



TA Board of Directors Meeting 09/10/2024

Call to Order

- Dave Wyatt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Roll Call to Establish Quorum

- Shannon Britt called the roll.
- Present were: Dave Wyatt, Julie Wolfe, Terri Duncan, and Pat Medlin
- Absent were: Woody Weddington and Christy Hopkins
- Staff present were: Cathy Gantz, Thomas Academy Principal, Julie Ward, BGH Financial Director, and Shannon Britt, Thomas Academy Office and Data Manager
- 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

- Julie Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for September 2024. Terri Duncan seconded and the motion passed.

Consider and Approve Minutes for Last Month.

- Terri Duncan moved to approve minutes for August 2024. Julie Wolfe seconded and the motion passed.
- There was a motion that Cathy Gantz and Julie Ward are to approve portions of the minutes before they are sent out to the Board, then they will be sent to Dave Wyatt to approve.

Public Comments

- No public comments.

Director of Education/Principal Report- Dr. Cathy Gantz

◆ Student Enrollment:

- Target Enrollment: eighty-five
- Current Student Enrollment: sixty-five plus two pending enrollment
- Community Students: forty-two
- Residential Students: twenty-one

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

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. TA plans to utilize RTI as a resource until December 31st, 2024.
- 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. MS and HS teachers will lead MTSS meetings.
- The principal attended BGHNC Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Retreat, August 23rd-24th, Pinehurst, NC.
- The principal will attend professional development on NC Wiseways.
- TA's School Improvement Plan has been approved and is ready to be uploaded into Indistar.
- There are various professional development opportunities on-line for teachers.

◆ Academic Report:

- One student participated in the Adult HS Diploma at Bladen Community College during the summer and will receive a high school diploma in the spring.
- There are no student attendance concerns currently.
- The first NC Check-in will be September 24th-26th.
- The Teaching Family Model continues to be implemented at TA.

◆ **Student/School Success:**

- Student Attendance monitoring for 2024-2025 school year began 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 assorted reasons and increased instructional time-on-task.
- The gym is scheduled for new scoreboards.
- TA is in the process of gathering student sizes for students in need so that uniforms and shoes can be ordered.
- Ms. Shannon Britt has a new job title: Thomas Academy Office and Data Manager. Ms. Tina Connor and Ms. Patsy Worrell will be assisting in the office.
- Ms. Ashlee Ramirez will continue to be TA's online teacher and will be a Part-Time School Assessment Coordinator.
- All students' IEPs are in compliance with Federal Guidelines and DPI.

◆ **Upcoming:**

- 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 will be planned to support/enhance the curriculum as well as career development. TA is in the process of planning a field trip for 11th and 12th graders to Highpoint College and UNCG. Mr. Gary Cooper is spearheading this endeavor.
- TA applied for a grant, September 6th that will sponsor a field trip for our students to NC Aquarium.
- MTSS and SIT meetings.

- Parent Night will be held on Thursday, September 26th. The topics will be the Teaching Family Model, Parent/Student Handbook, and Homework Tips.
- A parent committee will be formed to develop a plan to increase community student enrollment at TA. A new TA brochure is now available in Spanish. 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. The board did not approve this partnership request.

◆ **Action Items:**

- Voting on new TA Board member Mike Reid: Julie Wolfe moved to approve Mike Reid. Pat Medlin seconds and the motion passed.
- A request to change the early release day from October 9th to October 8th. October 8th is a staff celebration for BGHNC 70th birthday celebration: Pat Medlin moved to approve time change. Julie Wolfe seconds and the motion passed.
- Marc Murphy mentioned moving the time of the meetings to 4 to accommodate a potential new board member. The Board will discuss amongst themselves and vote at a later meeting.

◆ **Attachments/Requests:**

- None at this time.

Financials

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

Public Adjournment

- Pat Medlin motioned to adjourn the public meeting. Julie Wolfe seconded and the motion passed at 4:38 PM

Closed Adjournment

Pat Medlin motioned to adjourn the closed meeting. Julie Wolfe seconded and the motion passed.

Thomas Academy Board Director Signature

Date