

CHAPARRAL STAR ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD

OCTOBER 16, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

I.) COMMENCEMENT

A.) At 6:30pm, Mike Thomas called the October 16, 2017 Chaparral Star Academy Board Meeting to order.

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

2.) Attendees were: Marsha Hagin, Kris Barnett, Tyler Nobles, Vanessa Kjeldsen, Chris Kjeldsen, Amy Kwalwasser, Scott Johnson, Haley Goodman, Nathalie Goodman, Adryana Fedrick, Frank Rivera, Sharon Little, Joe Goodman, Mark Fedrick, Carrie Elsass, Chuck Adams, Noa Johnson, Yvonne Segraves, Brendan Segraves

II.) GENERAL/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Goodman stated that he is the father of a current junior and was denied the opportunity to be placed on the agenda without any explanation. He added that the governing board changed GPA & class rank calculations only for the junior class because the board president had a personal interest. Furthermore, he stated that the change in GPA was cruel and unethical and begged the board to save the school's credibility by rescinding the recent GPA change and re-calculating GPA & class rank for the junior class immediately.

Mark Fedrick stated that he asked to be placed on the agenda and was denied without explanation as well. He added that his daughter returned to CSA, but her hard work was cast aside with the recent change to GPA. Moreover, he stated that students should have been made more aware of the possibility of online AP courses.

Kerry Elsass stated that she held a master's degree in curriculum and had 25 years of teaching experience. She added that when speaking with directors for a large public high school, she posed questions regarding making changes to weighted GPA. These questions included changes affecting only one class, allowing an unweighted bump, allowing a different scale for the first 2 years of a high school student's career and creating a multiplier that favored students at the top of the curve. She stated that the response was always "no" and urged the board to rescind the recent GPA change and re-calculate GPA & class rank for the junior class immediately.

Chuck Adams stated that the recent changes to the GPA & class rank were not well-thought out and should be enacted with the next freshmen class, not the current juniors. He added that non-transfer students who take AP courses also take on-level courses. Moreover, he stated that the current GPA policy diminishes the value & reputation of school at large and urged the board to rescind the recent GPA change and re-calculate GPA & class rank for the junior class immediately.

Noa Johnson stated that she is currently a junior at CSA, but left the school for a year and returned. She stated that the recent GPA change is unfair since she took the same courses as her peers but did not receive the GPA boost. She added that she felt she was getting punished for being a non-loyal student and requested a GPA policy that fits all CSA students.

Yvonne Segraves stated that she had a concern with the current GPA policy as CSA on-level classes do not equate to other AP courses. Moreover, she stated that existing transfer students have been blind-sided by the recent decision.

Brendan Segraves stated that he didn't want to sacrifice high quality education for his daughter's extracurricular goals and was happy to have to found CSA. Moreover, he stated that the passing of the current GPA policy arbitrarily, in the middle of a high school cycle calls all administration into question. Additionally, he urged the board to rescind the recent GPA change and re-calculate GPA & class rank for the junior class immediately.

III.) ACTION ITEMS

A.) *Ryan Palm moved to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 & August 14, 2017 board meetings, followed by a second vote from Mike Wallace. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.*

B.) Marsha Hagin announced that the current enrollment was at 387 students (last October was at 379) and a corresponding ADA of 361.83 for August 22 – October 10, 2017.

C.) Kelly Drake announced that the school currently had \$357,735.65 in its checking account, with \$285,301.79 in its savings account.

D.) There were no budget amendments to approve.

E.) Marsha Hagin announced that K-2 will have a field trip involving nature trail and a train ride, while 7th grade would be going to Enchanted Rock, 6th grade would visit Chinatown and the MT Supermarket, and juniors would conduct research at the Austin Central Library. She added that CSA had partnered with Westlake high school to host a speech tournament that was a huge success.

F.) & G.) At 6:54 pm, according to TAC §551.074 & §551.0821, the governing board moved to executive session to discuss matters related to personnel and to personally identifiable information regarding a public school student. The board moved back into open session at 7:45pm.

H.) *Ryan Palm moved to approve Dr. Kelly Drake as superintendent of Chaparral Star Academy, followed by a second motion from Mike Wallace. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion passed and Dr. Kelly Drake became the superintendent for Chaparral Star Academy.*

I.) Marsha Hagin announced that the 2017 Accountability Summary for CSA indicated the school met standard and received all of the distinguished designations possible. Marsha Hagin added that she would like to see a lower mobility rate.

