



Board Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, April 11th, 2013 4:00 P.M.
 John Adams Academy Campus
 One Sierragate Plaza, Roseville, CA 95678

Slogan

Developing Servant Leaders...Restoring America's Heritage

I. PRELIMINARY

- A. Call to order: Time: 4:00
- B. Pledge
- C. Roll Call

Dean Forman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Cindi Sherrod	<u> </u>	<u> A </u>
Norman Gonzales	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Bryan Favero	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Tricia Nielsen	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES –
 March 14, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 14, 2013 minutes was made by Board Member Bryan Favero and seconded by Board Member Norman Gonzales. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

III. THOUGHT OF THE DAY – Bryan Favero

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time in which anyone in the audience may address the Board for two (2) minutes on any item that is not on the agenda. (The Board has the discretion to restrict public comments to those matters it deems relevant to its subject matter jurisdiction. Govt. Code Sect. 54954.3)

No public comment was given.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Information Only Section (2 min. each)

- A. Gettysburg Address Presentation (Mrs. Brown's class)

Five scholars from Mrs. Brown's fourth grade class, Emily Manos, Emily Alridge, Nick Petersen, Addyson Woodman, and Julia Weist recited the Gettysburg Address for the Board. Chairman Forman thanked the scholars for memorizing the noble words of the speech and thanked Mrs. Brown for encouraging them to do so.

B. Greek Mythology Presentation (Mrs. Yerocostas' class)

Two seventh grade scholars from Mrs. Yerocostas' class gave special presentations on characters from Greek mythology; complete with costumes, power point presentations and links to the core values. Scholar Faith Brasher presented on Hestia and scholar Madeline Gardner presented on Athena.

C. Scholar Council Update (Herald/Yniguez)

Dean Yniguez reported that the scholar council is planning two more dances before the end of year and is working with the PSO on a "shadow day" to allow scholars to bring a friend to experience John Adams Academy. He also reported that upper grade scholars are enjoying eating outside and are planning for more food delivery days as well.

D. PSO Update (Hansen)

PSO Secretary, Kimberly Martin, reported that the PSO is working on the 2013-14 budget for approval at the final general PSO meeting of the year in the end of May. The PSO is also working on teacher grants for next year and is excited about supporting and attending the Oliver DeMille event.

Chairman Forman thanked PSO for their part in Inspiring Greatness and asked for email addresses to send thank you notes.

E. MAC Update (Dwyer)

Board Member and parent, Tricia Neilsen, reported on behalf of the MAC: The MAC is preparing for the year-end concert and art exhibition on May 23rd to be held outdoors at the Rock of Roseville. John Adams Academy has been able to acquire use of the facility free of facility use charges, with only a \$75 deposit. The event will be a designed as a picnic in the park and the MAC will sell ice-cream cones to help build the band and choir programs.

F. Fund Development Update (Dildine)

Development Director Jane Dildine reported that several employees from Students First visited John Adams Academy, and twelve additional Students First representatives will attend the next tour to build that relationship. Dildine will also hold an additional tour on April 23rd for local businessmen and has 25 visitors signed up for the next tour.

In social media: the new Facebook page now has 150 "likes", and the Blog is receiving good traffic, with 1,845 page visits and international traffic as well. The biggest hit was on the post by Chairman Forman with 163 hits recorded. Chairman Forman's post was also linked onto the Students First's website and was sent to Dr. Arndt at Hillcrest College. Dildine asked Board Members to send her the "Thought of the Day" they present at board meetings to use as Blog posts. Board Member Bryan Favero encouraged Dildine to ensure that John Adams Academy has a presence on LinkedIn and offered to assist in setting up the profile so that the Academy can build credibility in the business sector.

Dildine also reported on funding opportunities: she continues to work with Intel and HP on the grants and the Beyond the Quill committee has decided to go ahead with an "Ask" event this year. The "Ask" event, to be held on May 15th, will be an hors d'oeuvres reception held in the music room. The committee is working with Il Fornaio to provide hors d'oeuvres and is designating table captains to bring in additional guests. Mrs. Brown's fourth-grade class will recite the Gettysburg Address and Mrs. Lamboy's first graders will sing patriotic songs.

