



**Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, December 13th, 2012 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 4:00pm	5 minutes
B. Pledge		
C. Roll Call		
Dean Forman	_____ X _____	
Cindi Sherrod	_____ X _____	
Norman Gonzales	_____ X _____	
Paul Savage	_____ X _____	
Bryan Favero	_____ X _____	
Tricia Nielsen	_____ X _____	

**II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – 2 minutes**

Motion was made to approve November 20, 2012 minutes by Board Member Favero and seconded by Board Member Sherrod. Board Member Gonzales abstained. Approval was unanimous with one abstention.

**III. THOUGHT OF THE DAY – Norman Gonzales 3 minutes**

The story of the illiterate teacher -

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT 10 minutes**

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)

Joan Cardinet, parent of a junior inquired about early graduation. Dean Happoldt will discuss this with her after reviewing transcripts.

Board Member and parent Tricia Nielsen updated the Board on the MAC Holiday event coming up. A small committee, led by chair, Adrienne Sandvos, has done amazing work. They will be videoing the event and selling cookies to support the music program.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Information Only Section

30 minutes

A. Insurance Update (Eller)

Jeff Eller with Valley Oaks Insurance explained the Academy's non-profit insurance and the broad coverage it provides for staff/volunteers, including coverage for Board members with regard to compliance with the Brown Act. Dean Brophy works with him to steer Board & Administration toward things we should be doing and away from things that create risk. The Academy's coverage includes: general, professional property, premises, liability & workers comp, directors, officers and employment coverage's. The Board requested that Mr. Eller explore higher limits for Board & officers (currently \$1mil.) and report to Dean Brophy.

B. Special Education Services Update (Yniguez/Schug)

Dean Yniguez reported that as our Academy grows our special education population is growing in line with the expectations of the Charter Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Mary Schug, Special Education Consultant for JAA reviewed the services we offer to all our scholars and affirmed that the needs of the scholar are always the top priority.

C. Student Council Update (Anderson)

Scholar Council President, Michael Anderson, reported on Scholar Council activities including the following: the Speaker of the House is chairing the dance committee and morning announcements will be made at flag ceremonies to increase communication. Mrs. Boerman, John Adams Academy teacher and Scholar Council Advisor reported that the Scholar Council Constitution has been ratified and signed.

D. PSO Update (Hansen)

PSO President, Karen Hansen, updated the board on the PSO page on the website and the teams and committees. She reported that the Safety Team has been meeting weekly and has attracted parents with a variety of crucial background and skills, including emergency responders, security personnel and others. The Uniform Advisory Committee will meet in January/February, the Living Book fair team met this week to plan the fair set for February and is coordinating with Scholastic Book Fair. The Dance-A-Thon committee is working with a local company to provide a fun and rewarding event and will kick off their campaign in January.

E. Mentor Update (Yniguez/Hydrick)

Dean Yniguez reported that we are closing the first mentor session and working to ensure mentors are available and prepared for next session.

F. Fund Development Update (Dildine)

Development Director, Jane Dildine, reported that she is implementing a luncheon meeting with potential donors at the Beyond the Quill tours. In addition, she is developing a Leadership blog that will include interviews with business leaders about how the Nine Core Values work in their business. She also reported that a John Adams Academy Facebook page has been set up to

increase our social media presence and that Whitehawk Insurance will be donating all of the proceeds from their Presidents Day 5K run in February to JAA. They have hosted several similar events that made from \$20,000 - \$50,000. To help with fund development, Dildine asked the Board to review a list of names and to contact her if they know the individuals on the list. She also asked Board members provide two (2) names per month for her to contact.

#### G. WASC Visit Update (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt reported on the December 4<sup>th</sup> WASC team visit. She reported that the visiting team was very impressed with the quality of the initial paperwork and with the morning pledge ceremony, the passion of the teachers, staff and Board members in the interview and the cooperative relationship with Loomis, our chartering district. Chairman Forman spoke of the robust meeting participation and commented that the team was enlightened by the way the core values are linked to academics in the classroom. Happoldt explained that the team left us with the comment that we are “well ahead of the game”. We should receive our copy of the report in mid-January with one of the three possibilities: Denied, Candidacy, or Initial Accreditation. She reported that she is quite confident we will not be denied.

