

stairs save more than 150 minutes of instruction time, 10 hours per week for each of five classes, as scholars no longer need to wait behind other classes to use the stairs from the playground between Buildings B and C. Chairman Forman also thanked Mr. Kenney for the donation of day passes to Sunsplash prior to the start of the school year that were used as a fundraiser. Mr. Kenney thanked the Board and staff for their commitment.

B. Valley Forge Scholarship Winners (Brophy)

Brophy introduced Valley Forge Youth Summit scholarship winners: Nathan Folkman, Sarah Peterson, Christina Weist, Shawn Beyer, and Waylon McCabe. Each of the five scholars were selected by the Freedoms Foundation as delegates to the summit on the basis of his/her essay about a founding father or mother they would like to meet and why they would like to meet them. No other school in the Sacramento area had five students selected.

C. Student Council Update (Anderson)

Scholar Council President, Michael Anderson, reported that the scholar council will be hosting a Valentines dance this Friday, February 15, 2013. He also reported that Spirit week was a success and recommended repeating it next year and that we now have two vending machines which are being used by scholars. Scholar Council meetings are held weekly and Scholar Senate meetings are held monthly.

D. PSO Update (Hansen)

PSO President, Karen Hansen, reported that the PSO fundraiser for the year, a Dance-A-Thon, will be held on March 1, 2013. Pledge forms have gone out and prize pictures have been posted on the wall to motivate scholars. Other items in the PSO report included: The Community team is helping with the Valentines dance, The Scholastic Book fair will be held all next week, February 18 – 22, 2013 and the Living Book Fair will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2013. The UPAC has been notified, a dress code survey will be emailed to parents in next few days and will be reported on at the next Board Meeting. The first Box Tops blitz ends this Friday and will be repeated three times per year. The next general PSO Meeting will be February 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

E. MAC Update (Sandovos/Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported on the MAC activities on behalf of MAC Chair Adrienne Sandovos. Because the Sandovos family adopted a little girl who will arrive this week, Adrienne will step down as Chair and Christian Dwyer will step up for the rest of the events. The next event will be March Celebration. There will be a MAC meeting on February 13, 2013 and the proposal will be discussed to hold only two large events, along with several smaller events each year.

F. Fund Development Update (Dildine)

Development Director, Jane Dildine, reported that the tours are going better as lunch time events. The next tour, on March 5, 2013, will be a Media Tour with help from Krista of KFB Public Affairs. She reported that John Adams Academy has also applied for a \$25,000 grant through Hillsdale College. Two finalists for

the grant will be selected in May and then Dr. Calvert will visit both finalists before announcing the winner in June. Dildine will also be working on additional grants and forming relationships with banks as well. Board Member Gonzales and Dildine will meet with Vice President of Mechanics Bank in Roseville . Dildine has identified two grants to work on now: a possible \$50,000 grant through Wells Fargo and a grant through the William and Flora Hewitt Foundation – “How are you doing it different” of up to \$350,000 - \$370,000. The Foundation is in the Bay area and Dildine plans to work with one of the members of the foundation on the grant. Dildine also thanked Chairman Forman and Board Members Sherrod and Gonzales for inviting their contacts to go on the tour. Dildine reported that the Beyond the Quill committee is planning to hold an “Ask” event on May 17th and will need to create a seven-minute video for it. She is also targeting 20/30 Clubs which have two big fundraisers each year and donate those funds. She noted that the clubs also give great scholarships for the high school. Dildine is also compiling a list of everyone who has ever attended a tour and reported that the next tour has 22 potential attendees.

G. Board Members Announcements (Board Members)

Board Member Gonzales reported that Congress sponsors a Congressional Art Competition called “An Artistic Discovery” for high school students. Students who win the Fourth District Art contest will receive two paid airline tickets to Washington DC and have his/her artwork on display in the tunnel in DC and posted on the website which is viewed by eight million people. Artwork must be able to be hung, be 28” x 28” and 4” deep or less and must be tasteful. Next year will have a theme, but this year is open. Deadline for submissions to Congressman McClintock’s office is March 25, 2013. Congressman McClintock’s office will send a letter to the school with details.

H. WASC/A-G Update (Happoldt)

I. Hillsdale College Grant Update (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that through a collaborative effort with teacher Kendra Lamboy taking the lead, the Hillsdale College grant has been submitted. The grant application included a video created by one of Mrs. Lamboy’s first-grade scholars who answered question “what makes John Adams Academy a great place to be”. Chairman Forman presented the scholar, Kira Mason, with a certificate for “Fostering Creativity and Entrepreneur Spirit”. Mrs. Lamboy presented the Board with a binder of the grant application and reported that Hillsdale College’s programs parallels what we are doing also and that John Adams Academy is closely aligned with Hillsdale. Chairman Forman reported that he had received the grant request for proposals and passed it on to the teaching staff. Forman thanked Mrs. Lamboy for taking the challenge and putting so much time and energy into the grant.

