

**Tempe Preparatory Academy
Tempe Preparatory Junior Academy
JOINT SUMMIT
Board of Directors**

Date: August 6, 2011

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Tempe Preparatory Academy and Tempe Preparatory Junior Academy Board of Directors was held in the Student Union of Tempe Preparatory Academy, 1251 East Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ, pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02, notice having been duly given.

Board Members Present: E Ortiz, President. K Brockelman, Vice President. T Bush, Treasurer. T Kilby, Secretary. D Foreman. R Bergez, Faculty Ex-officio member. M Rhoades, PTO Ex-officio member.

Board Members Absent: C LeBeau. J Hughes.

Others Present: Hugh Hallman, TPA Headmaster and TPA counsel. B White, Business Manager.

- 1) **Call to the Public.**
- 2) **Detailed Agenda Issues Separately Noticed**
- 3) **Vision & Mission of TPA & TPJA**

E. Ortiz begins by reviewing document "Mission" and solicits discussion to determine if this statement is "on target". M. Rhoades comments on K. Whalen's senior address that recognized areas where the senior community failed their lower classes as an example of the students' grasp of this mission. D. Foreman introduces question of appetite for K-12 program and suggests this as discussion for future strategic session. K. Brockelman also thinks there would be great interest in the community toward this endeavor but suggests this be delayed for future. Dr. Zimmerman notes survey done in past and interest noted but bind to the 30year bond allowed this to be halted. D. Foreman asks if we could survey faculty and parents as to how we are doing in achieving this mission. Glen Thorpe agrees that this should be surveyed as to the maintaining of the mission statement. Andrea Guinney expresses parents have questions and concerns and do not know how to provide these; a survey could capture this input for the Board. Kristi Atha adds agreement that a survey would be a good way to gain input from parents; however, she adds desire for another way for information to come from Board or administration to the parent body – better communication. M. Rhoades notes that Parent forums have been added this year as a tool for discussion between parents and administration to help alleviate the "rumor mill". [Mr. Hallman adds State mandated a rating survey which has been completed every year. 132 families participated in the last one (one=poor, one=good, all others excellent).] Mr. Bergez mentions historic group called Parent Advisory Committee which Board could consider again but a very small number of parents participated in the past. Andrea Ginney mentions prior survey did not allow for specific feedback to various departments which could be valuable. Dr. Zimmerman recalls in 2006-07 an in-depth review was conducted and included a national charter evaluator, Dr. Miron, she believes that overall families are happy here and there were few items needing addressed with value in attending to it. E. Ortiz concludes it would be useful to survey our community (with tool similar to Dr. Zimmerman's mention) because what this information would show us is what the community believes we are doing right (to continue these pursuits) and show us what the community is concerned about but might be the result of a miscommunication. Thus, the time is right to do a survey. K. Brockelman agrees but expresses concern for quality of the instrument and asks that Dr. Zimmerman assist us with the creation of this instrument that can be used now and forward with objective to get this out in the Fall semester. E. Ortiz asks for volunteers from public for expert creation of the survey. Glen Thorpe offers his company creates management surveys. Dr. Zimmerman suggests returning to Dr.

Miron, national charter school evaluator, who has past data that would provide longitudinal study. K. Brockelman asks how much he needs from us. Dr. Zimmerman responds "nothing"; completed via email. Mr. Hallman cautions against changing the tool as we would lose the past value. Suggests contacting same organization for the creation of an upgraded tool for the new nature of the grown community. Dr. Zimmerman mentions cost was not great for a valid survey, information from which can also be used for grants. D. Foreman shares this would be very helpful for a new board member regarding achieving of our goals and countering innuendo and complaint. E. Ortiz summarizes we have taken our first step in identifying that a survey of our community will be done by contacting Dr. Miron to conduct a subsequent survey and THEN the Board can determine where we are and are not on track with our mission.

Mr. Hallman summarizes the direction he received will be to pull out the prior survey completed and proceed with formal inquiry of Dr. Miron, including cost. Presentation will be made to the Board and Board will vote to proceed. He will meet with Glen Thorpe and Dr. Maureen Zimmerman on how to develop this best.

4) Character, Size, Facilities & Expectations for TPA & TPJA

E. Ortiz explains that this area of size and facilities harkens back to the prior discussion and the tough decision of how we devote our time to pursuing campus decision. She seeks feedback and can plan to include in survey. K. Brockelman echoes facilities and size are closely related and are critical and demand our attention this year. He would like fuller discussion of this at Board level re. campus constraints and creation of a plan for where to go from here. Administration has spent a great deal of time here and now Board can spend more time here. D. Foreman adds that knowing the limitations and desire to serve our customers (not turn them away) prompts strategy to take risk to serve this part of the community that we are not serving and maintaining balance of character of the institution. Mr. Rafael Tan asks does this suggest a change in class size? Mr. Foreman states no, a desire to increase sections and serve more students, not increase class size. E. Orgtz notes that assuming we can address facilities issues we must still maintain the essence of the TPA experience including size.

