

B. Sly Park Presentation (Boerman/Holster)

Teacher Carla Boerman, on behalf of the sixth grade, thanked the Board for their support of the April 15 – 19th, Sly Park science camp. The camp included a night hike and a five-mile hike to the lake, visits to the planetarium, rock walls for climbing and a science jeopardy game. She reported that JAA scholars demonstrated the nine core values at the camp and that other teachers asked what JAA was teaching them for our scholars to be so helpful.

Two sixth-grade scholars, Julie Nead and Wyatt Harris, also reported on the trip. Nead enjoyed the planetarium and learning about stars and the constellations, as seen by the Native Americans and other cultures, and learning about nature on the hikes. Harris enjoyed learning about the local Manzanita trees, meeting students from other areas and staying in the cabins. He reported that Mrs. Holster's teaching had prepared them well for the science jeopardy and that the questions seemed easy.

C. 7th Grade Service Learning Presentation (Groth)

Mrs. Groth and her seventh grade scholars reported on their Service Learning Project. While learning about the serfs in the middle ages the scholars saw similarities with people without homes today. Scholars wrote compare and contrast essays in English class and learned about homelessness. They decided to help by providing a meal, decorations, entertainment and company for people without homes at the Gathering Inn in February. They presented their essays to the second graders who got excited and donated their time to help. The scholars voted in class on what to serve, wrote persuasive essays to ask stores for donations and money and made valentines to decorate the room. The night of the event they helped clean, prep and serve the food. Scholars also visited with the homeless guests and provide dinner entertainment including playing the piano and guitar, singing solos and a presenting magic show. Mr. Blankenbehler's choir also performed. The lunchtime knitting club donated 20 hand-knitted washcloths and soap to go with them. After the project the scholars made thank you cards for Trader Joes, Costco and Safeway for their donations. John Adams Academy received a letter from the Gathering Inn saying they want us back next year and would love to have JAA come every month.

Chairman Forman thanked Mrs. Groth and the scholars for making the connections and for their service.

D. Caesar Presentation (Groth)

Seventh-grade scholar Halli Dalebout performed Antony's speech from the Caesar play for the Board.

E. Washington DC Update (Brown/Densley)

JAA Teachers, Miss Densley and Mrs. Brown, updated the Board regarding the planned trip to Washington DC in June of 2014. The trip will offer scholars, 6th grade and older, and their parents, the opportunity to visit Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Mt. Vernon and Washington DC. Other destinations will be considered based on how many sign up for the trip. The trip will be through EF Tours, which will carry all liability, background-checks their employees who work with scholars, and has contingency plans for emergencies. Some scholarships will be available. Informational meetings are being held after each open house.

F. Parent Volunteer Hours Update (Brabon)

Volunteer Coordinator Wendi Brabon updated the Board with details of family volunteer hours submitted as of May 1, 2013. Of our current 389 families, 154 families have completed, and 235 families have not yet completed their hour commitment. Of those who have not completed, 135 have not turned in any hours, although some may have volunteered who have yet to report those hours. Since May 1, 80 hour sheets have been turned in which will be tallied and reported at the next Board Meeting. Families are being contacted by email and phone calls using Blackboard Connect to keep them updated.

Next year, the plan is to contact parents on a monthly basis. The electronic submission process is also ready to roll out for next year, rather than changing in the middle of the year.

Brabon requested direction from the Board in three areas:

- 1) Donation of Hours: should families who volunteer in excess of their 40 hours be allowed to donate excess hours to other families in need? If so, staff would recommend donated hours go in a pool and the Dean of Scholars would help allocate those hours based on hardship requests.

Board discussion included that there is merit to allowing families to continue volunteering and allocating those hours to something, and that the Dean of Scholars, who is charged with oversight of the Volunteer Program, would have the authority to determine the merits of hardship requests for donated hours.

- 2) Donation of Items: should families be allowed to donate items in lieu of hours? Staff recommends those be approved by Dean of Scholars and grade level so they are items we can use.

Clarification was made that items donated would be non-consumable, usable/acceptable items and would not be donated to a specific class or program. Board consensus was that items in lieu of hours would require approval of the Dean of Scholars.

- 3) Additional Contact: how should we proceed with families who have not turned in hours? Last year the Board contacted families individually. We also have the option of using Blackboard Connect to send recorded calls and emails.

The Board directed that the Dean of Scholars can determine how to follow up with families.

Dean of Scholars, Carlos Yniguez, thanked Brabon for her attention to detail and focus. He reported that because of her work, when a serious situation happened off of campus we were able to make decisions and take care of all of our families.

G. Student Council Update (Herald)

Scholar Council Representative was not available for report.

