Tallahassee Classical School Minutes of meeting April 6, 2022

Minutes taken by Ed H. Moore at request of chair as meeting began

6:02 Meeting Opened

A quorum was present

Chair Opening Remarks

Open Issue: Can/Should we continue to use Hillsdale Curriculum package as we consider that relationship?

Public Comments: Eric Sayler commented on the non-disclosure of the December letter and additional information that was not available until recently. He also commented on the personnel issue of the ‘missing’ principal and the recent information disclosed about the hire that backed out at the last minute.

No other comments from the public

Agenda Items

1. Response to Hillsdale- Chair stated that all materials in hand were now distributed and part of the meeting packet too. He asked for suggestions from the board members as how best to proceed. Member Mohler stated that the relationship is not severed- we can still respond.

Bishop moves to have Moore Agency draft a letter to Hillsdale as a response to their latest letter, requesting input on their specific points. Mohler seconded. Bishop wants to know how all this will affect curriculum and to clarify exactly what the relationship is for now. Diaz asked for clarification of his motion. Sayler suggested that since we are within the sixty-day period that we clarify all issues but also show where we are and what our plan will be. Bishop stated we should ask them what Hillsdale thinks is needed, based on letter, and gather more details.

Passed Unanimously Chen, Bishop and Sayler will work with Moore Agency on letter ASAP. 60-day window ends May 28.

Chen spoke to how temporary Executive Committee is working and to the need to move forward for a permanent Principal. He called on Dr, McClenney to update status. Reported all is going well at this point. All working still within their responsible areas but also collaborating as needed. It should be fine for the balance of the school year.

Hope Carrasquilla concurred.

Chen asked- do we need a principal. Unanimous yes!

Bishop moved that we retain the services of ESI to report on current roles, skills and duties. Mohler seconded. Discussion ensued and the following issues should be addressed according to the Mover.

1. Are Ex. Comm. Members the right people for their positions? Is it a good fit?
2. Are any of them the right fit for a permanent principal?

It was emphasized in the discussion that a third party assessment would be helpful. We need to get curriculum reconciled according to Bishop. He had met with faculty and they expressed interest in doing more than just the Hillsdale package.

ESI will charge $250 for each of the four assessments. Their report will be done before the next regular board meeting. Campbell asked if there are more than the four who should be evaluated. Bishop suggested starting with the four for now. Therefore, the motion was to authorize $1,000 for ESI for these steps.

Passed 7-0.

Mohler stated we need to react quickly to the report- to move ahead with a search of hire within.

Next was discussion of a Charter Management Organizational pursuit. Sayler has reached out to companies. Chair requested her information be sent to all members. Sayler provided verbal detail of initial responses. The board concurred we continue moving forward on this.

Next was discussion of what to do now regarding the current Principal Smith situation. He stated he has not taken any payments since mid-March. Diaz stated that the board could not justify continuing payments when the services required are not being given or used. Bishop moved to table this discussion until the Hillsdale issues are resolved and the assessments are done. Mohler seconded. Bishop amended his motion to hold payments going forward until this status is resolved. Smith said he is happy to send a letter releasing the board of any responsibility for additional payments.

Question called. It failed 4-4 with Diaz, Sayler, Campbell and Chair voting no.

Diaz suggested we terminate the contract since he is no longer going to the school. Smith stated he is available on an hourly basis remotely and has submitted a revised contract.

Campbell moved, seconded by Bishop that these issues be reviewed by Qualls and that Smith not be paid for services not rendered.

It passed 5-3 with Moore, Diaz, and Sayler voting no.

Additional questions were asked. Diaz: Has he been working at all? What are his expenses? We need to be sure to properly pay, we have a fiduciary responsibility. Moore stated that since there are contracts in place that Smith can not just waive the fiduciary responsibility of the board. Campbell stated this clarifies the need to get this resolved and closed. Smith restated it is not necessary to pay him and he wants to avoid ‘legalistic issues’. He stated he will send a letter relinquishing any obligation for the board to compensate him.

Campbell moved to table further discussion until the next board meeting. Bishop seconded. 8-0 vote in favor of motion.

Item. C. Mohler moved to table this item. Bishop seconded. Passed 8-0.

Chair Chen advised the board he is resigning June 1 due to professional obligations. He suggested the board put forth someone to work with him between now and his departure, or May 23, his last meeting.

Mohler nominated Bishop, Bishop seconded his nomination. There was discussion about terms and Moore inquired as to how long this appointment would be since Chen is leaving mid-term. It was clarified that the full appointment, for now based on By-Laws, is for a two year period beginning July 1, which would leave a short period in this current term. It was agreed that for now (there is discussion unrelated to this about a By-Laws review) that Bishop would assume Chair for the remainder of this term and the next full term.

The vote was 6-2 with Diaz and Sayler voting no.

Sayler asked for an update on enrollment. The grade numbers given were not specific per grade but in general: there are wait lists in some grades and apparently 3,4,7,8 and perhaps 9 are full.

August enrollment is estimated at possibly 711, with a submitted range of 674 to 711.

Chen proposed another meeting to catch up and finalize remaining open agenda items.

Campbell suggested moving many of those items to committees for handling.

Moore was placed on Operations and Finance

Campbell was placed on Finance and By-Laws

Sayler suggested we review terms of office and Chair concurred. Some discussion of reducing the term length ensued with the intent to get as many board members engaged as possible in various roles.

Meeting adjourned. 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted

Ed H. Moore

Acting Secretary