

**JOINT MEETING OF TEMPE PREPARATORY ACADEMY AND TEMPE  
PREPARATORY JUNIOR ACADEMY BOAD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 21, 2015**

The meeting of the Tempe Preparatory Academies Board of Directors was called to order by Vice President Stuart Newfeld, at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at the Zelman Center at Tempe Preparatory Academy, 1251 East Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38- 431.02, notice having been duly given.

**Roll Call**

Voting Board Members Present

Chad Sampson, President (arrived late)  
Dr. Stuart Newfeld, Vice President  
Roberta Fischer, Treasurer  
Dr. Rebecca Cryder, Secretary  
Trevor Bush  
Lisa Borawski-Pickard (by conference call)

Voting Board Members Absent

Richard Foreman

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Mitch Sweet, Faculty Representative  
Andrea Guiney, Parent Organization Representative

Non-Voting Board Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Dr. Wayne Porter, Headmaster  
Linda Sale, Business Administrator

**Call to the public**

Liza Muniz expressed concern about a recent e-mail purporting to set forth a new uniform policy. Specifically, Ms. Muniz expressed concerns regarding notice and whether seniors should be exempt.

Roger Medlen expressed similar concerns regarding the uniform issue. Specifically, Mr. Medlen expressed concerns regarding notice and the high cost of uniforms.

Rob Diez De Medina also expressed concerns regarding the uniform issue. Mr. Diez De Medina indicated there were more important issues to address than the uniform policy.

Joann Falgout expressed similar concerns regarding the uniform issue and indicated that she thought use of a dedicated vendor was problematic for multiple reasons.

Hugo Larios expressed similar concerns regarding the uniform issue. Mr. Larios specifically addressed the issue of price.

Laurie Haas expressed similar concerns regarding the uniform issue and questioned the utility of a dedicated vendor.

Charissa McGraw provided information to the Board regarding the federal lunch program on which she was working with Dr. David Baum. Ms. McGraw outlined the financial, practical, and nutritional benefits of the program and offered to give a presentation to the Board to provide additional information. President Chad Sampson invited Ms. McGraw to do a presentation to vet the process further.

Donna Austin addressed the uniform issue and offered to act as a resource because she works in the uniform industry.

Barron Smith addressed the uniform issue and advised the Board that the girl's white polo shirt from the dedicated vendor was see-through.

Travis Campbell addressed the uniform issue and requested that more notice be given before a new policy is implemented.

Laura White addressed the uniform issue and suggested implementing the policy at one time instead of piecemeal.

Susanna Yazı addressed the uniform issue and asked how it worked with the used uniform sale sponsored by the Parent Organization. Ms. Yazı also indicated that she did not believe a school logo on the uniform was necessary.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Reading/Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings**

Vice President Stuart Newfeld requested that the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Regular Agenda.

Vice President Stuart Newfeld made a Motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2015 Special Budget Meeting and the July 15, 2015 Special Headmaster Vote Meeting. Treasurer Roberta Fischer seconded the Motion. Vote passed.

## **Regular Agenda**

### Reading/Approval of the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice President Stuart Newfeld raised two issues of concern regarding the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. First, Dr. Newfeld identified typographical errors that he felt should be corrected regarding the recording of Board votes. Second, Dr. Newfeld expressed concern that the Minutes did not accurately reflect the comments he made regarding the resignation of Dr. David Baum. Dr. Newfeld indicated that his comments were prepared in writing and that the Minutes should be amended to include his comments. Dr. Newfeld distributed a copy of his comments for the Board members to review.

Dr. Newfeld made a Motion to amend the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes to correct the typographical errors and more accurately reflect his comments concerning the resignation of Dr. David Baum. There was no second to the Motion. Motion failed.

Trevor Bush made a Motion to approve the June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. Roberta Fischer seconded the Motion. Chad Sampson, Trevor Bush, Roberta Fischer, Dr. Rebecca Cryder, and Lisa Borawski-Picard voted aye; Dr. Stuart Newfeld voted nay. Vote passed 5-1.

### Introduction of the new Headmaster

President Chad Sampson introduced Dr. Wayne Porter as the new Headmaster of TPA/TPJA. Mr. Sampson expressed his excitement to have Dr. Porter and indicated that he was looking forward to Dr. Porter contributing to ensuring the greatness of the school.