#### H. LUSD Board Meeting Presentation (Happoldt)

Chairman Forman reported that John Adams Academy gives an annual report to our chartering district at their December Board meeting. Dean Happoldt reported that the Deans attended and reported on enrollment, WASC, finances, scholar & community achievements. Highlights of accomplishments, challenges looking forward, the block schedule, AP class report, and an update on the Site Action Plan & Site Council were also part of the report. The Deans shared the WASC team’s comments on the positive relationship with Loomis and thanked them for the all they do. A Loomis Board member shared his impression that we are “doing amazing things” and they are pleased to have the relationship with us. The Loomis Board Member also expressed interest in articulation with our staff, especially in social studies. Happoldt also reported that the Loomis Board shared that they have started holding professional development for classified staff, attended the California School Business Association (CSBA) conference and recommended that the Board complete a self-evaluation and integrating technology into Board meetings.

#### I. Stairs Update (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that the Academy received final approval on the new stairs attached to Building C and will be taking a picture of all 1<sup>st</sup> graders on the stairs to present as a thank you.

#### J. Lease/tax credit and Insulation Update (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that we received a \$20K property tax credit that was applied to our lease. She also reported that, in the month of October, our facilities staff saved \$600 by turning off heaters and air conditioners. This was even before the insulation issues were fixed. During the big storm, leaks and drainage issues were been identified and she is working with the landlord on repairs and remedies for the issues.

K. Phone Update (Brophy)

Dean Brophy reported that a new phone system will be installed during the Winter break. The new system is designed for a school and will have a bell schedule, zones that will ring in classrooms and can have pre-record statements (such as rainy day recess announcement) available. She thanked Sean from Advanced Solution who was able to find a buyer for our current phone system to help offset the cost. Installation is planned for Saturday, 12/29, with testing planned for the following week.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA** 2 minutes

- A. Confirm Hire Attendance Clerk and Registrar, Norma Vite
- B. Confirm Hire Secretary, Amy Price
- C. Approval of Basketball Logo for JAA Team

Danny Torgesen explained league requirements in regards to basketball uniforms. He reported that he has found a very nice, inexpensive option for jerseys and these will be purchased and become property of school. The jersey is a reversible jersey and has either black or white lettering. The first game is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>.

- D. Approval of Grade 5 Field Trip to “We the People”

The play, “We the People” will be downtown at the Crest Theater.

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

Ayes 6 Nays 0

**VII. ACTION AGENDA** 30 minutes

- A. Presentation and Approval of First Interim Report (Stewart/Brophy)

Mr. Jay Stewart, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services with the Loomis Union School District presented the First Interim Report. His summary included that passage of Proposition 30 didn't give the Academy new money but the Academy also won't lose money, although losses had been anticipated in the budget. John Adams Academy will receive some of the cross-year deferrals which will make the cash picture stronger, although many deferrals have been eliminated. According to Stewart, cash flow will be less of a concern but will still be monitored daily. He cautioned the Board to continue being careful because all schools are operating with only 78 cents on the dollar. The Academy continues to do a lot with less and the Governors budget, which will be release the second week of January, will give us a better idea of what to expect. It was also noted that the Academy budgeted with an ADA percentage of 95% although we usually maintain a 97% ADA.

Chairman Forman thanked Mr. Stewart for his efforts and expressed appreciation for the partnership with Loomis. He commented that the Academy relies on Jay's ability to anticipate and pull things out of the fire along with Dean Brophy. Stewart reiterated that it was a tough year last year and it was a

challenging year to open a school, but that the Board and administration did what was needed and showed great leadership. He added that this made the job easier and he enjoys working with John Adams Academy administrative team.

