

CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

JULY 10, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

I.) COMMENCEMENT

A.) At 6:37pm, Mike Thomas called the July 10, 2013 Chaparral Star Academy Board Meeting to order.

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

2.) Attendees were: Marsha Hagin, Kris Barnett, Chris Long, Kris Alonso, Danette Rogers, Delaney Rogers, Shelby Bremigan, Jennifer Benavides, Allyson Fox, Christy Nunnaly, Denise Moss, Howard Davis, Laura Smith

II.) GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shelby Bremigan and Delaney Rogers introduced themselves to on behalf of the senior class. Delaney Rogers stated that the upcoming decision regarding GPA/Class Rank is important. She added that if the board chose not to include previous grades from other schools into a transfer student's GPA & Class Rank, it would put non-transfer students in the current class of 2014 at a disadvantage. Delaney Rogers stated that she was the only student junior & senior who was on the A & B honor roll recently, yet she would have a higher rank at another school. Additionally, she asked the board to consider not counting freshman & sophomore year grades into GPA calculations for non-transfer students so that all may be on a level playing field. Shelby Bremigan added that class rank affects scholarships and typically includes the top 20%. Also, she stated that having a few student knock her down in rank because of the current policy was unfair.

III.) ACTION ITEMS

A.) *With revision in 3C of the minutes, Ryan Palm moved to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2013 board meeting, followed by a second motion from Mike Thomas. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion was passed and the minutes were accepted.*

B.) Marsha Hagin stated that the current enrollment was at 386 students with 138 on the waiting list and accompanying ADA for the last cycle at 96.31% or 347.26 students.

C.) Kelly Drake stated that the current balance for the school's checking account was \$195,362.71 with the corresponding checking account at \$100,018.32.

D.) There were no budget amendment items to approve.

E.) Marsha Hagin stated that there were no upcoming field trips over the summer.

F.) G.) & H.) According to TAC 551.074, the board moved to executive session at 8:18 pm to deliberate personnel matters (resignations & employment). The board returned to open session at 8:57pm.

I.) Mike Thomas stated that he has received notice of some interested candidates for the vacant board position and plans to set up an interview process. Marsha Hagin stated that the notice for new board members will be placed on the website and sent out through the g-mail listserv.

J.) Marsha Hagin handed out a proposal to change the current GPA/Class Rank policy with the following adjustments: (1) include a transfer student's previous grade into GPA calculations using CSA's current scale (2) add restrictions to valedictorian & salutatorian based on time length as current student (3) a conversion for letter grades (4) timeline for implementation (5) establish a class rank schedule. Mike Thomas asked about the reasoning behind 7 semesters and respective consequences of changing to 8. ***Mike Thomas moved to approve the proposed changes to the GPA/Class Rank policy with the following revisions: increasing final ranking for valedictorian & salutatorian to 8 semesters, followed by a second motion from Ryan Palm. There were 3 votes passed in favor with no abstentions. The motion was passed and the GPA/Class Rank Policy was updated.***

K.) Marsha Hagin presented the board with a comparison chart of 2012-13 & 2013-14 STAAR results for Chaparral Star Academy, noting that the school was well above state averages. Mike Thomas stated that he would like to results to be published on the school's website.

L.) Marsha Hagin presented a video describing the eSpark program and how it can be incorporated into schools. Marsha Hagin handed out a proposal to purchase mini iPad's for student use in the classroom in conjunction with the eSpark program. She stated that she would like to pilot the program in 3rd grade and it will incorporate state-mandated beginning, middle & end of the year assessments. She added that given the recent push toward technology use in the classroom, this purchase could pave the way for future programs at the school. Ryan Palm stated that he would like some more information about the apps purchased. Marsha Hagin also stated that teachers will have training on "flipped" classrooms and will be encouraged to experiment with this concept.

M.) Howard Davis handed out a proposal for various technology needs, along with the school's STAR chart describing the technology status of the school. Howard Davis stated that current teachers primarily need training, new software and more bandwidth. Furthermore, he proposed purchasing 45 new desktops, new laptops for teachers, adding more wireless access points. Mike Thomas stated that he would like a future proposal to include a conceptual technology road map for the school. Mike Thomas suggested that he would like the school to envision a goal, regardless of cost, and develop a plan to meet those goals. ***Ryan Palm moved to accept the budget request for technology needs & wants with the understanding that the board be informed of implementation of funds, followed by a second motion from Kelly Drake. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion passed and the technology funds were approved.***

N.) ***Mike Thomas moved to approve the hire of new personnel, followed by a second motion from Ryan Palm. There were 3 votes passed in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed as stated.***

O.) ***Ryan Palm moved to approve the construction bid for signage, sidewalk & electrical room door, followed by a second motion from Kelly Drake. There were 3 votes passed in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed as stated.***

P.) Kris Barnett handed out an updated charter renewal document with minimal wording changes suggested by the state.

IV.) ADJOURN

A.) Mike Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.