



Tallahassee Classical School

Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Monday, March 20, 2023

7:04 – 8:47 am

via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

- I. Call To Order Bishop

- II. Roll Call
 - a. Present and constituting a quorum (in no particular order): Chair Barney Bishop, Pam Griggs, Matt Mohler, Tim Qualls, Louis Jean-Baptiste. Also present: Principal, Hope Carrasquilla and General Counsel, Jeff Kottkamp, Esq.

- III. Additions to the Agenda
 - a. Request from Tim Qualls to hear from General Counsel to assure that protocol has been followed regarding notice of meeting.
 - i. Jeff Kottkamp, General Counsel responded that we are in compliance.

- IV. Public Comment (2-minute limit)
 - a. Marc Hartline – Concerned about the changes with 9 weeks left in school year.
 - b. Laurel Jordan – Support for Mrs. Carrasquilla
 - c. Jennifer Hirst – Reason for resignation?
 - d. Tareca Siplin – Support for Mrs. Carrasquilla
 - e. Steven Aggelis – Support for Mrs. Carrasquilla
 - f. Norman Young – Support for Mrs. Carrasquilla
 - g. Victor Carrasquilla – Support for Mrs. Carrasquilla
 - h. Austin Yorke – Support for Mrs. Carrasquilla
 - i. Carol Reilly – Does not support removal of Mrs. Carrasquilla or need for special meeting unless emergency such as danger to scholars.
 - j. Hope Carrasquilla – Believes in the mission of the school and strives to do what's best. Has asked for this meeting regarding her resignation/termination to be

held in open forum. Expressed she would like to stay at the school and believes in stability.

- k. Erin Rosica – Questioned need for meeting at 7am on teacher planning day.
- l. Christina Barco – Concerned about stability and lack of consistency.
- m. Noel Stillman – Concerned about inconsistency and impact on the school.

V. New Business

a. Resignation/Termination of Principal Hope Carrasquilla

- Tim Qualls: Ask for the facts that lead up to having this special meeting regarding this issue. What actions have occurred that require the need for meeting.

- General Counsel, Jeff Kottkamp stated the board meeting was being scheduled for Friday, Mrs. Carrasquilla asked for additional time. Notice was provided to all members and the only time members were available to meet was 7:00am. Not sure about the specific details.

- Tim Qualls: So, nothing has happened between time before Spring Break and now to precipitate this meeting.

- Barney Bishop: Employment contract states there can be termination with or without cause. Molly Schaddock with Sniffen & Spellman Law was consulted regarding this matter. Advised to move forward with termination without cause which mean reasons for termination do not have to be disclosed.

- Motion by Tim Qualls to adjourn and discuss issue at future meeting, Seconded by Louis Jean-Baptiste – Motion Failed

- Barney inquires whether Mrs. Carrasquilla would like to remove your resignation. Carrasquilla stated if all members of the Board think that is in the best interest of the school, she would resign. Mrs. Carrasquilla is not resigning.

- Louis Jean-Baptiste: Why not handle during summer or end of school year? Why are we going a hard termination?

- Matt Mohler: Reasoning for handling now instead of later is so that we have a strong team moving forward.

- Motion by Barney Bishop to terminate without cause, No Second.

- Motion to hear Mrs. Carrasquilla address the Board by Louis Jean-Baptiste, Seconded by Tim Qualls.

- Hope Carrasquilla: There has been no concerns by other board members, no evaluations, no corrective action plan. Stated will resign if the whole board agrees it is in the best interest.

- Matt Mohler: Based on where we are now, it is in the best interest of the school for resignation.

- Pam Griggs: We have been advised to not go into details. Disappointed we got here the way we did.

- Hope Carrasquilla: Will give her resignation

- Motion by Tim Qualls to accept the resignation based on counter proposal presented, Seconded by Louis Jean-Baptiste – Motion Carried

- Terms of Counteroffer: Will accept Hope Carrasquilla's resignation effective immediately. Leave keys, laptop, and school related property on desk. Will be on sabbatical with pay until May 24, 2023.

b. Interim/New Principal

- Barney Bishop proposes Cara Wynn to become the next principal.

- Motion to appoint Cara Wynn on interim basis until June 30, 2023.
Seconded by Tim Qualls – Motion Carried

- Discuss more at the March 27 Board of Trustees meeting.

VI. Adjourned at 8:47am – Motion to adjourn by Pam Griggs, Seconded by Louis Jean-Baptiste – Motion Carried