Board Member Norman Gonzales thanked Dildine and her daughter, Sara, for coming to his speech for the Republican women last Saturday. He commented that it was an asset to have them there and he will be inviting Dildine to other events as well to increase John Adams Academy's presence.

G. AP/A-G Update (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt reported that the AP classes have been approved and that our WASC accreditation stamp has arrived. The A-G submissions are also currently in review and the courses are ready to be uploaded. She explained that our initial approvals for A-G classes are retroactive for three years. After the 2014-15 school year, submissions will have to be made within one year of any course additions.

H. Text Process Change for 2013-14 Grade 12 (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt informed the Board that an exception to the Text Book Adoption Process will be needed for materials for the twelfth grade courses which will be added for the 2013-14 school year. Due to the workload this school year; teachers were working on WASC accreditation, AP approvals and A-G proposals, planning for new math, physics, and English, courses, including selecting and ordering materials, will have to happen over the summer.

I. SpEd Update (Yniguez/Schug)

Dean Yniguez reported that John Adams Academy needs to be more visible in the Special Education programming it provides, which will be discussed in the Child Find wording. He also noted that at this point JAA is able to serve all of its Special Education students on site, but that JAA may have to consider off-site services if the need arises. Yniguez is working with Mary Shug to create cohesive plans for general education that may lead up to special services.

J. Site Council Update (Yniguez)

Dean Yniguez reported that the School Site Council (SSC) will have its first meeting on April 30th. The parent representatives have been elected and there has been some interest from classified and certified staff. The first meeting will be to define the purpose and role of the SSC and the SSC will begin its work next school year.

K. Oliver DeMille Presentation Update (Yniguez)

Dean Yniguez reported that to date, there have been 298 RSVPs for the Oliver DeMille presentation and 323 rental chairs have been reserved, which can be supplemented with the school's lunch-room chairs if needed. Audio/visual help has also been secured and the event will have video on the stage. The Board directed that parents of incoming scholars can be invited to the event as well.

L. Asbestos Update (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that, per legal counsel, the Academy facilities must be checked for asbestos. According to records, the facility was checked in 2008 and is clear from liability.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Field Trips

2nd Grade to Bishop's Hamburger Farm 5/7/13

4th Grade to Crocker Art Museum on 5/8/13

9th-11th Grades to *Les Miserables* on 5/30/13

Motion to approve the field trips as listed was made by Board Member Tricia Neilsen and

seconded by Board Member Norman Gonzales. Approval of the motion was unanimous.

Ayes 4

Nays 0

VI. ACTION AGENDA

A. Proposal of Independent Contractors Offering Summer School Enrichment Classes (Brown/Boerman)

Recommendation to allow current JAA teachers, as independent contractors, to offer summer enrichment classes.

Teacher Heather Brown presented a proposal for providing summer school at John Adams Academy. This program would be run independently, as it was last year, and would provide enrichment, summer activities and extra help for scholars who need more reinforcement. The curriculum and the support given will depend on the scholars who choose to enroll. The agreements attached are same as last year. Brown has already met with Dean of Operations, Heather Brophy, to approve them for this year. She has also met with Dean of Scholars, Carlos Yniguez and will go over the program with Dean of Academics, Millie Happoldt. Last year's program enrolled 38 scholars over the course of the summer, without advertising until the last week of school. This year, teachers will recommend students for inclusion and parents are already asking about it. Mrs. Boerman would provide the program for fourth–sixth grades, Ms. Hoster would focus on middle school and support, and Mrs. Brown would teach the lower grades.

Motion to approve the proposal to allow teachers to offer summer school enrichment programs as independent contractors was made by Board Member Norman Gonzales and seconded by Board Member Bryan Favero. Approval of the motion was unanimous.

Ayes 4

Nays 0

B. Proposal of Changes to Core Values (Forman)

Recommendation to change verbiage of 9th Core Value to “Building a Culture of Greatness” and add 10th Core Value “Self-Governance Through Personal Responsibility and Accountability”.