Trevor Bush welcomed Dr. Porter and indicated that the Board received positive comments regarding Dr. Porter from his former school.

Vice President Dr. Stuart Newfeld also welcomed Dr. Porter.

Secretary Dr. Rebecca Cryder also welcomed Dr. Porter.

Treasurer Roberta Fischer welcomed Dr. Porter and indicated that she was looking forward to working with him.

Dr. Wayne Porter addressed the Board and public and indicated that he was looking forward to working with the Board, staff, faculty and community to make the school as successful as possible.

#### Update on Small School Weights' effect on budgets

President Chad Sampson discussed the opinion rendered by the Attorney General's office that exempts TPA/TPJA from the new law. Because the opinion reinstates the additional funds, the schools will have to resubmit their budgets by September 15, 2015. Mr. Sampson advised that the request to the Charter Board to merge the TPA and TPJA charters has been tabled in light of the new opinion. Mr. Sampson advised that the merger of the charters will be revisited if for some reason the Department of Education changes its policy regarding application of the new law as interpreted by the Attorney General's office.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld asked whether merging the charters would affect the PMP of TPJA. Mr. Sampson indicated that it probably would not affect the PMP to TPJA.

#### Faculty Report

Faculty representative Mitch Sweet reported that the faculty was busy doing normal summer activities and that they were looking forward to working with Dr. Porter.

#### Parent Organization Report

PO President Andrea Guiney indicated that the PO was excited to work with Ms. McGraw regarding the federal lunch program. She also reported that the PO was enlisting volunteers to host the back-to-school activities and was hoping the administration would be open to accepting feedback. Ms. Guiney also indicated that the PO was looking for people to step into key roles, such as communication director and someone to help maintain the website.

Ms. Guiney also advised that the PO was working with the TPA Foundation to address improving the science facilities.

Ms. Guiney reported that the used uniform sale was held earlier than in the past and that it was successful. She indicated that the PO was exploring hosting a similar event for used textbooks.

Finally, Ms. Guiney reported that the PO was ready to give last quarter scripps dividends for parent use.

#### **Proposed Revisions to the Student Dress Code**

President Chad Sampson clarified that the Board did not approve a new uniform/dress code policy and that the e-mail was distributed in error. Mr. Sampson did indicate that the faculty had a legitimate concern with tightening up enforcement of the policy and the Board would continue to explore the issue.

Vice President Dr. Stuart Newfeld addressed the public's concern about using a dedicated vendor and explained that use of the vendor would return a 5% rebate to the school, which could be used to assist families with financial need. Dr. Newfeld confirmed that no decision had been made by the Board.

Trevor Bush asked what had changed that would drive the need for a dedicated vendor. Dr. Newfeld responded indicating that the prior vendor was out of business. Mr. Bush indicated he was a proponent of multiple vendors and proposed looking at improving enforcement of the existing policy.

Karin Moffitt discussed the issue of achieving uniformity as discussed by the uniform committee. Ms. Moffitt indicated that the policy had been under discussion for a long time, but that no one intended to rush it through.

Treasurer Roberta Fischer indicated that she was surprised to see the e-mail as she was not under the impression that the Board had taken any action. Ms. Fischer indicated that she would support an effort to enforce the current policy. She also indicated that she would like to see uniform samples.

Secretary Dr. Rebecca Cryder indicated that she would like to see samples as well, but believes that enforcement of the current policy is the issue rather than changing the policy. She also indicated that she would like to hear the administration's concerns with the current policy.

PO President Andrea Guiney suggested the PO work with faculty to identify enforcement issues and enforcing the dress code in a respectful manner. Ms. Guiney indicated that while children should be held accountable, they should not be embarrassed in the process.

Chad Sampson indicated that he saw two issues: (1) vagueness of the current policy, which may require some revision and action by the Board, and (2) a desire to make uniforms more traditional with school spirit. Given these issues, Mr. Sampson indicated that the Board should focus on revising the policy to give the administration more guidance and work with the community to receive input. Mr. Sampson indicated that the Board should move on these issues soon.

Headmaster Wayne Porter agreed with the Board's comments and indicated that adequate notice is necessary. He agrees that there are things that can be done to tighten up enforcement and asked that parents be involved to ensure that their children are attempting to adhere to the policy.