WASC Update:

Dean Happoldt reported that John Adams Academy has submitted AP coursework proposals to the AP Board and two of the four classes, AP

European History & AP US History, have already been approved. The Academy is anticipating a 60-90 day turn-around for the remaining two class approvals.

She also reported that as soon as the Academy receives its WASC accreditation letter, A-G courses will be submitted for approval by the UC/SCU system.

J. Enrollment Update/Exit Feedback (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that current enrollment is 689 scholars. That total includes 21 scholar withdrawals and the enrollment of 22 new scholars. Brophy explained that most of the withdrawals were from the high school and that 17 scholars were added in lower grades and three more are enrolling. She reported that the Academy cannot replace the upper grade scholars because our Math course tracks are not in line with other schools who teach Algebra 1, followed by Goemetry and then Algebra 2.

K. Intent to Return Results (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that the Intent to Return forms have been received and that only six (6) elementary and Nine (9) upper grade scholars reported that they do not intend to return. Of the Nine, one is moving, three reported leaving for academic/social reasons, one is a senior and two did not report a reason.

According to the Intent to Return forms, 74 siblings are applying for enrollment in the 2013-14 year, 51 of those siblings will be Kindergarteners. Based on these numbers, Brophy recommended keep three (3) kindergarten classes. She reported that so far just over 320 applications have been received for the lottery with several weeks still to go. Open Enrollment closes on February 28, 2013.

H. Safety Team Update (Yniguez)

Dean Yniguez reported that:

1. The primary staff safety contingencies have been tested and a staff safety roster has been created which outlining staff assignments in case of emergencies. During the last drill the ability to evacuate the building and set-up a safety command posts, complete with the ability to execute an "all call" for off-site pick up was tested and confirmed.
2. Julie Kilkenny has updated scholar emergency contact and allergy information and has made all of the relevant information available to teachers in a concise form.
3. The safety committee continues its hard work and is beginning to take steps to roll out JAA's Patriot Dad Patrol (PDP), which will be very similar to the "Watch Dog Program." This will be a group of volunteer dads that will have a visible presence as "eyes and ears, observe and report" patrol during school hours. The PDP will begin soon.
4. The language for the entire Safety Evacuation will be prepared by the next board meeting.

5. Many scholars have returned their filled emergency bags and those will be cataloged soon.

L. Site Council Update (Yniguez)

Dean Yniguez reported that Site Council applications have been collected and the candidate bios are posted. The election will be held on February 21, the same night as the living book fair to encourage as many people to vote as possible.

Six candidates and another who expressed interest after the deadline. Those who are not voted in will be asked to join the committee as non-voting members and to serve as alternates in case of any vacancies.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Field Trips:

- 3/6/13 Central Valley Spelling Bee Scottish Rite Temple
- 3/15/13 Mentoring Military Museum at McClellan AFB
- 4/1/13 Grade 3 Discovery Museum Sacramento.
- 4/15/13 Grade 1 Sac Children's Museum
- 4/15-19 2013 Grade 6 Sly Park
- 5/1/13 Grade 1 We the People

B. Approval of Karen Hansen, Part time Instructional Aide

C. Acceptance of Resignation of Paul Savage as Board of Trustee

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Board Member Nielsen and seconded by Board Member Gonzales. Approval was unanimous.

Ayes 5

Nays 0

VII. ACTION AGENDA

A. Approval of Master Schedule for 2013-14 School Year (Brophy)

Dean Brophy presented a daily schedule proposal that resulted from staff for collaboration. The proposal, which reflects the teaching staff recommendations, would transition the upper grade courses from the current modified block schedule to a daily schedule. The proposed daily schedule would maintain the current school start and end times and continues with the current weekly schedule of four (4) full days and half days on Fridays. It would include 55-minute class periods with each class to be attended daily, in contrast to the longer class periods and M-W/T-TH class rotation used this year. Brophy recommended that, if adopted, the schedule be retained for at least a two-three year time period to allow for adjust and evaluation.

