

CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

FEBRUARY 12, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

I.) COMMENCEMENT

A.) At 6:36pm, Mike Thomas called the February 12, 2015 Chaparral Star Academy Board Meeting to order.

1.) Board Members present: Kelly Drake, Mike Wallace, Mike Thomas

2.) Attendees were: Marsha Hagin, Mana Greenwell, Frank Rivera, Howard Davis, Simon Kliewer, Karina Gaona, Maria de Gaona, Valerie Kliewer, Donnie Cannon, Jason Cannon, Denise Moss, Alex Clarke, Megan Clarke, Neal Clarke,

II.) GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A) Marsha Hagin congratulated the NOSB on their accomplishment at Regionals. The A Team took 1st and the B Team took 3rd place.

B) Marsha Hagin stated that Austin Monthly magazine will be highlighting the high school in the April edition.

III.) ACTION ITEMS

A.) Mike Thomas approved the minutes from the January 27, 2015 governing board meeting, followed by a second motion from Mike Wallace. There were three votes with no abstentions. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

B.) Marsha Hagin announced that the current school enrollment was at 362, which covered the period between January 5, 2015 and February 6, 2015. This translates to an ADA of 94.64%, or 195.11 students, for track 1 and 95.12%, or 132.58 students, for track 2.

C.) Kelly Drake announced that there was \$319,646.11 in the school's checking account with \$185,095.74 in its savings account. He added that there were no extraordinary financial issues.

D.) There were no budget amendments to approve.

E.) Marsha Hagin stated that this month, 6th grade will attend the Renaissance Fair, and the Speech Team will go to the State competition to El Paso.

F.) & G.) At 6:57pm, according to TAC §551.074 & §551.0821, the governing board moved to executive session to discuss matters related to personnel and personally identifiable information regarding a public school student. The board moved back into open session at 7:30pm.

H.) Marsha Hagin handed out the proposed 2015-2016 school calendar. She stated that the days are more balanced between semesters and we are now out for the entire week of Thanksgiving break due to the hit in attendance this last year. After speaking to a TEA Representative, Mrs. Hagin feels that TEA will approve it. Mike Thomas said he really liked the full week off at Thanksgiving because of the ADA hit this last year. Marsha Hagin added that both I Team and TEA have endorsed the calendar. ***Mike Thomas moved to approve the 2015-2016 school***

calendar, followed by a second motion from Kelly Drake. There were 3 votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion was passed and the 2015-2016 school calendar was approved.

I.) Marsha Hagin handed out the proposed 2015-2016 Salary Schedule. *Mike Wallace moved to approve the 2015-2016 Salary Schedule with necessary amendments, followed by a second motion from Mike Thomas. There were 3 votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion was passed and the 2015-2016 Salary Schedule was approved with necessary amendments.*

J.) Marsha Hagin handed out the grading policy addendum, which proposed parameters regarding staff websites/homework and grades posting/communication. Marsha Hagin said that after conversation with Ryan Palm and other parents, it was agreed that we need to get grades out to parents on txConnect more often but at the same time, not compromise the high level of skill and depth in the assignments. Mrs. Hagin offered a grading policy that would ensure that daily and weekly assignments would be updated every week and that all other grades like projects, paper, and tests, still have the normal three week turn around. Mike Thomas clarified that it doesn't change anything on major assignments and stated that he felt it was a good idea as long as it was done consistently and monitored. *Mike Thomas moved to approve the grading policy addendum as presented, followed by a second motion from Mike Wallace. There were 3 votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion was passed and the grading policy addendum was approved.*

K.) Howard Davis stated that teachers will need new laptops this year because they had desktops in the past that are now dying. Howard Davis is asking for 7 new computers to replace these. He feels that CDW will give the best quote. They will all be HP and the same. Mike Thomas thanked Howard Davis for putting it on the agenda to be safe. *Mike Thomas moved to approve the purchase of the new computers, followed by a second motion from Mike Wallace. There were 3 votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion was to purchase the computers.*

L.) Howard Davis announced the school's participation in a Code Wars Competition – a top notch computer competition where people compete world-wide. Mr. Davis will be heading 2-3 teams in completion at Stoney Point HS on March 6th. There are 2 teams of 3 right now. Mike Thomas thought that it was a really great idea to add more extracurricular. The board thanked Howard Davis and appreciated the opportunity for students.

M.) Kris Barnett announced that the NOSB team won the regional competition and will go on to compete at Nationals in Ocean Springs, MS. He stated that some costs are covered by organization but Mr. Barnett is asking for some funding to take the A team (which is already previously approved in the budget). Kelly Drake stated that the board didn't need to approve the amount. There was discussion as to whether or not the board would also financially help the B Team as the previous agreement was that the B Team would be funded if they placed 2nd. Mike Thomas stated that he didn't want to change the policy but the board agreed to make a one-time exception to allow the 3rd place team to go.

N.) Frank Rivera gave a Speech Team update and vision for the team's future. He gave a handout with a recap of what the team did this year and a vision for the team's future. The team qualified one student, Cameron Eagle, to qualify for State Competition. The mostly 8th and 9th grade team competed against 11th and 12th graders at local schools. Mr. Rivera felt that they had a

great year. For next year, he is talking to the administration about having a public speaking class for the students on the team as well as high school students that want to get credit. It would be an extra elective but also a time for work sessions for students on the team. He would also like to grow the team. This last week he took ten 7th graders to a San Antonio tournament to see how a tournament takes place. The hope is to go to the Harvard tournament next year. Down the line he would like to have another coach help out. Mike Thomas thanked Mr. Rivera for the presentation and feels that it is a fantastic to have it more happening in high school. Mr. Rivera wants to create a championship team.

O.) Mike Thomas asked for approval of Grants/Tech writing. Mike Thomas stated that someone reached out to him as a professional grant writer and offered to work for the school for a nominal fee. Mike Thomas feels like it is something that the board and the administration should discuss whether or not to take it on. Mike Thomas felt he should not give his opinion on the matter until the others spoke on it. He stated that he was simply asking if we should discuss it further or if we should stop talking about it all together. Kelly Drake felt it was a great idea. Mike Wallace said that we should watch what we apply for carefully because not all grants are good ones, but he was also supportive of the idea of having someone there to write the grants for us. Mike Wallace felt that sometimes grants can have good and bad qualities and make sure that we plan for grants accordingly. Mike Thomas felt that if we did go forward with it, we would need to have the staff focused on long sustaining grants. He feels that it was wise to talk about it since the school has been approached. Mike Wallace talked about grants that have been amazing and grants that have been horrible. Mrs. Hagin said that I Team would look at it.

IV.) ADJOURN

A.) Mike Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.