Vice President Dr. Stuart Newfeld made a Motion to table any proposed revisions of the uniform policy to a future meeting so that there can be vigorous discussion and debate. Treasurer Roberta Fischer seconded the Motion. Vote passed. President Chad Sampson asked that the administration send out an e-mail informing the community of its decision.

### **Proposed changes to the Student Athletic Fees**

Athletic Director David Brittain addressed a proposal to charge additional fees to home schooled students who participate in sports at TPA/TPJA. Mr. Brittain emphasized that the home schooled students are important to the TPA/TPJA sports programs and are valued by their coaches and teammates. However, because of budgetary concerns, the proposal was deemed necessary.

The proposal provides as follows: (1) returning home schooled high school athletes will be grandfathered in and will pay the same fees as TPA athletes; (2) new home schooled high school athletes will pay \$325 plus a \$125 administration fee to bridge the gap; and (3) home schooled junior high students, whether returning or not, will pay \$255 plus a \$75 administration fee. Mr. Brittain confirmed that the fees can be paid with tax credits.

Swimming Coach Jenn Stephens confirmed that the home schooled students are valuable and contribute to the sports programs. Coach Stephens supports the proposal because if the fees are too high, the students may not be able to pay and will lose AIA eligibility.

Lisa Borawski-Pickard discussed the proposed cost increases of \$600 for high-cost sports; \$425 for medium-cost sports; and \$325 low-cost sports.

Coach Jonathan Lambros confirmed that the proposed fee increase for home schooled students was a directive due to budget concerns.

President Chad Sampson confirmed that the directive at TPA/TPJA is to maintain budgets that permit smaller class size. Because athletics requires a significant budget, the Board instructed the administration to find a way to help athletics become self-supportive. The recommendation to increase the fee for home schooled students is appropriate because TPA/TPJA does not receive funds for those students, yet they contribute to the financial strain. Mr. Sampson indicated that while the school supports the choice to home school, the sports programs take financial resources. If these students want a remedy, they can enroll in the school so that the school receives funding for the students and the fee increase terminates.

Trevor Bush agreed with the comments of Mr. Sampson. As a result of his involvement working with the budgets, Mr. Bush indicated the budget is getting tighter and that it will be unsustainable to fund the sports programs as much as in the past. One way to offset

the budget is with family donations. Mr. Bush inquired as to whether the home schooled families make such contributions. If changes are not made, the expenses will be on the backs of the students and families. While Mr. Bush would prefer the larger increases originally presented, he supports the Athletic Director's proposal.

Dr. Rebecca Cryder expressed concerns with the short notice and questioned how it may affect community issues. Dr. Cryder emphasized encouraging families to do tax credits.

Roberta Fischer indicated that she empathized with the eligibility issues faced by returning students and supported the proposal.

Vice President Dr. Stuart Newfeld made a dual Motion to (1) adopt the proposed class fees and disavow any prior fee structure, and (2) adopt AD Brittain's proposal regarding home schooled students' athletic fees. Secretary Rebecca Cryder seconded the Motion. Vote passed.

### **Proposed changes to the hot lunch program**

President Chad Sampson suggested the Board allow the administration to work with volunteer Charissa McGraw and the PO to develop a program to put on the August agenda for further discussion.

Charissa McGraw made additional comments to explain the benefits of the program the necessary timing to execute contracts.

PO President Andrea Guiney discussed the details of the current program and the PO's involvement. Ms. Guiney pointed out that the proposed program requires a Board-to-Board contract and that the PO would work with the Board in whatever it decides to do.

Dr. Rebecca Cryder asked whether the PO was ready to run a lunch program for the start of school year. Ms. Guiney indicated that the PO was ready to proceed for the current school year.

### **Proposed revisions to the math curriculum**

The Board decided to table this issue pending Mr. Thurston's return.

### **Executive Session**

Trevor Bush made a Motion to go into executive session. Roberta Fischer seconded the Motion. Vote passed.

Executive Session commenced at 8:04 p.m. The Board held discussion of hiring for HL teacher. Executive session ended at 9:08 p.m.

**Motions from the Executive Session**

None.

**Announcements**

None.

**Next Regular Board Meeting**

Chad Sampson announced that the next Board meeting would take place on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

**Adjournment**

Chad Sampson adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*/s/Joel DeCiancio*

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By: Joel DeCiancio, Board Scribe