

**JOINT MEETING OF TEMPE PREPARATORY ACADEMY AND TEMPE
PREPARATORY JUNIOR ACADEMY BOAD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2015**

The meeting of the Tempe Preparatory Academies Board of Directors was called to order by President Chad Sampson, at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at the Student Union of 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, Vice President
Dr. Rebecca Cryder, Secretary
Richard Foreman
Trevor Bush

Voting Board Members Absent

Roberta Fischer, Treasurer
Lisa Borawski-Picard

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Mitch Sweet, Faculty Representative

Non-Voting Board Members Absent

Andrea Guiney, Parent Organization Representative

Staff Present

Dr. Wayne Porter

Call to the Public

None

Consent Agenda

Reading/Approval of the minutes of previous meetings

Richard Foreman made a Motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Dr. Stuart Newfeld seconded the Motion. Vote passed.

Regular Agenda

Headmaster's Report

Dr. Wayne Porter indicated that the end of the semester was rapidly approaching and students and faculty were preparing for final examinations. Dr. Porter summarized the success of the school's various sports programs.

Dr. Porter reported that NWEA scores were published and showed good growth. Dr. Porter indicated that TPA placed 4th in scoring among Tempe area schools districts and was 3 times higher than the state average in the Arizona Merit testing.

Dr. Porter reported that the fall fine arts fundraiser was very enjoyable and that all extracurricular musical groups participated.

Dr. Porter reported that morale was high with faculty and staff and that the school expected good retention and a lot of interest for next year. Dr. Porter reported that four students were leaving and four were coming in. He indicated that waiting lists were growing and that applications for 6th grade have exceeded 72, which will require a lottery.

President Chad Sampson added that according to the Arizona Republic website, TPA was competitive with surrounding schools and those institutions that are true competitors. President Sampson indicated that the Board would want to review results more thoroughly with the Headmaster once the data is analyzed.

School Finance Update

Accountant Forest Valora reported that the school's financial condition was improving. Mr. Valora indicated that the school had expenditures for legal fees and legal settlements that were not budgeted. Mr. Valora further indicated that there were a lot of front-loaded expenses, but that cash flow and income statements will improve as the year progresses, in part due to the bond refinance. Mr. Valora indicated that tax credit collections were an important part of the budget and that December was a big month for tax credit collections. He also indicated that changes in the tax laws permit tax credit collections in January through April, which could affect budget figures.

Trevor Bush inquired as to the collection of tax credits to date and how it compared to the same period last year. Dr. Porter indicated that tax credit collections were around \$20,000 at last check, but was unsure of the current figure. President Chad Sampson requested that Mr. Valora advise each board member of the tax credit collections year-to-date compared to last year prior to January 1, 2016.

Dr. Rebecca Cryder inquired as to whether there would be a phone bank to pursue tax credit collections. Dr. Porter indicated that there were volunteers working on the phone bank and that he sent out an e-mail soliciting volunteers, including student volunteers.

Mr. Valora inquired as to how the Board would like to receive financial information in the future as summary versions were available that might better serve Board needs. Mr. Valora circulated examples of such summaries for Board consideration.

Trevor Bush indicated that he liked the summary format and indicated that he did not believe the Board needed anything more than Profit and Loss statements and Balance Sheets for both institutions.

Mr. Valora indicated that the two institutions were operating at a loss now, largely due to the one-time expenditures of legal fees and legal settlements. Due to the bond refinance, however, additional cash was available to build up reserves. Therefore, while financial statements may not look great at the end of the year due to the one-time expenditures, the institutions should end strong.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld requested that the Board be provided a more accurate statement of the financial health of the two institutions. Mr. Valora indicated that projections were easier to make, but that tax credit collections were an important part of the equation. Dr. Porter reiterated that the institutions can overcome the deficits caused by the one-time expenditures, depending on whether the tax credit goal is achieved. Mr. Valora indicated that other schools do not put as much emphasis on tax credit money in formulating their budgets.

Update on Revised Science Curriculum

Dr. Porter addressed the question of sequencing of the science curriculum. Dr. Porter and Science Department Chair Elizabeth Tobin authored a letter to the Board requesting that the Board consider and approve changing the high school sequence of science classes to Biology I in 9th grade; Chemistry I in 10th grade; Physics I in 11th grade, and a choice of Biology II, Chemistry II, or Physics II in 12th grade beginning in the 2017-18 school year. In the letter, Dr. Porter and Mrs. Tobin indicated that the biggest motivator to switch the order in which physics and chemistry are taught is that moving physics to the 11th grade gives students one more year of mathematics, which should help students in such a math-intensive course. Dr. Porter and Mrs. Tobin indicated that one more year of math will be important for future 11th grade cohorts.

