



Uniform Advisory Committee will be meeting in February allowing parents to collaborate on proposed amendments to the uniform policy. The PSO has graciously agreed to collect concerns and invites all community members to be a part of this committee. Forman explained that the Board does hear the parent's voice and understands this is an academy of both leadership and servant leadership. In addition, Mr. Forman explained that the Board follows the Brown Act open meeting law, which requires that all items to be acted on by the Board be posted 72 hours in advance of each Board Meeting. He cautioned the petitioners against expecting "immediate" action as stated in their petition because of the Brown Act. He reinforced that the concerns are heard, but must go through the proper channels and timeline so that all parties can be a part of the discussion.

Melea Berner, parent of five scholars, addressed the Board to explain that she appreciates the dress code standards but has found the changes this year (black shoes, outerwear) put a financial burden on families. She requested more advanced notice for these changes and asked that the requirement be pushed back to being the next semester or beginning of the new year.

Chairman Forman thanked her for her concerns and noted that the Board appreciated that she understood the intent to set a different tone. He noted that the PSO will meet in February and then bring ideas their recommendations to the Board so that they can be addressed well in advance of next school year. He also explained that the uniform policy could probably be visited every meeting and still not satisfy everyone, but that it is hoped that the PSO collaboration will help balance that scale.

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade male scholar addressed the Board, noting that some teachers do not adhere to the uniform policy. He commented that one of the school's core values is "Modeling what we teach" and explained that he feels the uniform policy should also apply equally to teachers and staff when teaching. In addition, he explained that the standards should apply equally to girls and boys. His examples were that because boys have to tuck their shirts in, girls should have to as well, and if girls can wear skirts, boys should be able to wear shorts.

Angie Gardner, JAA Librarian and parent of two JAA scholars, commented that she had recently attended a middle school retreat and a primary topic was about appearances and how we present ourselves. She explained that the kids there were so concerned about what they were wearing. She explained that in school this also has the impact of drawing attention away from learning. Gardner thanked the board for the uniform and noted that her daughter points out she "gets to wear" her uniform. She also thanked the scholar for bringing up "Modeling what we teach" with regards to the staff.

Board Member Nielsen, also a parent of JAA scholars, updated the Board regarding the PSO and Music and Arts Committee (MAC). She explained that new PSO teams have been formed including: Community and Safety teams and the Uniform Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC). She invited scholars and student council representatives to be a part of UPAC. She reported that the PSO is growing and hopes to fund school wide events such as assemblies, and grant projects. She reported that the money raised via "easy" money programs and the upcoming Dance-A-Thon on March 1<sup>st</sup> will provide funding for the events and grants. On behalf of the PSO she invited all members of the community to join the PSO, attend meetings, help at events and be a part of a great group of fun people. On behalf of the MAC she reported that the Winter Concert will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> and all members of JAA and their friends are encouraged to attend.

Jane Dildine Development Director and parent of JAA scholars, update the Board on development activities. She reported that she is actively meeting with members of the community to help spread the mission of our academy and gain financial support. She asked all members of the Board to send contact information of potential donors each may know. She also reported that the Beyond the Quill team has commit to help with contacts and that JAA will receive 100% of the proceeds from the President's Day 5K run on February 16<sup>th</sup> and the next big event will be the Spring Gala which will feature a special speaker.

## V. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Information Only Section

### A. Student Council Update (Michael Anderson)

Michael Anderson, Scholar Council President, reported that the scholar council had just finished the student body constitution and are working with the Senate to identify issues. He reported feedback from the Senate representatives: 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars want to have dances and spirit days where they can be creative (e.g. Santa hat day), 9<sup>th</sup> grade scholars are concerned about homework load and 10<sup>th</sup> grade scholars want to invite non-JAA scholars to school dances. In addition, the scholars want to have a dance before Winter Break and need to get a committee organized. In addition, 11<sup>th</sup> grade scholars want to know why they were not allowed to use their phones during lunch and breaks times. Anderson reported that scholars feel these times should be for relaxation time as well as a break from "school time".

Dean of Scholars Carlos Yniguez, expressed the concern regarding cell phones and the challenge they pose for academic integrity, the limited amount of time to focus on the academic experience and the "drama" that sometimes accompanies social media and texting. Dean of Academics, Millie Happoldt, added that as a small academy, one of the goals is to network with peers here and that the 30 minute lunch period doesn't give a lot of time to work on relationships with peers and plan activities, especially if scholars are distracted by phones.

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade female scholar, agreed with administrator's points but concurred with her peers that lunch time should be a down time and it doesn't feel like it this year. She noted that last year scholars were allowed to have lunch on the grass and that a situation last year lead to all scholars losing their privileges and everyone being pulled back to the cafeteria. She explained that she feels scholars need to learn to be responsible by having the opportunity to make the mistakes and then learn from them. She also noted that upper grade scholars don't have recess or PE and that because going to the cafeteria is another thing they "have to do", it doesn't feel like it is their time.

