

Tallahassee Classical School  
Held via Zoom  
September 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm  
Emergency Board Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Matt Mohler, John Clark, Jana Sayler, Jennifer Diaz, Priscilla West, Alan Chen

Staff Present: Brinton Smith, Karen Roland, Adrienne Campbell, Michelle Stringer, Shannon Vestal

Others Present: Nick Quentin, Shawn Arnold, Barney Bishop, Jill Giles, Parker Campbell, Ruby, Rachel, Kenley Brooks, JSW, Paul Hawkes, Bonnie Schwartz

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.

1. Presentation by Shawn Arnold, Board's Outside Counsel

Board counsel was asked about training status, spoke with FDOE and Kathleen Shoenburg about charter school statutes. Referenced FL Statute 1012.315, Personnel section. Persons in regular contact with kids must undergo full background screening before beginning work. Prior to screening, a person cannot be fully seated on the board. Mr. Mohler and Mr. Bishop can still be seated once screening is completed, upon board approval.

Mr. Clark asked what precipitated the inquiry. Mr. Arnold says that Jana Sayler initially asked the question, concerned about compliance. Now that the Board is aware, continuing without rectifying situation would put the Board at risk. Administration is supposed to check this – they are the paid professionals whose job responsibilities include making sure that these checks are in place. The audit also should have ensured that background checks occurred. (It failed.) Finally, Leon County Schools also should have been monitoring this. All systems currently in place failed to catch this situation, which also needs to be addressed ASAP.

Mr. Clark stated that at minimum, background check must be completed before Board member is seated. Board training is required in the bylaws, but the consequence is unclear and must be specified ASAP. Recommends board remain professional and mission-focused. Thanks members for volunteer service, reminds fiduciary responsibility.

Alan Chen asks if it would be helpful to re-ratify motions that involved the Mr. Mohler and Mr. Bishop before they were properly seated. Mr. Arnold concurs. (Suggests this may be done efficiently using a Consent Agenda.) Also, once the background and fingerprints, training are completed, can board vote to re-seat the would-be members? (Yes. Unless something drastic has changed, this is how we proceed.)

John Clark asks if it's ok for board members to call Arnold law Firm individually with questions. (Yes – does not need to come through Board.)

## 2. Public Comment

- *Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. A group of persons speaking collectively on a subject is limited to 15 minutes. For an extended presentation, please contact the Board Secretary at least seven days prior to a meeting.*

None.

## 3. New Business

Alan Chen moves to add agenda item to reinstate Mr. Bishop and Mr. Mohler. Jennifer Diaz seconds. (withdrawn)

Alan Chen moves to add agenda item to evaluate actions of the Board Chair. John Clark seconds. (withdrawn)

### a. Rescission of Motion to Negotiate Contract with Inspired Technologies

Jana Sayler moves to rescind the previously passed motion in which the board voted to contract the services of Inspired Technologies. (Voided)

John Clark moves to reaffirm the I.T. contract. Alan Chen seconds. Three-two, motion failed.

Jana Sayler was concerned about the I.T. contract after it was initially passed and reached out to Shawn Arnold about procurement procedures. Mrs. Sayler also sent emails to board members expressing these concerns – apologizes for doing so improperly. (Comments were possibly construed as undermining Board’s decision.)

Mrs. Sayler said that the contract as currently authorized is not proper,

- 1) We receive federal funding for E-Rate, which requires procurement procedures meet standards. We currently receive this service from Classroom Smart. Federal Program requires that the school first notify the current contractual provider, give them opportunity to respond, and solicit multiple bids for new service provider. Federal Funding requires board to bid the work out through proper channels.
- 2) The list of items cited by Inspired Technologies were incorrect. The school does have a firewall and antivirus protection, and it is in compliance with the Child Internet Act. The school is not in an “Emergency” situation. (Mr. Clark says that some of these items are subject to interpretation, per Mr. Dunlap of Inspired Technologies.)
- 3) The person who brought this contract for board’s approval is currently in a business relationship with Mr. Dunlap and should have disclosed the existing business relationship and recused himself from voting on this item. (Jennifer Diaz suggests getting three bids.) In order to go through this process, we have to rescind the current contract. E-Rate

consultant told Mrs. Sayler that the school has to put the business out for bid, doesn't matter how many bids come in (doesn't have to be a minimum of 3). Mrs. West suggests the board hire a third-party consultant to help analyze the bids.

Mrs. Roland met with Mr. Hughes (E-Rate consultant) about the process to replace a nonperforming provider. Mr. Hughes submits a change request for school – new bid process would be required for school year 2021-2022. Confirmed that we have two commitment letters for funds this year but have not yet received any of the funds. If we choose not to continue with current contract, we submit a Request for Change and use funds for the new vendor. Letter of Commitment in question is \$6255. The school has five years to spend these E-Rate funds, if they aren't spent this year. (Mr. Smith concurs that this was his understanding of the conversation.)

Both Inspired Technologies and Classroom Smart recommend that we need a Bring Your Own Device policy into place. Shawn Arnold says his firm has developed these for other clients, also recommends.

Current I.T. provider fee is \$1042/mo for Network Support contract. This includes a monthly visit + remote support. (It is not a "Device Management" contract, which could include remote or on-site tech person.) Mrs. Sayler feels that the proposed new contract is oversized for our school at its current stage of development. (Asks if there may be a buy-out cost for current contract. 3 years but doesn't specify cancellation provisions.) Mr. Arnold recommends that TCS get a full, written contract into place rather than the 'quote' which has served as de-facto contract for the past 14 months.

John Clark moves to reaffirm contract. Priscilla, Jennifer, and Jana vote No. (Motion fails)

Alan Chen says that we have new information that Mr. Mohler and Mr. Bishop have recently done the training and fingerprinting. Moves to reinstate the two members. (withdrawn)

John Clark feels that chairman has obligation to keep good members on the board, rather than kick them off. States that both have been active participants and assets to our Board. "It would be a travesty of justice if they are not reinstated tonight." Alan Chen concurs.

Jana Sayler notes that she was surprised by Mr. Bishop's behavior – he was disrespectful to our Counsel and did not disclose that he is in a business relationship with Mr. Dunlap. Ms Sayler stated that Mr Bishop is in a business relationship with Mr. Dunlap of I.T. and she said he never disclosed it to the board.

John Clark moves to welcome Mr. Mohler and Mr. Bishop back at Monday meeting. Mrs. Sayler and Mrs. West vote No. (Request further information from Mr. Bishop.) Mrs. Diaz, Dr. Chen, and Mr. Clark vote Yes. Motion passes.

Mr. Arnold suggests that limiting time to 15 minutes per group opens potential for complaint if EVERY person is not allowed to speak. Our policy as currently written limits every person's ability to speak in the event that more than 5 people want to speak on a single topic.

John Clark asks Mrs. Sayler if she disabled Mr. Smith and Mrs. Roland's access to website. Mrs. Sayler said that meeting Zoom link originally emailed to board members by Mr Bishop, did not match the one posted on the website. To resolve the discrepancy, a new link was created, posted, and emailed by Mrs. Sayler.

Mr. Clark asked if Mrs. Sayler informed them that she was limiting access to the website and suggested that she give consideration whether she needs to be leading this board. "Founding and Administration are not necessarily the same skill set."

John Clark moves to adjourn, Alan Chen seconds. 8:27 PM adjourned.