



Minutes of the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy Charter School Board of Directors meeting of November 18, 2008.

Opening Remarks

Board Chair Vincent Saele called the meeting to order and invited members to introduce themselves. He discussed the reason for the establishment of working Board committees and invited all members to review their description in the Board book. The working committees include: Finance, Charter Renewal/Curriculum, Development, and Student Affairs.

He informed the members that at each Board meeting a guest speaker from the faculty or staff will be invited to make a brief presentation on some aspect of the academic or non-academic aspects of the school. Questions will be invited.

English Language Arts IV Curriculum Presentation

Twelfth grade English language arts teacher (and Board member) Irina Abramov reviewed her requirement that all senior English students use a (academic/class) binder. The purpose of the binder is to help students not only stay organized, but also to build a professional binder of their work which clearly displays their skills and abilities as demonstrated by a variety of assessments completed throughout the year.

Examples of student binders (with their permission) demonstrated five specific sections including: related readings, major assignments and rubrics, word-of-the-day, homework, and supplemental tools and materials. The Board members reviewed the student binders and became more familiar with the senior English curriculum.

Finance Committee Report

Finance committee chair, Peter Phillips stated that the newly formed Finance Committee will be responsible for review and evaluation of School finances. He is currently working with TCCA accountant Randy Dittmar of Dittmar, McNeil & Ferolito, to familiarize himself with school finances.

Mr. Dittmar reviewed the Balance Sheet for July – September 2008 and pointed out that we are currently in a relatively strong financial position for the year. For the first time in our history, Title I funds for academic enrichment (\$76,000) have been received. These funds are directed to students in schools classified as “high poverty” as determined by eligibility for free/reduced lunches. State and City funding was flat.

FY '09 surplus, to date, is due to the budgeting but no implementation of a 3% salary increase for all faculty/staff. The lack of a new labor contract (District-Teachers Union) is the determining factor for non use of budgeted funds in that area. Should a new contract be ratified, we anticipate that it will be retroactive for this year only.

Report of the Chair

Wells Fargo Vice President, Kathleen Taddei was nominated and elected as a Business Member of the Board of Directors. The Chair welcomed her and other new members to the Board including: Parents: Quilma Perdona, Edith Jean Philippe, Rene Baskerville, and Faculty member, David Dekonski. One final Business seat on the Board remains to be filled and is being addressed.

Mr. Saele reviewed the new working Board committees and described their purpose. Member Committee assignments were announced with Committee Chairs urged to hold 'goals & objectives' meetings prior to the next Board meeting in January.

The Chair reported on meetings he and Dr. DeSalvatore recently held with Providence Chamber President Laurie White and UCAP's Head of School, Rob DeBlois. The Chamber continues to be very supportive of our initiatives and looks forward to greater communication and involvement with TCCA. UCAP, our landlord, is planning to add an additional floor in the near future. This may represent an opportunity for TCCA and UCAP to coordinate usage of joint facilities such as a gym and science lab.

Development Committee Report

Dr. DeSalvatore reported that Textron Inc. has alerted the school of its continuing financial commitment for 2009 which include a base grant, a challenge matching grant, and funds for use in development initiatives. Textron Inc. representative Elizabeth Ortiz explained the Textron commitment and lauded the TCCA students/graduates who intern at Textron Inc.

The Board was also informed of the imminent launching of an Annual (fundraising) Campaign and the establishment of the School's Alumni Association in December.

Head of School Report

Dr. DeSalvatore discussed the need to begin the process of developing a School Strategic Plan with a focus on 'big picture' issues the School must address for the years ahead. He distributed and reviewed copies of a draft Plan outline. Board Vice-Chair Peter Phillips concurred with this initiative and recommended that an *ad hoc* Committee from the Board be established to move the process forward. A research component would be among the first items to be addressed.

The Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy Charter School welcomes comments and letters regarding its activities. You may contact Head of School, Dr. Larry DeSalvatore at 401-456-1738 x6 or email ldeSalvatore@chamberschool.com. TCCA is a 501c3 institution and welcomes gifts which will directly benefit our students through academic and non-academic initiatives.