



Tallahassee
Classical School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2023

Minutes

Meeting call to order at 6:11 by Chairman Barney Bishop

Board Members Present in Person

Barney Bishop

Matt Mohler

Pam Griggs

Tim Qualls

Louis J. Baptiste

Anita Davis - **Presently Remotely**

Tim Qualls requested that Agenda Item 10 A Election of Treasurer be moved up. Chairman Barney Bishop indicated agreement. No motion.

Motion by Tim Qualls to approve the consent agenda with exception of Committee assignments and including minutes from the meetings of April 24, 2023 and May 8, 2023 and discipline checklist. Unanimous approval.

Motion by Pam to nominate Tim for Interim Treasurer. Second by Louis. Point of unreadiness by Chairman Bishop that Tim cannot serve dual roles, he is currently serving as vice chair.

Motion by Tim to nominate Matt Mohler as Treasurer temporary, Second by Louis. Unanimous approval.

Motion by Matt Mohler to bring Alex Harris as a new board member. Second by Anita Davis.

Discussion: Comment by Pam Griggs regarding her position on Alex Harris as new board member.

Discussion: Comment by Tim Qualls about his unreadiness to support the Motion to add Alex Harris to board.

Motion by Matt Mohler to table his nomination of Alex Harris to the next regular meeting of the board. Second by Tim Qualls. Unanimous approval.

Discussion Barney Bishop - Alex served his county and did so honorably.

Discussion Anita Davis: I want to be clear that we are saying that person who wrote a blank check with his life is not qualified because of educational background....

Discussion Matt Mohler: Our country was founded by people who started businesses, I don't think that college degree is necessary for a classical education. A college degree is not required be successful.

Chairman Comments: Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Leon County Schools and Lisa Urban. Meeting with Rocky Hanna about paperwork. Chairman Bishop provided feedback for the Gala. We need to get our safety plan reviewed. We need to review our board agreement with the school district.

Matt Mohler - Rocky Hanna was invited to the school this year but he chose not to attend.

Tim Qualls: Point about board retreat and need to notice meeting if we discuss business.
Barney Bishop: We should notice the meeting so we can discuss business.

General Counsel Report: Lt. Governor Kottkamp - We have lawsuit filed against us for public records. If we can avoid spending a lot of time and money on litigation we should.

Tim Qualls: Motion that we should not discuss the active litigation until we have had the chance to give the appropriate shade notice. Plaintiff is very active in suing. Motion withdrawn.

Headmaster Report: Handout given to board members at the meeting, will be attached to board Minutes. Handout covers the following topic: Enrollment, Discipline, Contracts, Certification, Dave Ramsey Course, As the Arrow Flies.

Discipline: Craig Hampton does a great job with discipline for/with our scholars, also does remediation. He is great part of Tallahassee Classical School.

Contracts: Teachers have started to ask questions.

Matt Mohler: We should give our teachers notice faster.

Pam: We should do budgets around March and April.

Barney: If we offered contracts in April, would that be sufficient? (Question posed to Headmaster Wynn)

Matt: We don't need to lose good teachers...How many teachers are leaving voluntary?

Motion by Louis Baptiste to create a TCS policy that would require letter intent would be received from teachers in early March, and at least a tentative budget will be approved by board during regular scheduled meeting in March. Second by Matt Mohler.

Motion withdrawn by LOUIS BAPTISTE

Discussion:

Tim Qualls: We don't need to create policy; headmaster can exercise discretion.

Chair Barney Bishop: We need to begin to create policies.

Matt Mohler: This is the example of what a good board should be doing, Head of Schools comes to the board with a concern and the board creates a policy to help the head of school.

Motion by Tim Qualls: That we approve the final budget but no later than the end of March of every calendar year. Second by Anita Davis

Unanimous approval.

Headmaster Report - Certification - Hearing from the School Board that the school board was going to take it away and I was hearing from Teachers that they were not going to stay on Wednesdays. HB1 affected 4 teachers on staff. Chairman Bishop: HB1 allowed them to take advantage of the additional three years to get certification. We anticipate having 43 teachers next years, that is what we have now. Headmaster is working on making sure that upper school teachers are being utilized all day except for their planning periods.

Rick Connell - He is going to bring bows and arrows to talk to scholars at ceremony.

Chairman Barney Bishop: I thought we only took in third graders. Headmaster: We take everybody.

Headmaster: Barbara Mohler: Took her from certification, and she has been helping treat every family with kid gloves, we have been following up with all families.

Headmaster Presentation of Budget PowerPoint: Available upon request.

Chairman Bishop: we based this year's budget on 10 percent reduction, when we should have factored 20-25% reduction. Also, teachers were previously not working full days (teaching 6 periods) some were teaching only 3. Headmaster Wynn has that under control and will ensure that all teachers are teaching 6 periods.

Tim Qualls: Are you asking the board to approve a budget tonight? How many students do we need to break even?

Pam Griggs: If we have 499 scholars, we break even, anything above 499 gives us surplus or positive capital.

Pam Griggs: Every year we must meet increasingly stringent bond ratios, next year we will need to have additional students.

Matt Mohler: We can also sell the two vacant lots to the north of us for sale if we need too, Pam: that a last resort measure. Chairman Bishop: We cannot sell overnight, so we must make plans for that ahead of time.

Board approved Pre-K at January board meeting.

Headmaster: At the beginning of next year, we will have VPK - Pre-K.

Pam Griggs: We have capacity for 700 scholars at the school.

Headmaster: One of our objectives is to improve teacher salaries from 45k to 47.5k, would put us more in line with Leon County Schools. Not an adjustment to all teachers, just an increase of the base for teachers.

Matt Mohler: If we give a bonus to headmaster based on student enrollment that we create a scenario where headmaster might be incentivized to avoid discipline. (Not saying Headmaster Wynn would engage in this behavior)

Motion By Tim Qualls to accept that 2023-2024 academic year salary schedule. Second by Pam Griggs. Unanimous approval.

Chairman Bishop: Will we be able to pay SFS under new budget?

Pam Griggs: SFS has agreed to reduce rate and we will be able to pay the reduced rate.

Louis J. Baptiste: Motion to approve budget at 100% level with amendment to \$5,000.00 dollars for marketing after FEFP funding is received. Second by Anita Davis. Unanimous approval.

Matt Mohler: Motion to explore selling the lot next to us. Second by Tim Qualls. Unanimous approval.

School Discipline - Chairman Barney Bishop: We did have an school discipline issue, it has been Chairman Bishop policy that when we make mistakes during our disciplinary process, we own up to our mistakes, it does not mean that the student gets a pass on behavior, but when we fail to handle the discipline in the appropriate manner, we should make it right, in this case we failed to follow the behavior contract.

I want to entertain a motion for our new chair and Headmaster Wynn to withdraw the discipline from the focus system. Focus is the system that is shared by Leon County Schools.

Matt Mohler: Students should be responsible for their actions; we need to be mindful of the precedent that we set.

Motion by Tim Qualls; Motion to not discuss threatened or pending litigation in the sunshine. Second by Louis J. Baptiste. Unanimous approval.

Motion by Matt Mohler, Second by Pam Griggs to remove discipline in focus for student that has brought complaint about discipline process and to allow Headmaster Wynn and Lt. Gov. Kottkamp to respond.

Motion to Adjourn. Unanimous approval.