H. PSO Update (Hansen)

PSO President, Karen Hansen, reported that the final General PSO Meeting will be held on May 30 for parents to vote on the budget, elect officers for the new year and review the bylaws. Chairman Forman thanked the PSO for a great job and for their work in presenting the Inspiring Greatness series.

I. MAC Update (Dyer)

Newly elected MAC Treasurer, Angela Porras, updated the Board that the MAC will have a budget of \$500 to use for events next year and that money raised from holiday event will be used to purchase art displays for scholar's art pieces and music stands. The end of the year arts event will be Arts in the Park, to be held on May 23, at the Rock of Roseville. All families are invited to come enjoy visual and performing arts. She also reported that the music and art teachers have collaborated to create a "Role of the arts in classical education" hand out.

J. Fund Development Update (Dildine)

Development Director, Jane Dildine, reported that she met with the Sacramento Philharmonic and that they would like to mentor and visit to see what we are doing. She also reported that she has created the plaque commemorating the music room donations and highlighting Kodiak Roofing and the Brasher family. The plaque will be presented at the Ask Event and will be displayed in the Music Room. Dildine has also received the first pledge of \$5000 per year for five years from the pledge cards sent with invitations to the Ask Event.

K. Ridgeview Visit Update (Nielsen)

Board Member Tricia Nielsen reported on her visit to the Ridgeview Classical School along with Board Member Cindi Sherrod, Dean of Academics Millie Happoldt, Co-Founder Linda Forman, and teachers Nalina Densley and Jackie Schaffer. The group visited Ridgeview Classical School to see a classical education in action because many have not received this type of education. She enjoyed their complete focus on classical education and that it is their only priority. They witnessed Socratic discussion in every classroom and no deviation from it. The methods were very simple; no gadgets to distract. The teachers don't do copying or bulletin boards, they are just there to teach. The students own their books because the school gives them a copy of the classics as they enter the classes to help start them start a library and allow them to annotate the books. Scholars are encouraged to go back and use those resources. The teachers begin teaching the second class begins and use every instructional minute. Late scholars have to wait in the office. The school has been in existence for 12 years. The Senior thesis is always Aristotle's question, "what is the good life?" so young kids are preparing for it throughout their years there. Little to no time spent of test preparation and the school is number two in Colorado. The administrators there know the test doesn't matter and if a parent does care, they tell them not to open it the test scores. Linda Forman spent a lot of time speaking to the administration and board about how they got to where they are. Millie met with academics and Nielsen visited a fourth grade, sixth grade and literature class. Nielsen point out that in the discussions there were no wrong answers but the scholars were expected to defend their view point so that they learn how to think, not when and what to think.

Board Member Sherrod noted that the foundation at John Adams is completely different. Ridgeview's goal is to provide a classical education, but John Adams Academy's goal is to develop student leaders through a classical education. Their budget is completely focused on education while our Core Values are who we are and who we are developing. Our aim is different, but our method is similar. She commented that it was great to watch a 12-year-old school in action, but that she believes we will surpass it because of our strong foundation.

L. Freedoms Foundation Constitution Event (Happoldt)

Dean of Academics Millie Happoldt reported that the Freedoms Foundation has invited the John Adams Academy Board and staff to participate as facilitators at their Constitution Event at Consumnes Oaks High School in Elk Grove on September 17, 2013 from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm. Board members have been invited to host a student forum and help facilitate the event. The materials are pre-set and the event is run by students. Students will be presented with a situation, will hold a mini congress and vote. Students will break into small groups to debate their provision and come back together.

M. Safety Committee Update (Yniguez)

Dean of Scholars Carlos Yniguez reported that the Safety Team is going through policies and sifting through samples to create a comprehensive safety plan. Progress continue with evacuation plans and more drills will be held before the end of year and then the team will fine tune the plans over the summer.

N. Site Council Update (Yniguez)

Dean of Scholars Carlos Yniguez reported that the School Site Council met for the second time and is trying to decide what their purview is. The council consists of three teachers, five parents and Sandra Noel. They will be looking for additional community member as well. The council will be looking for data to support key growth areas and develop a School Site Plan, as directed by WASC.

O. Oliver DeMille Presentation (Yniguez)

Dean of Scholars Carlos Yniguez reported that the Oliver DeMille presentation sparked conversation and invigorated staff and parents as we head into the end of the year. He

thanked Development Director Jane Dildine for her hard work in presenting the event. Chairman Forman thanked teacher Valrie Jensen for putting together the notes on the types of education throughout history as presented by Dr. DeMille. He asked that the notes be sent out to the Board as well.

