



TA Board of Directors Meeting 02/13/2024

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, Julie Wolfe, and Pat Medlin.
- Absent were: Woody Weddington and Christy Hopkins
- Staff present were: Cathy Gantz, TA Principal, Marc Murphy, CEO, Daniel Nolan, CFO, and Shannon Britt, TA Administrative Assistant
- Parent(s) present were: Melissa Hopkins.

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 amend the verbiage of item number 6 on the TA Board Agenda template. Pat Medlin seconded and the motion passed. The specific month of the minutes will be included in the verbiage at each TA Board of Directors Meetings.
- Julie Wolfe moved to approve the agenda for December 2023. Pat Medlin seconded and the motion passed.

Consider and Approve Minutes for Last Month

- Pat Medlin moved to approve December 2023 minutes. Julie Wolfe seconded and the motion passed.

Public Comments

- No public comments.

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

- Student Enrollment:

Student Enrollment: seventy-eight
 Community Students: fifty-nine
 Residential Students: nineteen

| Students enrolled by grade level: | Residential | Community |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 6th | 3 | 6 |
| 7th | 2 | 7 |
| 8th | 4 | 10 |
| 9th | 2 | 9 |
| 10th | 3 | 3 |
| 11th | 3 | 9 |
| 12th | 2 | 15 |

Potential Graduates for June 2024: 19-12th graders

- Student Activities:

- Whiteville Rotary sponsored TA Interact Club meets once a month.
- Students are participating in Columbus County Teen Court for a second year.
- Boys' and Girls' Basketball.
- Weekly and monthly Positive Behavior Intervention System Incentives (PBIS) coupled with Teaching Family Model.
- TA Students had an opportunity to participate in the Wilmington Women's Club Art Show in February, and will have an opportunity to participate in Wilmington Optimist Club's International Essay Contest in February, and Wilmington Optimist Club's International Oratorical Contest, during the contest year, October 1st - September 30th .
- Enrollment in vocational education classes offered on TA's campus by Southeastern Community College. Vocational Education opportunities offered to TA second semester students include Introduction to Carpentry; Green Building and Design Concepts; and Diagrams and Schematics (Engineering Track).
- Juniors and Seniors participate in a Life Skills Class.
- Library book reading with a wide selection of books.
- Imagine Learning, Edgenuity for MS, and HS Math.
- Thomas Academy Spirit Week and TA's Homecoming during the week of January 21st.
- Senior Night during the basketball game on February 8th.
- Career development field trips to be determined.

- Professional Development:

- RTI visited classrooms in the am of January 5th to observe “cold calls” a best practice from the book, “Teach Like a Champion.” The after-school session was on the topic, The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP). SIOP in education is a framework for planning and delivering instruction in content areas such as science, history, and mathematics to English language learners as well as other students. They also conducted walk-throughs on January 31st .
- TA School Improvement Team meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 pm, TA Library. Our focus for instructional planning and social emotional learning for 2024 is about using our NC Check-in data to drive decision making for small group instruction. TA’s goal is to be intentional and to execute interventions in a timely manner.
- TFM Booster Training for all faculty and staff will take place in early March. Ellen Scarborough, Methodist Children’s Home will provide this virtual session.

- Academic report:

- NC End-of-Course testing for High School Biology, Math, and ELA took place during the week of December 12 th . EOC Make-ups took place on December 18th and 19th .
- According to the NC Department of Public Instruction per 2022-2023 school report card, Thomas Academy is a Progressing School.
- TA has transformed into a learning community through intentional innovations and interventions.
- Potential TA Graduates for Spring 2024 are nineteen twelfth graders.
- Lorelei Hopkins will be the third Thomas Academy student to complete her Associate of Arts Degree from Southeastern Community College while still enrolled at TA. She has received acceptances from twelve colleges/universities.
- TA’s graduation rate increased from 70% for 2021-2022 to 85% for 2022-2023. We are striving for a 100% graduation rate for 2023-2024.
- Behavioral referrals have decreased in 2023-2024. From October to November there was over a 50% decrease in School Suspensions (ISS) and a 10% decrease in Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) and from November to December there was a 90% decrease in ISS and OSS. The implementation of the Teaching Family Model has increased appropriate student behaviors; therefore, increasing time-on-task.

