: The TCA Community may watch the Special TCA Board Meeting by accessing TCA's YouTube link <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjLU7ocFQ1gy7czWYfGk8qg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjLU7ocFQ1gy7czWYfGk8qg</a> when the meeting starts at 6:00 p.m

# **MINUTES**

Discussion/Start Time

I. Call to Order 1 min (6:00) (6:00)

• The Chair (Mr. Moulton) called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Mission/Roll Call

2 min (6:01) (6:01)

• Roll call: (Dr. Andre; Here // Mr. Bennett; Here // Mrs. Goin; Here // Mr. Hannan; Here // Ms. Littleton; Here // Mr. Moulton; Here // Mr. Rudder; Arrived at 6:36) A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Agenda

2 min (6:03) (6:02)

- Motion: Mr. Bennett moved to approve the agenda and was seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: By a roll call vote of 6-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Bennett; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Ms. Littleton; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea)

IV. Celebrate TCA (State Science Fair Winners and Athletic Signees)

10 min (6:05) (6:03)

Action: (Harris) Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to highlight accomplishments of TCA students, staff, and parents

- We celebrated numerous Titans, including those who placed at the Colorado State Science Fair, which took place virtually in April.
  - o Five TCA students won awards in the event after presenting their projects over the phone.
- We also celebrated the 13 TCA senior students who will continue their athletic careers in college.
- We watched two videos: put together by a group of students honoring COVID patients and thanking local healthcare workers, and one by a group of staff members reinforcing A Titan's Creed.

#### V. Comments from the Board of Directors

5 min (6:15) (6:09)

- Mr. Bennett: Reviewed three emails that encapsulated recent parent e-mails.
  - Valued the care that TCA was taking into account the privacy of students in our at home learning model recorded videos helpful
  - o Empathy for having teachers use at home learning techniques; at home learning may not fit all students
  - Technology is a challenge for everyone; value the faces of teachers and interaction with students
- Ms. Littleton: Taking perplexing times in perspective; look forward to seeing what back to school will look like in fall, kudos to parents for working through at home learning challenges
- Mrs. Goin: Thank you to parents for sending the Board e-mails; we are reading all of them and listening to your comments
- Mr. Moulton: Thank you to all of our parents for taking up additional duties for at home learning; the Board is committed to resolving the challenges that face TCA

## VI. Board Development (Legislative Update)

10 min (6:20) (6:18)

Action: (Miller)

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to review current legislative initiatives/activities at the state and/or to provide applicable Board level training

- Legislatively, there has not been any news that affects charter schools directly
- Generally there are a few items that affect schools including:
  - o CROWN Act: Affects all schools and how they treat hair styles; TCA will amend its policy
  - The state legislature raised the bar for disciplining students from kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; made it more difficult to suspend students
  - When the state legislature returns, it will concentrate on the budget shortfall rather than creating school policy
  - Gov. Polis anticipates going back to school in the fall in some type of hybrid form; he will provide further guidance later about requirements for social distancing, at risk personnel/students, masks, etc.

#### VII. **Report of the President & Cabinet Spotlights**

45 min (6:30) (6:28--6:35)

Action (Sojourner)

(6:57--8:04)

There was a slight communication disconnect with Dr. Sojourner and then reconnected.

Motion: (Info)

Rationale: to highlight events occurring at TCA and to report on cabinet activities (Pres., Ops, Academic Services, HR, and Advancement)

- Dr. Sojourner highlighted the following items from his report:
  - Student cell phone policy is on hold for the time being
  - We understand the difficult times and how it affects donations to TCA; we are ever thankful for our community's donations
  - Reviewing parent e-mails at each school and listening to comments
  - We appreciate our community's grace and love during this unprecedented time in history due to the coronavirus
    - When school starts up in the fall we are planning for contingencies that may face us including:
      - Continuing at home learning
      - Social distancing
      - Hybrid learning; at home and in person combination
      - Impact on the TCA community
        - o Challenges to teachers, parents and students
  - Plans for end of school on May 22, 2020 (Graduation; waiting for state guidelines and approval of TCA plans)
  - Discussed the article "Blueprint for Back to School" and all of the implications/challenges associated with preparing to go back to school in the fall
  - Awaiting further guidance from the state concerning policies governing what back to school in the fall will look like

#### VIII. **Consent Agenda**

2 min (7:15) (6:36)

Board Directed items to be removed from Consent Agenda:

Motion: (Vote) to approve/file the Consent Agenda

- A. Finance
  - 1. March Financials (VanGampleare)
  - 2. Auditor Engagement (VanGampleare)
  - 3. Quarterly Financial Summary (VanGampleare)
- B. Quarterly FAC Meeting (Goin/VanGampleare)
  - Motion: Ms. Littleton moved to approve/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. Bennett; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Ms. Littleton; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)

#### IX. **April 13, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

2 min (7:17) (6:37)

Action: (Swanson)

Motion: (Vote) to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2020 Board meeting

Rationale: to review and approve the minutes

- Motion: Mr. Bennett moved to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes and was seconded.
- Discussion: None
- Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Bennett; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Ms. Littleton; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)
- **Discussion Agenda Items** X.
  - A. Items removed from Consent Agenda
  - **B.** Cabinet Level Reports
    - 1. Student Fee Schedule

5 min (7:19) (6:38)

Action: (Jolly/Birkey) Motion: (Vote)

Rationale: to review and approve the student fee schedule for the 2020-2021 school year

Motion: Ms. Littleton moved to approve the student fee schedule for the 2020-2021 school year and was seconded.