P. Report on visit to Ridgeview (Happoldt/attendees)

Dean of Academics, Millie Happoldt reported on the visit to the Ridgeview Classical School in Colorado. The Academy is focused on education through the classics and is very open to sharing the model they have developed. Parents are allowed to come in and observe, although conversations with teachers must be scheduled. Because the academy teaches literature through ancient classics, many of which are out of print, parents have built a copy center to print and make books for their scholars. Starting in kindergarten scholars build their own library of classics that they have used and marked. The academy explained that all they do is open books, read an important passage, and try to discover what the words mean. Teachers and scholars try to engage with literature by getting into the texts, remaining there as long as possible, and having open and engaging discussions for as long as possible. All scholars there also have planners, starting in Kindergarten. In the back of planner is an upper grade hall pass. The study hall at the academy is period-long class with 20 minutes of silent work time and then scholars can be released to go to a classroom to get help from another class. Teachers at the academy provide scholars with a weekly syllabus. Happoldt thanked Ridgeview for their hospitality and generosity.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Field Trips

No new field trips to submit.

VI. ACTION AGENDA

A. Proposal of Changes to Core Values (Forman)

Proposal to change the 9th Core Value from “Preserving a Culture of Greatness” to “Building a Culture of Greatness” and to add a 10th Core Value: Self-Governance, Personal Responsibility and Accountability.

Chairman Forman explained that the word “Preserving” in the core value “Preserving a Culture of Greatness” was originally “Maintaining” and was misprinted on the core value posters. Forman proposed that rather than correcting it back to “Maintaining” the Board change the first word to “Building”, because at John Adams Academy we are building a model unique to us that takes servant leadership and service and core values and integrates them. Forman also proposed that the Board vote to add a Tenth Core Value of “Self-Governance, Personal Responsibility and Accountability” and explained that the academy is forming individuals who take responsibility and accountability for self and others. He referred to the service-learning project at the Gathering Inn by Mrs. Groth’s scholars as an example of the tenth core value and what we ultimately want from our scholars.

Board members contrasted our mission with that of Ridgeview Classical Academy in that Ridgeview educates classically, but service is not a part of their program. Discussion included that being well-educated is important, but that we also want our scholars to understand the need to return and serve, and that heart for serving is missing in many fields. The Board discussed that the academy is building and rebuilding the culture of greatness using tools that were effective in the past and considered whether to replace the number “Nine” with “Ten” in the title or to leave off the number.

The motion to change to the ninth core value from “Preserving” to “Building” a Culture of Greatness, and to add the tenth core value of “Self-Governance, Personal Responsibility and Accountability” was made by Board Member Nielsen and seconded by Board Member Sherrod. Motion to change title to “Ten” Core Values was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Nielsen. Approval was unanimous.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

B. Approval of Child Find Language (Yniguez)

Request approval to language to ensure compliance with equal access to education requirement.

Dean of Scholars, Carlos Yniguez presented Child Find language to be included on website: “The John Adams Academy is committed to the educational success of students with disabilities. Our Academy provides for students eligible for these types of services under a “push in” or inclusion model. Our Special Education Team collaborates with the classroom teachers to ensure that scholars are held to a rigorous academic standard.”

Chairman Forman explained that legal council and the Loomis District agreed that John Adams Academy need to post the language.

The motion to approve the Child Find language was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Gonzales. Motion was unanimously approved

Ayes 4 Nays 0

C. Approval of 2011 Forms 990 and 199 (Brophy)

Request approval to 2011 Form 990 and 199 and submittal to respective agencies via Certified Mail.

Dean of Operations, Heather Brophy presented the tax forms completed by Gilbert and Associates for review and to be sent by certified mail. Chairman Forman confirmed that the academy will not incur and additional expense to send them by certified mail. Board members noted a typo on Page Two of form 990, section four, where “CASHEE” needs to be changed to “CAHSEE”, and confirmed that only the loan from Dean Forman should be listed because this is only a stipulation of loans from interested parties, not from all parties.

The motion to approve the 2011 Forms 990 and 199 was made by Board Member Gonzales and seconded by Board Member Nielsen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

VII. CLOSED SESSION

A. Personnel (Special Personnel Issues – Gov. Code §54957)

VIII. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, June 13th, 2013 3:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vision

The John Adams Academies are restoring America’s heritage by developing servant-leaders who are keepers and defenders of the principles of freedom for which our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.

Values

John Adams Academy is preparing future leaders and statesmen through principle-based education.

Our core values include:

Appreciation of our national heritage

Public and private virtue

Emphasis on mentors and classics

Student-empowered learning

Fostering creativity and entrepreneurial spirit

High standards of academic excellence

Modeling what we teach

Abundance mentality

Maintaining a culture of greatness

Posted 5-6-13

Accommodating Those Individuals with Special Needs – In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, John Adams Academy encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. If you have a special need in order to allow you to attend or participate in our public meetings, please contact our office at (916) 780-6800 well in advance of the regular meeting you wish to attend so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate you, including auxiliary aids or service.