J.) Marsha Hagin stated that administration noticed an inequity in the recent GPA policy regarding pre-junior year transfer students. Mr. Barnett explained that students who attended CSA for a portion of his/her first two years of high school were not receiving the GPA multiplier for CSA courses in which he/she took. Kris Barnett stated that administration was proposing to extend the GPA multiplier to these students for the respective courses. ***Ryan Palm moved to approve the GPA policy addendum regarding pre-junior year transfer students effective***

immediately, followed by a second motion from Mike Wallace. There were two votes in favor with one abstention. The motion passed as stated.

K.) Chris Kjeldsen, father of Vanessa Kjeldsen, stated that he wants his daughter to attend CSA and continue to thrive in her classes, but that a lot of people have been hurt by the recent changes in the GPA policy. He added that at Vanessa's previous school, she had to take eight classes per semester as opposed to six at CSA. He stated that mathematically, all of those extra classes were on-level. Mr. Kjeldsen presented a chart that indicated that a transfer student could be punished by doing extra work for which he/she had no choice. Moreover, he added that the GPA multiplier may be bigger than intended when the governing board passed the policy to level the playing field between transfer and non-transfer students. He stated that there is a mathematical bias in the multiplier toward non-transfer students. Additionally, Mr. Kjeldsen stated that when starting a new policy, going backwards in time is never an option, as that is not how it's done anywhere else in the country. Furthermore, he noted that 25% of students must take remedial courses because his/her represented GPA was a lie because the students didn't master the information. He added that the current GPA multiplier doesn't benefit any student because of this idea as it also essentially lies to universities about the mastery level of the student. Additionally, he stated that the offering of TxVSN AP courses can help level the playing field. Amy Kwalwasser stated that she has spoken to other CSA students, other high school & college students, guidance counselors in three ISD's, two college admissions directors, TEA charter schools division, TEA curriculum division, TEA legal division, TEA office of complaints, general counsel and a representative from the US Department of Education and not one of them agrees that the current GPA policy is leveling the playing field. She added that she is concerned with legal & ethical missteps, especially with the information not being clearly communicated leading to possible grounds for fraud. She added that this action could leave the school open to investigation. Moreover, she stated that the math used is academically discriminatory, untested and ill-conceived with such conditions dangerous to the welfare of students and could be grounds for TEA action. She urged the board to rescind the recent change to the GPA policy and re-run calculations for the junior class. Chris Kjeldsen stated that when his daughter was accepted to the school, another policy was in place, but the mid-stream change crushed her as she was never given a choice nor given notification. Mike Thomas stated that CSA classroom curriculum is strong and leveling the playing field was necessary to solve an imbalance in the GPA policy. Chris Kjeldsen stated that his family has talked to a lot of people around the nation and the policy is one no one has ever heard of before.

L.) Scott Johnson stated that the goal of fixing the GPA policy should be focused on creating a policy that is equitable to both transfer and non-transfer students. He added that as a pre-junior year transfer student, Noa was denied her GPA boost. Moreover, he stated that he doesn't follow the board agenda, but that this action had the appearance to subvert the established protocol. He proposed that the board strike the current GPA policy entirely, establish a committee to create a fair, equitable, uncomplicated and uniform GPA calculation policy free from bias toward transfer or non-transfer students, start the new policy with a freshman class, encourage students to enroll in AP courses via TxVSN, and develop a plan to offer more AP & PreAP courses. Mike Wallace stated that he would like to confer with counsel before moving forward or acting on a proposal.

M.) Marsha Hagin stated that the school was currently at capacity with classrooms. Moreover, she stated that administration would like to move forward with acquiring bids for classroom build-out. *Mike Wallace moved to approve that administration begin the bid process for class build-out, followed by a second motion from Ryan Palm. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion passed as stated.*

N.) Ryan Palm moved to approve Marsha Hagin to sign checks, without a dollar amount limit, during the interim period for which the school has no CEO, followed by a second motion from Mike Thomas. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion passed as stated.

O.) Ryan Palm moved to change the pay dates for employees from the 1st & 16th of every month (or next business day) to the 1st & 16th of every month unless the pay date falls on a weekend or holiday, then the pay date will be processed 1 business day before, followed by a second motion from Mike Wallace. There were three votes in favor passed with no abstentions. The motion passed as stated.

IV.) ADJOURN

A.) Mike Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:26pm