Motion to approve was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Favero. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes   6  

Nays   0  

#### B. Approval of 2013-14 School Calendar (Brophy)

Dean Brophy presented the proposed academic calendar for the 2013-14 school year. She explained that it is very similar to this year's calendar in terms of both academic and staff work days. Following approval, the administration will work with staff on whether to follow a block vs. a daily schedule, and allocation of instructional minutes. That recommendation and head count information from the coming Intent to Return Surveys will be presented at the February board meeting. The staff will then work on electives and schedules.

A parent visitor at the meeting requested that parents be able to access proposals, such as the calendar, on the website. The Board clarified that that Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes are posted on the website and that information contained in the Board packet is available to parents by request. The Board also instructed staff to add the monthly Board packet, minus confidential/employment information, to the website.

Chairman Forman requested parent and scholar feedback on the calendar from visitors attending the meeting, specifically regarding starting school after Labor Day. Dean Brophy stated that this schedule is in line with our neighboring school districts. So that parents don't have to take students out of school to take holidays with other schools.

There was much discussion on options including starting after Labor Day, ensuring the first semester ends prior to Winter Break, and adding time to each day to allow for starting later in the year and finishing earlier. Sandie Noel, consultant for John Adams Academy, explained that this is one of the toughest issues schools go through. She advised against making major changes from one year to another because families plan vacations in advance and may have already put money down. She recommended scheduling at least two years out for major changes. Chairman Forman thanked Noel for her sound advice. Consensus was to consider this calendar and then solicit opinions from the community for the next year. The Board directed the staff to provide a parent/staff survey for the 2014-15 school year.

The following items were discussed for ongoing consideration:

1. Shrinking the calendar to allow for extended vacation by adding minutes daily
2. Adding minutes on Fridays

3. Staying aligned with neighboring districts
4. Providing additional time for AP classes
5. Anticipating the impact of Independent Studies when working calendar
6. Starting earlier in summer to finish semester by Winter break

Motion to approve the 2013-14 calendar as proposed was made by Board Member Gonzales and seconded by Board Member Savage. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes   6  

Nays   0  

C. Approval of KFB Public Affairs Consulting Services (Forman)

Chairman Forman introduced Krista Bernasconi from KFB Consulting who is highly respected in the community and has experience in both corporate public relations and education. He explained that her proposal would provide approximately eight (8) hours of consulting services per month focused on community development, branding and visibility. Additionally, she will work with the Development Director to identify grants, alliances, spotlights, potential funders, and in forging partnerships and developing media outreach to engage the business community to gain broader exposure. Her expertise will help bridge gaps in relationships, build alliances and increase dialog with public school leadership groups and chambers of commerce. Board Members Gonzales and Sherrod also highlighted Bernasconi's experience and reputation in the community.

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

Ayes   6  

Nays   0  

D. Recommendation of Board Members for January 2013 Elections (Sherrod)

Board Member Sherrod recommended Paul Savage, Norman Gonzales, and Dean Forman be nominated for re-election.

Motion to approve the nominations was made by Board Member Nielsen and seconded by Board Member Sherrod. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes   6  

Nays   0  

E. Approval of Electronic Reporting of Report Cards for 2013-14 School Year (Happoldt)

Dean Happoldt reported that at the Aeries training in October she learned that Aeries produces electronic versions of the report cards and progress reports which can be emailed to save resources. She recommended that we do this in the 2013-14 school year, noting that parents may request and receive a hard copy if they wish.

Motion to approve electronic distribution of report cards and progress reports in the 2013-14 school year was made by Board Member Favero and seconded by Board Member Nielsen. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes   6  

Nays   0  

F. Approval to move February 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 Board Meeting to February 21<sup>st</sup> 2013. (Brophy)

Dean Brophy recommended moving the February Board Meeting so it does not fall on Valentines Day. Board Member Nielsen noted that the following Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> is the Living Book Fair and Scholastic Book Fair. Chairman Forman suggested moving the meeting to Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to approve moving the February Board Meeting from Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Savage. Board Member Gonzales abstained from voting. The Motion passed unanimously, with one abstention.