Board members noted that the Academy's upper grade courses had operated on a daily schedule for the inaugural year and had transitioned to

a modified block schedule for the 2012-13 school year. Concern was expressed that the modified block schedule has only been attempted for one year, rather than a two-three year period and requested reasons for the proposed change back to a daily schedule. Brophy explained that the upper grade staff reported that the modified block doesn't give enough instructional minutes to adequately cover material in class or provide the frequency needed for retention of material. She also reported that the teaching staff overwhelmingly prefer the daily schedule, and that adopting a schedule soon is important because the format and schedule of the upper grades impacts the scheduling of lunches for the elementary grades as well.

Board members discussed that the purpose of the block, as proposed by staff last year, was to allow more time for getting deeper into the material, and expressed concern that the daily schedule would mean that scholars would potentially have homework in more classes each night. Brophy explained that the shorter Fridays coupled with the Monday holidays limit the gains expected through the longer classes in the block and that balancing homework load on a daily schedule will require tighter cross-grade level articulation.

Upper grade teachers in attendance commented that they feel the block has not been effective, in part because of the short Fridays and Monday holidays that cut into class time. They explained that classes that meet only twice per week are then down to one class time when a holiday occurs. They also reported that the scholars have struggled to absorb information taught in bigger chunks, which are then followed by a time lapse between sessions, and discussed the importance of daily immersion in subjects such as math and foreign language and those same issues are being experienced in classes such as art as well. One upper grade teacher reported that across the nation the trend is going back to a daily schedule and that in her AP course training she learned that schools who are serious about AP courses are returning to a daily schedule to allow the material to be taught in smaller portions. Teachers also reported that their scholars are further behind in course material covered so far this year as compared to last year and that they believed the proposed daily schedule would allow for more work to be completed in class. Concerns about scholar's ability to manage time and work requirements effectively without daily contact were discussed as well, with particular emphasis on these challenges for middle grades.

Board members questioned whether two schedules could be run concurrently, with the middle grades (6th – 8th) on a daily schedule and the high school (9th – 12th) on a block schedule. Brophy clarified that two schedules cannot be run within the same school because staff members teach both middle and upper classes which would not have compatible start and end times. Brophy also confirmed that the teaching staff have expressed their preference for the daily schedule for both the middle and upper grades.

Board members questioned whether a daily or block schedule best prepare scholars for college and which schedule would best meet the design and purpose of our model.

Parents in attendance commented that currently scholars can have eight core classes and with an intense mentor class that can mean work in nine classes each week and expressed concern that scholars could have homework in nine classes each day on a daily schedule. Brophy clarified that the proposal for the 2013-14 year includes seven classes per day. Teachers commented that they gave less homework last year with the daily schedule because they had more time to complete work in class.

Parents and scholars in attendance expressed concern with the impact of the current workload on their family and personal lives and reported that scholars are working late into the night to complete assigned work. Scholars expressed that much of their time is dedicated to homework, to the exclusion of other worthwhile activities and family time.

Board members asked teachers how they will be more collaborative with homework, tests & projects and whether they still support minimum day Fridays. The question was also raised of whether the teachers are getting more depth or breadth this year. Teachers reported that they are already working to coordinate homework and are working on a calendar they can all post to so they can adjust the homework accordingly, but reminded that AP courses have minimum requirements of one hour per night. Dean Brophy reminded that the decision had been made earlier in the year not to extend the hours on Fridays without surveying parents first. Teachers reported that they are having to lecture more rather than get into the Socratic dialog they intended and that they believe more depth would be possible with the increased instructional minutes they anticipate on the proposed schedule.

Parents and scholars expressed the desire to keep minimum days on Fridays and to have school holidays, such as Christmas and Spring Breaks, homework free. They reported feeling scholars are more strapped with homework this year over last year. Scholars reported that having days between class sessions encouraged procrastination and noted he would rather have homework be consistent. Parents noted that for scholars who struggle with organization on block, having each class every day would make it easier.

One parent commented that his former school had witnessed reductions in both continuity and retention because of a block schedule and assured the attendees that the arts flourish on a daily schedule. Several parents expressed appreciation for the depth of the discussion and that all points of view were being considered, and commented that they had supported the block coming into the board meeting, but after hearing the teachers they were confident that there were valid arguments for the daily schedule as

well. They recommended that all parents have the opportunity to hear the discussion.

Board members expressed concern that parents were involved in the transition from a daily schedule to a block schedule last year and would need to know what has been, and is being, considered. A Town Hall meeting was recommended that would be agendized, provide for dialog with teachers, scholars and parents, summarize the history up to this point and allow the Board to take action.