• Discussion: None

Vote: By a roll call vote of 7-0 the Board approved the motion. (Dr. Andre; Yea // Mr. Bennett; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Ms. Littleton; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)

#### 2. Preliminary Budget Review for Next FY

Action: (VanGampleare) Motion: (1st Read)

Rationale: to review and approve the budget for the next FY

- Mr. VanGampleare highlighted the following from his presentation:
  - o At this time, there is a \$3B shortfall at the state
  - This could mean as much as a 10% reduction in Per Pupil Revenue for next year
    - We will not know until the state legislature reconvenes on May 26, 2020
  - o TCA is not planning on any reductions in workforce or furloughs
  - o PERA contributions for staff and employer will increase next year
  - o Medical benefits premiums are projected at their current cost levels
  - Current budget does not include capital expenditures for remodel of 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor areas at the North Campus

#### 3. Annual Charter Contract Review

10 min (7:39) (8:04)

15 min (7:24) (6:41—6:56)

Action: (Coles/VanGampleare)

Motion: (1st Read)

Rationale: to annually review and approve changes to the Charter Contract Between TCA and ASD20

- Mr. Coles highlighted the following from his report:
  - o Referenced spreadsheet that listed all the changes to the Charter Contract for this year
  - Other District services TCA is opting to utilize:
    - TCA Bus inspection and servicing
    - IT services that the district gets at a lower price than TCA
  - o Removed six polices from the district that no longer apply
  - o Accepted two policies referring to the homeless

#### 4. Operations Capital Construction Report (Monthly)

10 min (7:49) (8:19)

Action: (Coles/Pacht)
Motion: (Information)

Rationale: to provide the Board with a construction update

- Mr. Coles highlighted the following from his report:
  - Reviewed the scope of the project
    - May 15, 2020 construction will begin at the North Campus
  - o Reviewed associated costs
    - Board approved budget for the construction project is \$7,610,000
    - Reviewed associated timelines for various projects
      - The contractor has already begun work on replacing the artificial turf at the North Campus field (five weeks early)

## 5. Annual Parent Survey Analysis

20 min (7:59) (8:24)

Action: (Jolly)
Motion: (Information)

Rationale: to review the results of the parent survey

- Mr. Wes Jolly, TCA's Director of Academic Services, provided a briefing on the annual Parent Survey results.
- This year, our participation rate continued to be above average with 1,168 parents contributing to the survey.
- Overall, parents continue to be engaged year-to-year in participating in the survey, and the data received is important for principals to determine their school's strengths and areas for growth.
- Staff and teachers continue to be what parents say is the best thing about TCA followed by community/family, character, and education/academics.
- As always, there are also areas for improvement, and school principals have already, or will soon be, providing feedback to their individual communities.

## C. Board Level Reports

#### 1. Annual Board Self Evaluation Results

10 min (8:19) (8:55)

Action: (Moulton/Swanson)
Motion: (Discussion)

Rationale: to review the results of the Board Self Evaluation

- Mr. Mouton highlighted the following items:
  - Generally a very favorable evaluation with high levels of satisfaction for the Board and Administration
  - o The Board is functioning very effectively and values each members opinions in a courteous atmosphere
  - o Next month, we will review options/plans focusing on any challenges facing the Board

#### D. Board Communication

Action: Secretary

Rationale: to develop and approve of communication update to community and to update the Board on e-mail traffic and distribution

- Celebrate TCA
- At Home Learning
- Parent Survey
- Digital Health Policy on Hold

#### E. Future Board Agenda Items

5 min (8:34) (9:02)

5 min (8:29) (9:01)

- 1. Annual Charter Contract Approval, June, Vote, Coles
- 2. President Annual Evaluation and Compensation Determination, June, Vote, Moulton
- 3. Adopt a School; Board Assignments, June, Vote, Moulton
- 4. Budget Approval for Next FY, June, Vote, VanGampleare
- 5. Annual Character Report, June, Info, Academic Services
- 6. Appreciation Committee Report, June, Info, Littleton
- 7. Training Committee Report, June, Info, Rudder
- 8. Annual Board Evaluation Action Items, June, Disc./Info., Moulton/Swanson
- 9. Confirm July Working Session Agenda, June, Disc., Moulton
- 10. Review Form 990, June, Info, VanGampleare
- 11. Quarterly FAC Meeting, Aug, Info, Goin/VanGampleare

#### F. Closing Comments from the Board

5 min (8:39) (9:04)

- Mr. Bennett: Very productive meeting; feel good amongst the challenges that lay ahead
- Ms. Littleton: Very good parent survey results, confident in the good work that the Administration is doing, parents, please continue to send the Board e-mails
- Mr. Moulton: Suggested possible quick e-mail surveys to collect parents' thoughts on specific issues, looking forward to what the plans for the fall will look like

### XI. Adjournment (Approx. 8:44 p.m.)

(8:44) (9:06)

- Motion: Mr. Rudder 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. Bennett; Yea // Mrs. Goin; Yea // Mr. Hannan; Yea // Ms. Littleton; Yea // Mr. Moulton; Yea // Mr. Rudder; Yea)

Rich Bennett TCA Board Secretary