Chairman Forman presented a proposal for changes to the John Adams Academy Core Values. He reported that prior to opening the Academy, the Board and others deliberated and decided upon the core values and mission statement, but that when the core values were printed, the ninth core value was incorrectly printed as “Preserving a Culture of Greatness” rather than “Maintaining a Culture of Greatness”. He also explained that education has evolved over the years and that we, as an Academy, are hearkening back to the legacy of the Greeks and Romans and are building a new model. In light of this, Forman proposed that the ninth core value be amended to read “Building a Culture of Greatness”. He also proposed the addition of a tenth core value: “Self Governance through Personal Responsibility and Accountability”. This new core value would be a capstone, or umbrella, for all of the other core values.

Discussion included changing the ninth core value to “Restoring” a Culture of Greatness. Chairman Forman asked what it is we are restoring and pointed out that “restoring” is already in the motto: “Restoring America’s Heritage and Developing Servant Leaders” and that “building” seemed more appropriate because we are teaching Greek and having scholars memorize core documents.

Discussion regarding the addition of a tenth core value included the pros and cons of having nine values versus ten, that the tenth core value would encompass them all and be the top of the staircase the values lead to, the possibility of keeping nine core values and adding self governance as an explanatory statement, that the tenth core value is broader than the others, and that the wording may need to be changed or refined because it would be enshrined in our materials and culture.

Teacher Valrie Jensen pointed out that she likes having those words to refer back to because it is helpful to be able to ask scholars which of the core values their current choice refers back to. Scholar Sara Dildine offered support for the proposal because she enjoys seeing the impact the older scholars are having on the younger ones and noted that having the tenth core value would show that it isn't something just talked about in class, but something to be and do.

A motion to defer the proposed changes for further consideration until next meeting was made by Board Member Bryan Favero and seconded by Board Member Tricia Neilsen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

C. Approval of Child Find Language for Website (Yniguez)

Proposal for language to ensure compliance with equal access to education requirement.

Dean Yniguez presented the Board with language to be included on the website, as per the recommendation from SELPA, if the Board chooses. He also provided a letter from the El Dorado County SELPA with the recommendation along with the applicable education code.

The Board discussion included the question of whether the requirement applies to charter schools and whether the requirement applies to districts or to individual schools. Concern was expressed that posting of the language may be unnecessary for John Adams Academy as the Loomis School District, under which John Adams Academy is chartered, already has applicable language on its site. Board members noted that in checking the websites of other charter schools, the wording does not appear to have been included. Dean Yniguez agreed that there is some vagueness in the law. Chairman Forman recommended that compliance be left at the district level, or at least reviewed by the lawyer prior to adoption. Special Education Consultant Mary Shug recommended checking with Loomis Union School District Superintendent Gordon Medd as well. Chairman Forman will be meeting with Superintendent Medd and will discuss the issue.

A motion to table the proposal until the next Board Meeting was made by Board Member Norman Gonzales and seconded by Board Member Tricia Neilsen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

D. Approval of SARC Report (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt presented the School Accountability Report Card (SARC Report) for the 2011-2012 school year to the Board for review. She noted that the report is still open for editing, but that it is down to the final edits. She explained that the report is always completed one year after the fact and reflects what the Academy one year ago. Happoldt pointed out the following changes to be made: 1) the names of school board listed on Page 1 will be changed from the Loomis School Board to our Board Members, 2) On Page 2, the enrollment will be changed to show that the Academy opened with 559 students, 3) On Page 3, the school year will be changed to read "2011-12" and, 4) on Page 5, the librarian FTE will be changed to part-time, as it was for the 2011-2012 year. Happoldt

requested the SARC Report be approved, with changes, to be submitted and uploaded to the website and approved through the state.

A motion to approve the SARC report, with the changes above, was made by Board Member Bryan Favero and seconded by Board Member Tricia Neilsen. Approval of the motion was unanimous.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

- E. Proposal of Changes to Uniform Policy for School Year 2013-14 (Yniguez/Happoldt)
Recommendation to change specific requirements of the uniform policy based on staff, scholar and parent input.