Teachers questioned whether adoption of the daily schedule would necessarily include the adoption of the proposed daily advisory class that is included in the course level proposal. Dean Brophy clarified that the advisory class is proposed as a 55-minute daily class focusing on organizational skills, college preparation and leadership. The class would be in the place of the currently weekly advisory class and would be taught by the upper grade advisors. Teachers expressed concerns that the advisory class would take the place of other electives, that not all teachers have the background and preparation to teach the material and that it could interfere with the service learning component of advisory. Board members discussed the importance of meeting scholar needs in the best possible way and requested a more complete course description and opportunity to explore the options more fully.

Motion to table the vote on the master schedule for action at a special town hall meeting of Board members, parents, teachers, staff and scholars regarding the proposed daily schedule with seven 55 minute classes was made by Gonzales and seconded by Favero. The motion passed unanimously. Dean Brophy was directed to select a date for the town hall.

Ayes ___5___

Nays ___0___

B. Approval of Class Level Configuration for 2013-14 School Year
(Brophy)

Dean Brophy presented a proposed Class Level Configuration for 2013-14 and a forecast of 2014-15. The configuration goes with the proposed daily 55-minute class schedule.

The proposal would require hiring two middle/high school teachers, and would correct our current math track misalignment. She explained that math is the most challenging aspect of the schedule and in order to ensure each scholar is placed in the correct level and on track to graduate, other classes work around it in order of graduation requirements. Examples are history/English – JAA requires 4 years, UC/CSU requires min. of Algebra 1, Geo, Alg. 2 and 2 yrs. lab science. She noted that changing one element ripples through the entire schedule.

The 14-15 class level configuration is forecast only, tracking our math through the next year as we correct our math sequence as well as see where potential hiring would be. She explained that the math track should move from Algebra 1 to Geometry and then Algebra 2 because each class builds on the one before. The forecast is provided strictly for conversation only at this point.

The Configuration also includes an advisory class that will start in grade 9. The intent of the advisory class is to prepare the scholars for high school and beyond. This would be a structured class, by grade level and will focus on the basics of study skills and test taking strategies to SAT/ACT/CASHEE prep, leadership, community service, and career/college research leading to a senior community service project. To help facilitate this, as well as coordinate the servant leadership portion of our mission, the proposal for 2013-14 has 1 prep period built in to establish servant leadership projects/training across the curriculum. This will allow guidelines to be established, protocols and support.

Discussion included the benefits and draw-backs of adding the daily advisory class, questions regarding of elective offerings and foreign language offerings such as Latin which was part of the original model and meeting the needs of scholars for graduation and college entrance requirements. The need for continuing to offer three kindergarten classes to meet the enrollment demands was also discussed.

The recommendation was made to suspend discussion and allow for more collaboration at the staff level regarding the advisory class and details of the schedule.

Motion to accept the recommendation to continue with three kindergarten classes for the 2013-13 school year and to table consideration of the class level configuration pending further collaboration and detailing of the proposed advisory class was made by Board Member Favero and seconded by Board Member Gonzales. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 5 Nays 0

C. Approval of 2014-16 MOU (Brophy)

Dean Brophy presented the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposals noting that the best proposals were by Delta Management and Loomis Union School District. She reported that the biggest difference is that Loomis charges a 3% charges and Delta proposed a 2% charge. She pointed out that the difference in fees is offset because Delta charges a one-time set up fee of \$8,500 and then the Academy would have to maintain Aeries on our own. The Loomis MOU is set up as a two-year agreement.

Chairman Forman explained that there are two years left for charter renewal which matches the two-year Loomis proposal. He reminded the Board that

during the year when the check from the State did not arrive on time Loomis backstopped payroll for us without charging a fee.

The Board questioned whether the percentage charged by Loomis is still appropriate considering the growth in enrollment and ADA that will bring in additional revenue for Loomis under this agreement. Jay Stewart from the LUSD confirmed that the percentage also includes value added services that the school district covers for JAA in the course of business without nickel and diming the for them. He commented that LUSD provides these services, and that district leadership and staff are available to answer questions routinely without requesting additional compensation.

Board Member Sherrod pointed out that Loomis also provides W2s and 1099s, which can be expensive, and that Delta Management did not spell out whether those services are included or would be charged separately.

Motion to approve 2014-15 MOU with Loomis Union School District, with incorporation of changes suggested by legal counsel, Jerry Simmons was made by Sherrod and seconded by Favero. Approval was unanimous.

Ayes ___5___

Nays ___0___

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

IX. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, March 14th, 2013 4:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Gonzales and seconded by Nielsen. Board meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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

Preserving a culture of greatness