



TA Board of Directors Meeting 08/13/2024

Call to Order

- Dave Wyatt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Roll Call to Establish Quorum

- Shannon Britt called the roll.
- Present were: Dave Wyatt, Patricia Medlin, Christy Hopkins, Julia Wolfe, and Terri Duncan
- Absent were: Woody Weddington
- Staff present were: Cathy Gantz, Thomas Academy Principal, Julie Ward, BGH Financial Director, and Shannon Britt, Thomas Academy Administrative Assistant.
- Parent(s) present were: None.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Dave Wyatt led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading of the Vision

- Dave Wyatt read the TA Vision and Mission Statement.

Consider and Approve Current Agenda

- Julia Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for August 2024. Pat Medlin seconded and the motion passed.

Consider and Approve Minutes for Last Month.

- Julia Wolfe moved to approve minutes for July 2024. Christy Hopkins seconded and the motion passed.

Public Comments

- No public comments.

Director of Education/Principal Report- Dr. Cathy Gantz

◆ **Student Enrollment:**

Target Enrollment: eighty-five

Current Student Enrollment: sixty-five

Community Students: forty-nine

Residential Students: sixteen

Students enrolled by grade level:	Residential	Community
6 th	1	1
7 th	2	6
8 th	2	10
9 th	5	11
10 th	3	6
11 th	2	4
12 th	3	9

Potential Graduates for June 2025 - 12-12 th graders

Thomas Academy Graduates for June 2024- 14-12 th graders, 60.9 % graduation rate compared to 85% for 2022-2023.

◆ **Student Activities:**

- Whiteville Rotary Club will sponsor Thomas Academy's Interact Club for the third year.
- For the third year, TA students will be able to participate in Columbus County's Teen Court.
- TA's 11th and 12th grade students are participating in SCC's Agri-Business and HVACR classes for the first semester. These classes will begin in September.
- Students in grades 8-12 can participate in JROTC this year.
- Chorus is offered at TA this year and sponsored by Mr. Jody Watts.
- TA's Library provides TA students exposure to a variety of literary selections.
- There will be five-sixty minute classes per day. This will allow for core and elective classes as well as a 25-minute advisory period each day.
- Girls and Boys Basketball will begin in October.
- MS and HS students will be assessed throughout the year utilizing NC Check-ins. These benchmark assessments measure student achievement along the way and are used for small group instruction in order to close achievement gaps in preparation for scoring at a proficiency level on EOC and EOG assessments.

- CPR class, a requirement for graduation, is provided to TA students.

◆ **Professional Development:**

- Raleigh Triangle International will offer six complimentary sessions of professional development this fall. Teachers will work in three groups to complete a weekly agenda, develop long range planning, and determine how they will collect data and analyze data. These sessions will begin on Wednesday, August 14th at 1:30 pm. TA plans to utilize RTI as a resource until December 31st, 2024.
- TA teachers returned to TA on Monday, July 29th. During the am teachers worked in their rooms followed by lunch in the Library/Media Center. The administration shared TA's theme of the year, "This Year is Going to be Out of this World!" Everyone was given a planet of their choice, which was a stress ball. Pertinent information for the year was shared with the faculty and staff.
- Teaching Family Model Professional Development Training for all faculty and staff took place on July 31st and August 1st. Two more half days of training will take place on Wednesdays, early release days in the fall.
- School Improvement Team (SIT) meetings are scheduled on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1:30-3:00 pm.
- Weekly Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) meetings will continue to monitor academics, behavior, and attendance. The day of the week for these meetings is TBD.
- Ms. Denise Crawley, Multi-Language Learner (MLL) teacher and Jonathan Crawley, Behavior Specialist attended the 2024 Growing Success for Multi-Learners for Academic Success Summer Conference, Topsail Beach in-person, July 23 rd -July 25 th .
- There are various professional development opportunities on-line for teachers.

◆ **Academic Report:**

- According to NC Department of Public Education per 2023-2024 report card, Thomas Academy has completed all of the goals as outlined by the Innovative Partnership Grant and the NC Wise Way indicators. These goals will be monitored throughout the year via SIT meetings.
- Thomas Academy Graduates for June 2024- 14-12 th graders, 60.9% graduation rate as compared to 85% for 2022-2023. The five who did not graduate: two students are returning to TA for the year to obtain their HS Diploma in 2025 and three students will participate in the Adult HS Diploma at Bladen Community College in the fall.
- Many of the fourteen TA graduates had plans to attend a college or university however; there were several who had not made any future plans. Since

graduation, four more students have come forward with their future plans and discussed possible scholarship opportunities with BGHNC Chief Mission Officer.

◆ **Student/School Success:**

- Student Attendance monitoring for 2024-2025 school year will begin on August 5th, 2024. Intervention meetings will be scheduled as needed per TA's attendance policy. Our CEO/President, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and Department of Social Services (DSS) will continue to partner with us to address student truancy. These meetings have had a positive effect on student attendance, grades, and behaviors.
- Smart Pass will continue to be utilized/implemented to monitor student movement throughout the building/s. This monitoring system decreased students' request to leave the class for various reasons and increased instructional time-on-task.
- Take a Peek at your schedule took place on Thursday, August 1st, 4- 6 pm and was attended by 38 students and parents.
- Friday, August 2nd was Staff Appreciation Day for all employees on the BGHNC and TA. The day consisted of team building activities, lunch, and a drawing for various gifts. Every attendee received a gift.
- The Middle School (Ms. Ashlee Smith) and High School (Ms. Kendra Brown) Math Positions were filled. Ms. Donna Moody returned to TA as the MC ELA teacher.
- TA signed an official MOA with UNCP that will allow UNCP Student Teachers to complete their field experiences at TA.
- Thomas Academy has a beautiful new 12 seater van to support the transportation of our community students as well as transport our students to various activities.
- TA's new and improved Parent/Student Handbook and Transportation Plan provides parents and students with clear and succinct guidelines of TA's expectations.
- TA welcomes our newest member of our Board of Directors, Dr. Terri Duncan. TA continues to appreciate the guidance and support from TA's Board of Directors.

◆ **Upcoming:**

- TA's Behavior Specialists will use the Rotarian Inner Journey Mindset Journal as a Social Emotional Learning resource with students. This resource supports the Teaching Family Model.
- TA's three-year Charter Renewal ends June of 2026. The new renewal process begins this year with the charter renewal application due on November 30th , 2024. A site visit will be scheduled in December 2024 and will take place

between January-June 2025. The site visit will include the following: 1- A parent group of 4; A teacher group of 4; TA's Board of Directors; and the Administrative team including the school leader.

- Student Field Trips to support/enhance the curriculum as well as career development.
- Raleigh Triangle International professional development sessions beginning August 14th and throughout December.
- MTSS and SIT meetings.
- Parent Nights TBD.
- A requested partnership with Columbus County Public Schools pending board approval. This partnership would include TA students being able to participate in various sports at East Columbus HS. TA would provide TA student transportation to and from EC. In turn, ECHS students could choose to participate in SCC's vocational education offerings at TA.

◆ **Action Items:**

- None at this time.

◆ **Attachments/Requests:**

- None at this time.

Financials

- Julie Ward reviewed the Financial Report that had been provided to the members.

Public Adjournment

- Julia Wolfe motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Pat Medlin seconded and the motion passed.