- Student/School Success:

- Basketball statistics for the season thus far: Boys: Overall 22/6 and Conference 11/2 and Overall, Girls: 3/8

- TA's Theatre Class presented "Almost Maine" on December 13th in Mr. Jody Watts' Class to students, staff, and administration.
- In December TA students enjoyed a field trip to Ft. Fisher, Festival of Trees, and lunch at Golden Corral. This was a Teaching Family Model monthly incentive.
- Many thanks to a generous donor, TA's Gymnasium has been transformed with new lighting.
- TA's High School Seniors have received acceptances to over fourteen colleges and universities.
- Ms. Sherry Kennedy, School Counselor took over the duties of the academic coach in January.
- Ms. Cheryl Boswell returned to TA as the EC Director/EC Teacher, January 8th .
- Imagine Learning, Edgenuity was purchased to provide MS Math and HS Math students with lessons aligned with NC Common Core State Curriculum. Classroom coaches monitor the instructional delivery of the lessons.
- TA students received their second report card of the year during the week of January 15th. A third Parent Night was held on Thursday, January 25th , TA's Homecoming. This was a home basketball game with The Point. All TA parents/guardians were given free admission to the game. Parents and guardians were asked to complete a survey and with completion, they received a free homework pass for their student/s. Thirty-six percent of TA's parents attended this event.
- TA's Innovative Partnership Grant, January 2024 Report shows TA's goals are in Progress or Complete. This is the third and last year of the IPG Grant.
- A second behavior specialist, Ms. Shella Blanks will begin at TA on February 20th .
- TA students are enjoying the newly renovated library housed with a student selection of books to check-out. The lending library allows students to enjoy reading level/age-appropriate content.
- TA's School Counselor is providing a Senior Life Skill's Class that includes college applications, college visits, exploration of career opportunities, completing the FASFA and widespread support to complete high school for the next step.
- Thomas Academy continues to implement a rigorous academic program balanced with a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) weekly lesson. Students with challenging behaviors are given a second chance.
- Jacksonville Rotary Club is purchasing the Rotary Inner Journey Journal Mindset SEL curriculum to be implemented for all students.
- A remote plan was submitted to DPI and is in place if TA must close school due to inclement weather or a health concern. Classes can be either virtual or work packets provided to students.

- Upcoming

- We welcome Thomas Academy Board of Directors to attend TA's School Improvement Team (SIT) meetings. SIT meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 pm, room 1, high school.
- Joe Coffey, Rotary District 7730 will present a check to TA to cover the cost for all TA students to have the Inner Journey Mindset Journal, an SEL resource on February 12th, 2024, at 10:00 am. This resource supports the Teaching Family Model.
- Targeted School Quality Review (TSQR) that was scheduled on February 13th. was canceled on Friday February 9th due to sickness of the evaluator and will be rescheduled for the spring.
- The administration and grant director will attend an IPG conference in Salisbury, NC on February 27th, and a grant conference on ESSER Funding in Fayetteville on March 1st .
- The administration will attend EVASS training on February 22nd .
- ACT will be held February 27th , 2024. All 11th graders will take this test. TA hopes to join East Columbus High School for an ACT Boot Camp.
- Tenth grade participation in Be Pro Be Proud at SECC will take place on site at TA in March.
- TA's Prom will be held at the Spillway on March 28th .
- TA's Carpentry Students will build eight picnic tables for Farm Days in March.

-Action Items

- Thomas Academy School Calendar for 2024-2025. Pat Medlin moved to approve the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar. Julie Wolfe seconded and the motion passed.
- 2023-2024 Summer Program Plan. Julie Wolfe moved to approve the 2023-2024 Summer Program Plan. Pat Medlin seconded and the motion passed.

-Attachments/Requests:

- IPG Monthly Report for January.

Daniel Nolan - Chief Financial Officer

- Daniel Nolan reviewed the Financial Report that had been provided to the members.

Public Adjournment

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