Dean Happoldt proposed adoption of the 2013-14 uniform policy with changes based on feedback from the UPAC survey. She proposed: Keeping the uniform bottoms, shirts and black shoes the same as defined in the 2012-13 policy, but adding a distinction between items worn inside, verses only outside, the classroom. For items to be worn outside the classroom only, such as winter jackets and hats, Happoldt proposed releasing the restriction that colors be “solid”. These items would continue to be specified in the uniform colors of red, white, blue and khaki, and meet the spirit of the uniform, but would allow some accent colors. The proposal would also eliminate the restriction that outerwear hats, also worn outside the classroom only, be only the John Adams Academy beanie and instead allow for other conservative beanies. Meanwhile, the requirement for outerwear items worn inside the classroom, for example sweaters, jackets and hoodies, would continue to be “solid” uniform colors. Happoldt explained that this would be an opportunity to “meet in the middle” and provide conservative leniency to meet the needs of families so that scholars can be warm when they are outside and ready to learn when inside.

Board discussion included the recommendation that beanies be solid in color with no logos or lettering, the importance of keeping the dress code simple to monitor so that teachers and staff would not have to spend valuable time analyzing scholars’ dress, the need for the distinction between classroom wear and items worn outside the classroom only, and the need to find the correct wording to clearly communicate the expectations.

Board Members pointed out that, based on the survey comments, shoes were the most commonly mentioned concern and questioned whether there is room for discretion when a parent or scholar is trying to comply. Members also questioned whether brown shoes should be considered and whether some leniency could be provided in the requirement for “all black” shoes, including soles and mid soles. Board members discussed whether to change the policy or request flexibility in enforcement, and considered whether allowing a white or conservative colored sole and/or mid-sole, would make the uniform look too casual or be distracting. Consensus was that because the current policy does specify black soles and mid-soles, the wording would have to be changed if other colors were to be allowed, and that the shoes worn by scholars are already casual with most scholars wearing tennis shoes.

The question of allowing shorts for middle school boys, especially during PE, was also raised. Middle school teachers in attendance reported that the problem with allowing scholars to change clothes for PE is the lack of an appropriate place and time for changing. Chairman Forman recommended that the issue of shorts for PE be discussed as a separate issue due to the logistics of changing from the uniform into PE clothing. He also recommended that the sixth-grade leadership team address the issue and bring it back before the Board.

A motion was made by Board Member Norman Gonzales and seconded by Board Member Tricia Neilsen to adopt changes to the 2013-14 uniform policy as follows: 1) Remove the requirement

that outerwear, to be worn outside the classroom only, be all solid color, which would allow for a combination of the uniform colors of red, white navy and khaki, with a complimentary, conservative colored liner or trim, 2) Specify that outerwear must be conservative, with no logos or lettering. 3) Remove the restriction to the JAA beanie, and allow knit beanies in uniform colors, with no logos or lettering, 4) Specify that outerwear, as above, is to be worn outside the classroom only and is not to be worn inside the classroom, 5) Maintain all black shoes, but with allowance for a conservative colored mid-sole. No patterns or neon colors, jewels/embellishment or lights will be allowed. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes 4 Nays 0

The suggestion was made by PSO officer and parent, Kim Martin, that John Adams Academy list acceptable vendors, styles, colors, etc., on the website so that parents could know what was expected. She recommended that someone research and identify appropriate shoes as well. Chairman Forman explained that those steps can be taken in coordination with the administration and would not require Board approval.

F. Approval of Debt Obligation Payment (Brophy)

Recommendation to repay start up loans for first/last month rent and general start up expenses with June and July 2013 positive cash flow.

Dean Brophy reported that John Adams Academy has the possibility of having a positive cash flow of a little over \$400,000 at end of year, if payments are received on time. She recommend that the Academy take this opportunity to repay the two generous financiers who helped with start-up costs, and thereby begin year three of the Academy debt free.