Ayes   5  

Nays   0  

G. Approval of High School Lunches Outside (Anderson/Yniguez)

As requested by the Board, Student Council President Michael Anderson presented a proposal to allow upper grade scholars more freedom during the lunch period. He requested the 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade scholars be allowed to demonstrate self-governance by being allowed to eat outside of the lunchroom with supervision by either a parent or staff member. Those who receive detention will not be able to participate. Dean Yniguez clarified that the scholars would try one day per week for 3 consecutive weeks to demonstrate self governance with the possibility of having at least one day per week in the warmer months.

Board Member Gonzales expressed concern on the potential impact on younger scholars who look to upper scholars as role models during lunch. Anderson stated that this would be a test and also something the younger scholars can be looking forward to. He would like to test it first with upper grades because he feels they would act more maturely. Board Member Nielsen expressed that she liked that the upper scholars could have something that the younger scholars can look up to.

Chairman Forman reminded Anderson that one purpose of a K-12 was for older scholars to mentor younger scholars, because we are all part of the same family and asked if the proposal would still allow for mentoring. Forman said that he would like to ensure we find time, maybe once per week, to mentor younger scholars. A high school scholar stated that she enjoys having lunch with younger kids because it allows older scholars to be an example and to be a friend to younger scholars.

Anderson pointed out that this program would still allow high school scholars to have a choice: they can eat with their upper grade friends or in the MPR with

the younger scholars. He stated that the goal is to eventually incorporate all grades into these trials.

Board Member Favero asked the high school scholars to “please nail this one” by demonstrating they can be trusted.

Motion to approve the proposed trial was made by Board Member Sherrod and seconded by Board Member Favero. Motion was unanimously approved.

Ayes   6                        Nays           

#### H. Approval of Spirit Days (Anderson/Yniguez)

Scholar Council President Anderson reported on the proposed upcoming Spirit days. He explained that the purpose is to increase school spirit and foster creativity. The proposal is to designate the following for upper grade scholars: Monday – sock day, Tuesday – ugly holiday-themed sweaters, Wednesday – holiday hats, Thursday – Christmas/holiday ties with white button up shirt and Friday – combine it all day. All items would be worn with the regular school uniform and scholars could choose to wear their uniform instead of participating. White shirts, in place of the uniform polo would be allowed on Thursday (tie day) and Friday (combo day). The K-5 scholars are planning a holiday hat day on Friday. The spirit day themes would be communicated to scholars at announcements during the morning flag ceremony.

Chairman Forman requested Anderson encourage self-governance in making the announcements, because there always some who refuse to self-govern. He encouraged Anderson to talk to leaders to provide a safety valve for someone going out of bounds by having their peers rein them in using positive peer pressure. Dean Yniguez assured the board that anyone who breaks rules will lose the privilege of being involved in spirit days and that all of the proposals come with a modesty stipulation.

Motion by approve the spirit days proposal was made by Board Member Nielsen and seconded by Board Member Favero. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Ayes   6                        Nays   0  

#### I. Approval of Healthy Snack Vending Machine (Anderson/Yniguez)

Scholar Council President Anderson proposed the Academy add a healthy snack vending machine in MPR to provide health snacks at a low price. He explained that the Academy can pick all of the products through the vendor and will receive 15% of the profit. All ingredients are listed online. Mr. Ray, from Healthy Sprouts presented the Board with samples and answered questions. Ray explained that the vending machines are “guaranteed vend” machines which means that if the item is not dispensed the machine will not accept the money. Board Member Sherrod commented that all of the items presented were things she would be comfortable feeding her children or eating.



Motion to approve the addition of two Health Snack vending machines was made by Board Member Nielsen and seconded by Board Member Favero. The motion passed unanimously.

Ayes   6  

Nays   0  

### **VIII. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Conference with Legal Council – Anticipated Litigation  
Pursuant to Section 54956.9 (1 case)

No action taken.

### **IX. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, January 10th, 2013 4:00 p.m.**

### **X. 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*