

# THOMAS ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023

3:00PM

Via Zoom

## Call to Order

Chairman Owen Robinson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

## Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Owen Robinson called the roll. A quorum was present. Members attending via Zoom were: Owen Robinson, Dr. Cathy Gantz, Dr. Len Holmes, Dave Wyatt, Julie Wolfe, Patricia Medlin, Ray Cockrell, Daniel Nolan, Sharon Conner, Christy Hopkins, and Sherry Kennedy.  
Absent: Woody Weddington

## Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Robinson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Reading of the Mission and Vision Statement

Members read aloud the TA Mission and Vision statement.

## Consider and Approve Current Agenda

Julie Wolfe made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Second Pat Medlin. Motion carried.

## Consider and Approve Minutes from Last Month

Pat Medlin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second Julie Wolfe. Motion carried.

## Public Comments

Chairman Robinson opened the floor to the public for comments and feedback. There were none.

## Director of Education/Principal Report - Dr. Cathy Gantz

Student enrollment-

- 79 total students; Community students- 60; residential students- 19.

Student Activities-

- Basketball/cheerleading are continuing through February
- Rotary Interact monthly meeting for students

Staff development -

- DPI training monthly for Dr. Gantz which includes training in the following areas: Fellowship Institute for Personal Leadership - Emotional Poverty in all demographics; No more excuses strategies for High Achievement for Boys of Color
- DPI upcoming training this spring for Dr. Gantz and two teachers: Teach Like a Champion
- RTI/IPG training ongoing for all faculty and staff

### Academic Report

- Charter Renewal- Thomas Academy received a 3 year charter renewal beginning July 1, 2023
- Chairman Owen Robinson gave a thorough history of Thomas Academy at the presentation
- Chairman Owen Robinson and Dr. Cathy Gantz were congratulated on their presentation to the Charter Renewal Board
- Chairman Owen Robinson mentioned it is important for Thomas Academy to reach a minimum of 80 registered students

### Success Stories

- Increase parent involvement activities- 20% parents attending a fall parent night in Oct.
- December Parent night showed a 49% participation rate
- Thursday, January 19, 2023 will be the sixth parent involvement night for SY 22-23
- Thomas Academy students and faculty participated in the Lake Waccamaw Christmas parade including designing and decorating the float
- Thomas Academy students participated in the Chadbourn Christmas festival
- TA Rotary Interact club completed two service projects in the fall semester: 1) providing turkey and fixings to families for Thanksgiving 2) collecting toys to give to needy children for Christmas. Tony Shipman and Jonathan Crawley serve as the Rotary Interact advisors
- Cenniya Williams 2022 Thomas Academy graduate and current NCCU 1st year student - received a \$500 scholarship from Her Highness Foundation
- In Early December Thomas Academy received a \$26,000 grant from the Jimmy Johnson Foundation which will supply library resources
- All basketball/cheerleading students have received new basketball shoes, cheerleading shoes matching sweatpants and hoodies

### Upcoming Events

- Basketball camp this summer - July 10-14 9-4pm; Justin Mustaf will lead the camp. Participants will learn basketball skills, nutrition, how to stop bullying and harassment
- School Improvement meetings(SIP) are held twice a month; agenda attached from last SIP meeting. January 9, 2023, four parents attended.
- On March 30, 2023, DPI will visit Thomas Academy for our Total School Quality Report (TSQR). DPI will evaluate how we are using the IPG monies. The Board will be invited to speak with the DPI committee for this evaluation..
- RTI- Professional Development 8-noon on January 17. Topic:Instructional Design; Writing connections and lesson plans.
- All Teachers have been given the charge to develop a vocabulary word wall by February 9, 2023. This word wall will grow and include vocabulary words learned and used in the area of instruction for each class.

### Recommendation/Action Items

- Dr. Gantz presented the 23-24 school calendar and asked the board to consider approval at a later date. Chairman Owen Robinson proposed that the board consider

this item at the next board meeting after the board has time to review and reflect on the calendar.

- 2022-23 Summer Program Plan: Dr. Gantz presented the DPI 22-23 Summer Program Plan. Sherry Kennedy discussed the option for students to retest on EOGs and EOCs in the summer after a reteaching session. DPI requires that the board approves a summer retesting program.
- After discussion, Pat Medlin made a motion to approve the Summer Program Plan; Julie Wolfe seconded the motion. All approved.

### **Financial Report- Daniel Nolan, CFO**

Mr. Nolan reviewed the Financial Reports from Acadia NorthStar with a detailed presentation which was shared with the board.

- Action Item- at the next meeting, Mr. Nolan will review the audit reports which were just received. Mr. Nolan noted that it is a clean report for Thomas Academy. We will discuss more at the next meeting.

### **Public Adjournment-**

Patricia Medlin made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and go into Executive Session. Second Christy Hopkins. All in favor. Owen Robinson adjourned the public meeting at 3:52pm.

### **Executive session-**

- Pat Medlin asked if there is an update on the teacher we learned about at Christmas;
- Ray Cockrell updated on the former TA employee. Teacher was removed immediately upon notification of the student. This was months before any charges were filed.
- Pat Medlin asked will the new CEO be involved with the TA board?
- Ray Cockrell- typically the CEO will be a member of the TA board.
- Owen Robinson informed the board that the immediate removal of the former TA employee was immediately reported to the Charter School Board.
- Julie Wolfe asked what about the student? Clinical, residential, and school teams have surrounded this student with additional support during the entire process.

### **Board Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Patricia Medlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting Second Dave Wyatt. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21pm.

**Next Board Meeting** February 14, 2023 @ 3pm.

