

**JOINT MEETING OF TEMPE PREPARATORY ACADEMY AND TEMPE
PREPARATORY JUNIOR ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2015**

The meeting of the Tempe Preparatory Academies Board of Directors was called to order by President Chad Sampson at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 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
Dr. Stuart Newfeld, Secretary
Trevor Bush, Treasurer
Lisa Borawski
Dr. Rebecca Cryder
Roberta Fischer

Voting Board Members Absent

Richard Foreman, Vice President, was absent during roll call, but arrived during shortly thereafter.

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Andrea Guiney, Parent Organization Representative
Mitch Sweet, Faculty Representative

Non-Voting Board Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Dr. David Baum, Headmaster
Jeff Veenstra, Provost
Danette Flores, Registrar
Linda Sale, Business Administrator

Call to the Public

Erin Guiney addressed the Board regarding its meeting with the faculty on May 14, 2015 and the dismissal of the students that were present. She further spoke in support of the retention of Dr. Baum.

Arturo Urias addressed the Board regarding the fundamentals of TPA and that the curriculum should be determined by the faculty.

Kris Putrasahan thanked the Board for its service to the school and encouraged it to continue to make the right decisions.

Scott Brown thanked the Board for its service and expressed his belief that the school can be rebuilt and flourish.

Henry Cappello expressed gratitude to the Board for its service, time, and energy and discussed the improvements and accomplishments of the current administration. Also discussed tensions and the loss of confidence in the school due to the loss of certain teachers.

Gaylynn Shea-Piechaczek spoke about public school education and her concerns due to a lack of transparency concerning the Board's apparent decision to separate from the headmaster without communication to the parent community. Also spoke in support of Dr. Baum's retention.

Vincent Nagy discussed the qualities of leadership and spoke in support of the retention of Dr. Baum.

Linda Nagy read a statement prepared by Lori Golberg regarding her daughter's experience at TPA and how the retention of Dr. Baum benefits the school.

Janine Lewis reflected on the recent events and questioned the Board's assessment of Dr. Baum and whether his termination is appropriate.

Joel DeCiancio discussed the lack of evidence supporting the anticipated termination of Dr. Baum, the current issues of concern that justify his retention, and the potential adverse consequences of his termination.

Marion Rhoades addressed the Board on behalf of the faculty regarding a vote on the faculty's support of Dr. Baum and confidence in the Board. Mitch Sweet read an e-mail from Carissa Drake revealing the questions and responses:

22 Responses 1 Abstention 1 Absent

(1) Do you support a 1-year extension of Dr. Baum's contract?

Yes – 14 No – 8 No Opinion – 0

(2) Do you have confidence in the Board?

Yes – 9 No – 8 No Opinion – 3 No Response – 2

Melissa Brittain thanked the Board for focusing on the seniors and listening to the community.

Scott Schroll expressed the opinion that the decision of retaining the headmaster should be based on character rather than accomplishments.

Andrea Guiney questioned the community's confidence in the Board given the lack of information regarding the anticipated termination of Dr. Baum without any apparent basis. She also discussed the accomplishments of Dr. Baum and questioned whether there was a plan in place in the event he is terminated.

John Gilloon expressed concerns regarding whether the school was respecting the rights of the parents, especially concerning decisions regarding a parent's right to excuse their children during classroom discussions of particular curricular content.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld responded to the public comments indicating that no Board action had occurred and that until it took action, Dr. Baum remained the headmaster of TPA/TPJA.

Chad Sampson responded to the public comments indicating that the Board does not comment on employment matters. Mr. Sampson spoke in support of the Board members' qualifications and assured the public that the Board was listening to the public's concerns and was not asking for the community's blind trust.

Consent Agenda

Secretary Dr. Stuart Newfeld made a Motion to approve: (1) the April 15, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, (2) the May 6, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes, (3) the April 15, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes, (4) the May 6, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes, and (5) the monthly financial statements. Treasurer Trevor Bush seconded the Motion. Vote passed.

Regular Agenda

Headmaster's Report

Dr. Baum discussed upcoming events, including the Awards Ceremony and Graduation.

Fiscal Year 2013-14 990 Filings

Dr. Baum reported that the 990 filings for each of the academies were already signed and filed, but needed to be approved by the Board.

Preliminary Budget for 2015-16

Dr. Baum reviewed the budget handouts and reported on many details of the budget, including: (1) the increased enrollment numbers over last year, (2) the wait list numbers for TPA and TPJA, (3) tax credit contributions, (4) grant issues, (5) a 2% pay increase for faculty and administrators (except Dr. Baum), (6) health insurance expenses and shopping for better coverage and better rates, (7) facilities expenses, (8) reduction in consultant fees, (9) negotiation of contract with Mesa School District to provide for free and reduced cost lunches, (10) teacher contracts, (11) stipends for Chair positions, and (12) sports participation fees.

Dr. Baum advised that the Budget would require adjustments for the rest of the year, but indicated that it was close to being balanced.

Treasurer Trevor Bush thanked Dr. Baum and Linda Sale for their work on the budget. Mr. Bush told the Board it could funnel any questions regarding budget details through him.

Proposal to Change Math Sequence for 2015-16

Dr. Baum and Danette Flores reported that there were some students that were in danger of failing 11th grade Pre-Calculus and, as such, would not likely succeed in 12th grade Calculus. To address the problem, they recommended amending the school's graduation requirement to permit those students to repeat the class and take alternative classes off campus to fulfill graduation requirements. They also discussed consideration of a future curricular change whereby students that struggle with Calculus have alternative choices for a rigorous 12th grade math experience, such as Statistics.

Members of the public expressed appreciation for a plan that would assist students struggling with Pre-Calculus.

Board Meeting Schedule for 2015-16

Tabled for later agenda.

Discussion of Board Donation to Orientation and Holiday Events

Dr. Rebecca Cryder discussed using Board donation to fund two events for the faculty.

Faculty Report

Faculty representative Mitch Sweet reported that the opinions of the faculty were too diverse to summarize into a single voice, but were looking forward to whatever plan the Board adopts.

Parent Organization Report

Parent Organization President Andrea Guiney reported that there would be turnover in the PO Board as some members were cycling off while new members were cycling on. She also reported that the lunch program was on hold and that the PO would work with Mesa to facilitate the lunch program discussed above. Ms. Guiney also acknowledged the large group of parent volunteers that were helping with the graduation events.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Announcements

Vice President Richard Foreman invited Board members and staff to attend a meeting sponsored by the Business and Education Coalition that would include discussions on a variety of educational issues.

President Chad Sampson asked Board members that intended to participate in graduation events to see Ms. Flores.

Next Regular Board Meeting

President Chad Sampson announced that the next regular board meeting would occur on June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union. He further advised that special meetings would be noticed prior to the next regular meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Sampson adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Joel DeCiancio

By: Joel DeCiancio, Board Scribe