A motion to repay the original loans from Dean Forman and Kevin Nagle was made by Board Member Norman Gonzales and seconded by Board Member Bryan Favero. Chairman Forman recused himself from the vote because he is one of the financiers to be repaid. The motion was unanimously approved by remaining members.

Ayes 3 Nays 0

G. Proposal of 2013-14 School Year Holidays (Brophy)

Recommendation to observe legal holidays, half days prior to major holidays and adjust summer office hours.

Dean Brophy recommended to the Board that the office hours be adjusted to four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday, with Fridays off, for the six weeks of the summer.

The question was raised whether it was wise for independently contracted summer classes to be going on without the office staff here on Friday. Brophy clarified that the contractors teaching the summer classes would be full-time employees as well and would have access to materials and medical supplies as needed. Chairman Forman also raised the question of whether the current office hours, which end at 4:00 pm, pose a problem for parents, and whether extended hours are needed. Discussion included the need to accommodate our community while ensuring the safety of the staff, and the option for parents to make arrangements and administration to be accommodating when later appointments are needed.

Brophy also presented the Holiday schedule for the 2013-14 school year that includes a half day off on Good Friday, a full day off on the day before Christmas and a half day off on New Year's Eve.

A motion to accept the summer schedule of four 10-hour days, and the proposed 2013-14 Holiday schedule, was made by Board Member Bryan Favero and seconded by Board Member Norman Gonzales. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 4

Nays 0

H. Approval to Purchase Piano from Fundraising Account (Brophy)

Request approval to purchase piano for music from fundraising account to secure prior to company going out of business.

Dean Brophy presented a request to purchase a high quality piano for \$7,000 from a store that is going out of business from the fundraising account. She noted that the purchase would require dropping below the \$5,000 balance guideline set for that account.

Discussion included the quality of the piano as an institution-quality instrument with double casters that would be placed in the music room, and the fact that the store closing means this instrument is only available at the discounted price for a short time. The Board also discussed the availability versus quality of donated pianos offered to the school, noting that donated instruments are often of lower quality or in need of repair. Dean Yniguez reported that a baby grand piano has been donated to the Academy and will be delivered tomorrow to be placed in one of the practice rooms.

Other options considered were purchasing a piano at the annual Sierra College sale and/or purchasing a keyboard with weighted keys instead of a piano because it would be portable and be about half of the cost. Board Member Neilsen pointed out that a keyboard is on Mr. Blankenbehler's wish list and that scholars can put on head phones to practice on a keyboard without disturbing others. Chairman Forman explained that the piano being proposed is in a class above the others, that at the Sierra College sales buyers have to arrive early and know about the instruments, and questioned whether the keyboard would be appropriate for taking into the multi-purpose room.

The final question was whether the Academy needs this particular instrument right now, or whether it is the biggest need. Brophy pointed out that the cost of the Oliver DeMille event will also need to be covered out of this account and explained that the account has a current balance of \$12,237. Paying \$7,000 for the piano and then covering about \$3,000 in expenses for the DeMille event, would leave only about \$2,000.

A motion to table purchase of the piano from the fundraising account until the May Board Meeting was made by Tricia Neilsen and seconded by Norman Gonzales. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Ayes 4

Nays 0

I. Approval to Obtain a School Credit Card for Pre Approved Purchases (Brophy)

Request approval to obtain a credit card for use in purchasing school related items.

Dean Brophy presented a proposal for an Academy credit card to cover expenses like airline tickets and other pre-approved expenses, with a suggested credit limit of \$1,000. Clarification was made that the Academy has policies in place regarding single purchases and that all Deans are included in prioritization and review of expense. Discussion included that a credit limit higher than \$1,000 would be needed and that multiple cards would be needed as well.

Motion to approve a credit card for the school with a limit of \$2,500 and three cards, all tied to one account, was made by Board Member Bryan Favero and seconded by Board Member Norman Gonzales. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes 4

Nays 0

VII. CLOSED SESSION

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

Board Members vote not to renew two teacher's At-Will Employment Agreements for the 2013-14 school year.

Ayes 3

Nays 0

Adjournment: 9:13 pm.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 9th, 2013 4:00 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 4-8-13

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.