5) Roles of Faculty, Staff, Parents, Family & Greater Community

E. Ortiz mentions the disengagement of a portion of the parent/greater community that can be a frustration to the faculty and administration. Mr. Bergez sees this as an area of concern but is not sure if those that are not actively engaged are satisfied or not. Margot D'Souza would like to see this brought up in the survey: why some parents are not engaging. Andrea Guinney mentions assumption that parents have a higher level of engagement just by being at TPA and wonders if they are invited more, if more will attend.

6) Governance/Leadership

E. Ortiz asks for any issues to be discussed re. governance/leadership. Rafael Tan's concern re. Board positions will be discussed. Margo D'Souza requests background checks for all those in contact with the students (including coaches). E. Ortiz states by State law this is done. Mr. Hallman expounds on the rules for obtaining fingerprint card. Prior audits revealed that some of these cards had not been monitored but these were cleaned up and this year there were no issues. M. D'Souza also asks what legal advice is provided by Mr. Hallman for TPA. Board concluded it would be useful for him to continue to provide legal counsel for lease, bond, facilities and grant issues. K. Brockelman provides counsel for employment issues. K. Brockelman provides clarification on money saving with retaining Mr. Hallman as legal counsel within his headmaster description. Rafael Tan asks what would occur if there is a conflict of interest with Mr. Hallman's legal position for TPA. E. Ortiz responds if a conflict of interest is encountered, TPA would retain outside counsel or rely on one of the attorneys on the Board. Dr. Zimmerman asks if legal counsel could be hired outside of Mr. Hallman's firm to prevent the chance of any conflict of interest. She encourages Board to review past minutes to determine

what the actual past legal costs were prior to his headmaster position. Ms. Drury asks if there are times when Mr. Hallman, Attorney at Law is preferred over Mr. Hallman, Headmaster. Mr. Hallman responds with clarification to the amount of time provided to legal issues. M. D'Souza states grateful for the merge of both the headmaster and legal counsel roles. D. Foreman states that he has never served on a board wherein skills were not expected to be shared. It is typical and common and he is very grateful for those that support public education with their time and effort. These services provided by Mr. Hallman are legal and audited and cannot be valued by money only. He is entirely comfortable with the role of the headmaster providing legal counsel. Dr. Zimmerman asks for an example of a principal/superintendent and legal counsel for a school? D. Foreman states he has many examples of people, including board members, that provide additional services from their professions to the school. Rafael Tan asks does TPA *expect* services be provided? D. Foreman expounds that though not in the bylaws, there are expectations for participation outside the curriculum and the spirit of volunteerism should not be questioned but is something to be thankful for. A. Guinney adds that the level of commitment and hours given by Mr. Hallman is to be appreciated and suggests that this could be quantified and put minds at ease by obtaining actual cost of legal counsel for a year to see what would have to be expended. K. Brockelman states that we should look at this and he is confident that there is no conflict of interest going on; however, he does not like the sense that there is a perception, by two parents, that there is a conflict of interest and an undercurrent of something underhanded going on. Thus, an assessment could be done to determine a monetary amount of the services rendered and if there is a sense that we are doing everything appropriately then this will be determined and can then be clearly disseminated to the community. This research will be completed.

K. Brockelman moved to enter Executive Session at 1:28 p.m. T. Kilby seconded. Motion passed.

7) **Executive Session. All business conducted in Executive Session is confidential pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03. At this time, the public is to leave the room and take all materials such as backpacks, purses and briefcases.**

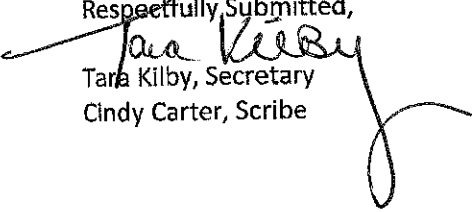
- a) Discussion/Consultation regarding bond refinancing, TPJA CSP Grant and other financing issues and options (A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3)).
- b) Discussion/Consultation regarding negotiations for purchase, sale or lease of real property (A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(7)).

K. Brockelman moved to re-enter Regular Session at 2:15p.m. D. Foreman seconded. Motion passed.

8) **Adjournment.**

D. Foreman moved to adjourn at 2:30 p.m. K. Brockelman seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,


Tara Kilby, Secretary
Cindy Carter, Scribe