Anderson expressed that many of the scholars feel they are stuck in lunch room where it is loud and they can't get their minds off of school. Anderson reported that scholars feel they don't have as much freedom this year and they would like people to look at them and see good scholars who are following the rules and that they are such good scholars that they don't need rules because they govern themselves.

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade female scholar expressed that with privileges comes responsibility. She reminded scholars that last year's issue on the roof wasn't the only problem but there was also a problem with trash. She noted that scholars are still pulling out their phones in class but they want to earn privileges, and they first need to show that they can follow the established rules.

Additional 10<sup>th</sup> grade scholars in attendance also addressed the issues of freedom during lunch and break times noting that there is no way to win back privileges, only to lose them and that the older scholars are being punished for what the younger kids are doing as well.

Board Member Favero posed the hypothetical question for the scholars present asking them “if electronics did not exist, what would you like to do during lunch to relax?” The answer was that the upper grade scholars would like to go outside in the grass, not the blacktop.

Anderson also reported that there is frustration that the mentoring class some get assigned to is not in line with what they want to have a career in. Chairman Forman explained that with a liberal arts education the mission is to expose scholars to a variety of experiences. He added that, “We don’t necessarily know what our mission is until someone lights that spark and we see.” He further explained that the idea is to discover those gifts but also be exposed to more than just the one-or-two things that you like. By the time you are a senior and you have found a mentor you could go with them one on one . He also counseled scholars that all of the different experiences help to provide opportunities so that when they are with others they will be able to speak on lots of topics and enter the great debate because they can ask intelligent questions.

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade scholar mentioned that inviting friends to dances can also help to get others interested in JAA and that the dress code at dances would make other parents feel more comfortable. Dean Yniguez and Teacher Carla Boerman, noted that other schools require an administrator from the student’s school to sign off on the attendance request and a scholar’s parent could also sign off that they vouch for the friend.

Chairman Forman thanked the scholars for their comments. He requested that scholar council meet with Dean Yniguez and himself to discuss possible options for meeting their objectives. He counseled the scholars to, “Go back and flesh out the things that you want, revisit why you came here and see if this is really helping you become who you want to become.” He also reaffirmed that these things are important to scholars and so they are important to the Board. He invited Anderson to give a scholar council report at each Board Meeting.

Board Member Savage requested that Anderson make a proposal for the lunch times and other concerns to Dean Yniguez and that Dean Yniguez present it to the Board.

#### B. Update on WASC (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt reported that the WASC visit on December 4, 2012 will focus on two areas: academic components and how we connect our ESLRs (9 core values) to our academics. She updated the Board that staff members have been engaging in dialog in this process, brainstorming on linking literature and rubrics, and ensuring the constant articulation of our ESLRs. Happoldt also updated that Board the school will need to bring back a School Site Council because WASC requires the site council to develop the School Site Plan. She explained: that the Site Council needs representation from classified and certificated staff, parents, community, and upper grade scholars and that it is an elected group so nominations need to be posted to community and staff even if it operates under the PSO. This will need to be done in the next few weeks with Site Council meetings typically held from 3:30-4:30 in the afternoon once per month.

Board Member Nielsen explained that the School Site Plan is quite extensive and is broken down by grade level and pointed out that JAA may even need two Site Plans because of differences between elementary and upper grade formats.

Chairman Forman expressed his concern that by using “ESLR’s” instead of “Nine Core Values” we may lose sight of our mission and values. Happoldt explained that the “ESLRs” are the “Nine Core Values” and that while the WASC team may want us to use their term (ESLRs) for their purposes, at JAA these will remain our “Nine Core Values”.

After some discussion Chairman Forman reiterated that he wanted to make sure the WASC team knows that we want to keep our language with the Nine Core Values. Consultant Sandie Noell explained for the WASC visit the scholars need to be able to talk about ESLRs but that doesn't demean the Core Values in any way.

c. Update on Insulation status (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that the missing insulation will be replaced next Monday & Tuesday and the landlord will deduct the cost from our December rent. She explained that the plan is to have all work completed while scholars are gone for Thanksgiving and cleaned up before they return.

d. Update on construction of stairs (Forman)

Chairman Forman reported that the stairs are being constructed for Building C and that the call for inspection will be next week. He also reported that a gate will be installed as well. The project was donated by Fred\_\_\_\_\_at Sunsplash. The thank you will be a picture of first grade scholar sitting on the stairs and the scholars will sign it. The Board also request that a thank you to him be added to the website and we will.

Chairman Forman also thanked everyone who attended the Freedom Foundation lunch today where he was awarded the Award. He noted that receiving the award was an honor and only possible "because of all here" and commented that "this has been a phenomenal thing to watch come together and is generational." He noted that "being a teacher is the most noble calling, second only to being a parent."