Dr. Porter addressed the recommendation outlined in the letter to the Board and endorsed the recommendation. Dr. Porter indicated that there was adequate faculty in place to accommodate the sequence change, but that the implementation of an elective course in 12th grade would require more time to implement. Therefore, he recommended approving the sequence change for grades 9-11 and having the 12th grade students take Physics II. Dr. Porter recommended that the school continue to

teach Chemistry to both 10th and 11th grades next year as the school is presently staffed to accommodate that sequence.

Dr. Rebecca Cryder indicated that she was not comfortable making curriculum changes based on staffing and that staffing should be done to meet curricular needs. Dr. Porter indicated that it was not his intent to make curricular changes based on staffing and that his primary motivation was ensuring that students had additional math before taking physics.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld endorsed the recommendation and indicated that the Headmaster can always make additional recommendations to the Board instead of including a proviso.

Mitch Sweet indicated that he did not agree with the recommendation and that he believes the current curricular order makes sense. Nonetheless, he was willing to abide by whatever decision was made. Dr. Porter acknowledged Mr. Sweet's strong feelings on the topic and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Sweet for his willingness to be a team player.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld indicated that he was in full agreement with the logic of the recommendation posed by Dr. Porter and Mrs. Tobin and thanked them for investigating the issue thoroughly and doing their due diligence. Dr. Newfeld indicated that he believed the changes should be implemented now.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld made a Motion: (1) that for the 2016-17 academic year, the implementation of the 12th grade elective science course and capstone project be delayed for one year and that the science curriculum include teaching Physics II to seniors, and (2) for the 2016-17 academic year, the science curriculum include teaching Chemistry to both 10th and 11th grade, which is not disruptive to current staffing, and (3) that for the 2017-18 academic year, the science curriculum include teaching Biology I to 9th grade, Chemistry I to 10th grade, Physics I to 11th grade, and implementing 12th grade elective science courses of Biology II, Chemistry II, or Physics II. President Chad Sampson seconded the Motion.

The Motion was then opened for deliberation and discussion. Discussion was held about the use of the term "capstone" in discussing the 12th grade elective science course and it was agreed to refer to the 12th grade elective course as "12th grade elective science course."

Trevor Bush questioned the impetus for the change. Dr. Porter expressed that in his experience at another institution, students struggled with physics when they had inadequate mathematics. As a result, the sequence was changed at that institution. While he could not say whether TPA had such a need, Dr. Porter indicated that struggling junior high school scores may support making the change. Moreover, the school was adequately staffed to make the change at this time.

Trevor Bush asked if anyone could articulate an argument against the recommendation.

Chad Sampson indicated that Mr. Sweet's "first do no harm" approach had merit, but that adding the elective course fixes a perceived deficiency and gives the teachers an opportunity to dive further into the science subjects.

Dr. Newfeld indicated that Dr. Porter's concern could be an issue down the road given the AZ merit scores in math in middle school and that the curricular change would assist the students in being successful. He also indicated that the curricular change could attract 10th graders from other schools as they do the same science curriculum sequence proposed by Dr. Porter and Mrs. Tobin.

Richard Foreman indicated that he would feel more comfortable voting for the recommendation if there was not such strong opposition and if there was sufficient evidence that the learning process of students required it. Dr. Porter indicated that having a full year of Algebra II would better prepare students for physics.

Sue Ashton from the public was recognized for comment and indicated that her son Ryan, who was graduating in physics, indicated that he would like to have had more math before taking physics.

After deliberation and discussion, Dr. Stuart Newfeld agreed to amend his Motion, which was restated by President Chad Sampson as follows: (1) for the 2016-17 academic year, we will delay implementation of the 12th grade elective science course and teach a second physics class to seniors commonly called Physics II; (2) for the 2016-17 academic year, we will teach a chemistry class to 10th and 11th grade; and (3) for the 2017-18 academic year, we will restore Physics I to the 11th grade, which will result in the curricular sequence of Biology I in 9th grade, Chemistry I in 10th grade, Physics I in 11th grade, and either Biology II, Chemistry II, or Physics II in 12th grade. President Chad Sampson seconded the Motion.

The Motion was put to a roll call vote as follows:

Dr. Rebecca Cryder voted nay

Dr. Stuart Newfeld voted aye

Trevor Bush voted nay

Richard Foreman voted present

Chad Sampson voted aye

Motion failed.

Dr. Porter indicated that there was still an issue regarding delaying implementation of the 12th grade elective science class.

Chad Sampson indicated that anyone can make a motion but if no motion was made, the issue could be put back on the agenda for the next meeting.