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Field Trips: Fourth Grade Coloma Field, High School to Les Miserables, December 20<sup>th</sup> Choir performance, Sixth Grade Sly Park

Board Member Nielsen motioned to approve the field trips and Board Member Favero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes \_\_\_5\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

B. Accept letter of resignation from Secretary/Registrar Lyndsey Bean.

Motion to accept resignation letter was made by Board Member Savage. Board Member Sherrod seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Ayes \_\_\_5\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. ACTION AGENDA**

A. Disband Formal Standing Committees (Brophy)

Chairman Forman explained that subject to the Brown act, having standing committees with Board Members going to a specified meeting at a specific time would require noticing the public. He recommended disbanding the committees so they do not have to be treated as Board meetings.

Motion to disband the standing committees was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Nielsen second. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes \_\_\_5\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

B. Election of Board Members for Two (2) Year Terms (Brophy)

Dean Brophy presented for re-election Board Members Sherrod and Favero.

The motion to re-elect Sherrod and Favero for a new two-year term was made by Board Member Savage and seconded by Board Member Nielsen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes \_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_                      Nays \_\_\_\_\_

C. Amendment of Textbook Review Process (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt presented the revised proposed Textbook Review process. She reported that the process has been simplified from the previous proposal by combining previous steps and giving teachers several months to get through that step. She explained that this process applies to major texts adoptions, such as AP, math etc. This process is designed for teachers to plan a new course, attend training and bring those ideas back that fall for planning, instead of trying to teach the class that fall. This would give a teacher a 6-7 months time to write coursework and have it approved. The textbook process would take a year to complete and will be more methodical and professional.

Clarification was made that this process would apply only to major textbooks, not classics used as part of a curriculum. To reflect this, the word "Classic" will need to be removed from the document title.

The motion to approve the process, including the removal of "classic" from the title, was made by Board Member Favero and seconded by Board Member Sherrod. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes    5 \_\_\_\_\_                      Nays \_\_\_\_\_

D. Approval of Scholar-Parent Handbooks (Evans)

Communications Director Amy Evans reported that one paragraph was changed in the Scholar-Parent Handbook to remove specifics details regarding drop-off/ pick-up in. This was removed so that changes can be made as needed.

Motion to approve the Scholar-Parent Handbook was made by Board Member Nielsen and seconded by Board Member Savage. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes    5 \_\_\_\_\_                      Nays \_\_\_\_\_

E. Approval of Inception to June 2012 Audited Actuals (Brophy)

Dean Brophy noted that each board member has a copy of the final audit document and noted that copies of short report, which is not as extensive and doesn't have deficiencies highlighted as part of government reporting. With approval, she explained, these will be sent to government agencies on the letter.

Motion to approve audited actuals from inception to June 2012 was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Favero. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ayes    5 \_\_\_\_\_                      Nays \_\_\_\_\_

#### F. Financial Update on Mechanics/Bunco Fundraiser (Brophy)

Brophy updated the Board that the final balance in the Mechanics account, minus field trip receipts and allocations, is about \$5,800. Adding in the proceeds from the Bunco fundraiser, of approximately \$3000, it leaves just under \$9000 unencumbered in that account.

Board Member Sherrod asked if the science classes now have everything needed. Brophy reported that that she had just received the list of needs which were given to her during the meeting. Chairman Forman asked if teachers had the books and resources they need and the teachers in attendance answered that they did.

Dean Yniguez mentioned that special education will need to adapt their room to hold confidential meetings and areas for therapy and evaluations. Brophy noted there is money available via special ed funding for that. Sherrod mentioned that perhaps we might want to move rooms around to accommodate needs since some classrooms already have rooms built out that might fill the need.

#### G. Mentor Update (Yniguez)

Dean Yniguez reported that Mentoring is well into the first session with mentors on ground and more being interviewed for the second quarter. He reported that Mentor Coordinator Gabriel Hydrick is actively seeking mentors for lower grades and working with mentors to build the accountability process with the scholars. He floated the ideas of using media such as youtube to do some training and give it a personal touch without mentors having to take time out of their day to meet onsite. Hydrick also plans to meet with the mentors and check in with them all so that we have an update from their perspective.

#### H. Discussion on Security Recommendations (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that Teacher Erin Benson's Mother, who works in security, inspected the campus and gave an extensive report. This report has been forwarded to the safety committee to review and they will work with these recommendations and others as well. Brophy explained that this is what Erin's mother does for a living and that her team spent considerable time in her report ensuring the safety of staff and scholars.

Board Member Nielsen noted that the report was amazing and wanted to be sure we will send a thank you card. Dean Yniguez noted that the PSO safety committee is taking this report and working on other ideas as well to use in their recommendations.

#### **VIII. CLOSED SESSION - None**

#### **IX. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, December 13th, 2012 4:00 p.m.**

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Sherrod, seconded and approved unanimously.

#### ***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*