Dr. Rebecca Cryder made a Motion to delay implementation of the 12th grade elective science course and teach a second course to seniors commonly known as Physics II. Richard Foreman seconded the Motion. Dr. Rebecca Cryder voted aye, Dr. Stuart Newfeld voted nay, Trevor Bush voted aye, Richard Foreman voted aye, and Chad Sampson voted nay. Motion passed 3 to 2.

Dr. Porter requested that the sequence revision be put on the January agenda for possible action.

Dual Enrollment Status Report

Dr. Porter indicated that a copy of the executed contract was included in the Agenda Packet and was in force.

Chad Sampson suggested monitoring the success of the dual enrollment program to see if its continuation was warranted.

Strategic Plan Status Report

Chad Sampson recommended establishing a task force to review and comment on the draft of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Sampson recommended establishing a task force that included members of the PO, PAC and Foundation. He also indicated that he wanted to get parent, faculty and administration input and circulate a draft to present to the Board for possible action.

Extension of Possible 6th Grade Section

Last year, the Board voted to extend 6th grade to 4 sections. Dr. Porter indicated that the extension did not succeed because the school needed far more students on the wait list than it had ever had. Dr. Porter estimated that it would take 150 students on the wait list to fill 88 spots. Dr. Porter indicated that if we staffed for 4 sections but did not get enough students, we would have more teachers than necessary.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld asked what would be the break-even number to exceed three sections. Dr. Porter estimated that we would need 1.5 teachers at \$45,000-\$50,000 in salary and 10-12 students to cover that expense. That would result in 4 smaller sections, which would not be maximizing the investment.

Trevor Bush made a Motion to return to three sections of 6th Grade totaling 66-69 students. Richard Foreman provisionally seconded the Motion on the basis of whether Mr. Bush would be willing to revisit the 4th section if the need arose. Mr. Bush was not willing to accept the provision and Richard Foreman withdrew his second. Dr. Rebecca Cryder seconded the Motion.

In deliberation and discussion, Richard Foreman indicated that schools ebb and flow and that he would like to see a motion that provided more administrative flexibility to reconsider a 4th 6th Grade section.

Dr. Rebecca Cryder said that she thought a new motion could be made if the need arose.

Dr. Porter indicated that he did not oppose a plan with administrative flexibility.

Trevor Bush indicated that there was no plan on how to meet the facilities needs of a 4th section and that any flexible plan would need to include a deadline so that the school could plan for the necessary facilities.

Dr. Stuart Newfeld indicated that the Board could revisit the 4th section if the need arose.

Chad Sampson indicated that having three sections with a wait list supports the perception that this is not an easy school to get into.

Motion put to vote. Vote passed.

Board Member Selection Practice and Policy

This item was tabled. Trevor Bush is finished after this meeting. He has stayed for the past year with his considerable skill to guide the board through the refinancing of the bond, etc. Mr. Foreman recollected memories about coming on the board with Mr. Bush. He feels he is losing a true colleague and an amazing talent. Mr. Foreman states that the school would not be here today without the efforts of former board member Mr. Brockelman and Mr. Bush. Mr. Sampson recalls learning from Mr. Bush, his quiet, dignified leadership has been a guiding force for this institution.

Faculty Report

Mr. Sweet notes high morale on campus. Final exams are this week, but people's spirits are high and looking forward to the party this week.

Parent Organization Report

This item was tabled.

PAC Report

PAC Report: Arturo Urias: The last PAC meeting was November. The topic of Goodness was covered, the third portion of the topics. Mr. Urias noted the presentation by Ms. Drake included Plato, Aristotle and that virtue allowed people to live their lives the best. The highest goods are discernable for themselves, such as loyalty, generosity, whereas the lowest goods might be wealth. There is a hierarchy of "goods." At TPA the

curriculum is humanists, and living a virtuous life is implementing these goods. The second topic was uniforms. Mr. Keating explained the rationale behind the uniform policy (unifying factor in the community). Mr. Keating feels the uniform policy needs updating. Too much ambiguity and not clear descriptions. His goal is to provide shopping options and ways to eliminate enforcement misunderstandings. Mr. Sampson was at the meeting and said conversations were engaging regarding uniforms. January's plan is to have a meeting with the core members and Dr. Porter for topics for the remainder of the year.

Foundation Board Update

This item was tabled.

Executive Session

Executive Session commenced at 8:17 p.m. The Board held discussion regarding legal advice regarding possible litigation. Executive Session ended at 8:45 p.m.

Regular Agenda Continued

None.

Motions from the Executive Session

None.

Announcements

None.

Next Regular Board Meeting

Chad Sampson announced that the next regular Board meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2016 to be at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union.

Adjournment

Chad Sampson moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rebecca Cryder seconded the Motion. Vote passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Joel DeCiancio

By: Joel DeCiancio, Board Scribe