



Classical Charter School Association
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MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.
Classical School

Mr. Champaign called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- I. **Attendance:** Mr. Dugal, Mr. Champaign, Ms. Grosskreutz, Mr. Shober, Ms. Meisel, Ms. Ziemet, Mr. Layher, Mr. Cotti, Ms. Abbi, Ms. Behm, Ms. VanRyzin.
 - A. Board Guests: Mr. Winch (ex-officio), Ms. Davis. (ex-officio); Ms. Foley, Ms. Schroeder
 - B. **Guests:** Ms. Nagreen, Mr. Benitez
- II. **Public Comment:** None
- III. **Approvals:**
 - A. Agenda: Ms. VanRyzin / Ms. Meisel: All in Favor
 - B. Minutes of 2/13/25: Ms. Grosskreutz / Mr. Layher: All in Favor
- IV. **Administrative Update (Mr. Winch):**
 - A. Fantastic science fair on Tuesday. For eighth grade: First prize to a student exploring nuclear fission; other strong projects on food dyes and another on sourdough. STEM projects from younger students also brought families in to see what middle school science is like.
 - B. **Building updates**
 1. New lockers for middle school over spring break. All sixth graders will have their own lockers. **Mr. Winch** has met with AASD to talk about rearranging 1st through 4th grade furniture and purchasing new tables for middle school rooms. School will be able to recycle the replaced desks. School will also acquire 40 “music posture” chairs for new band room. District will pay for these.
 2. Continue to have struggle with scheduling with Einstein for gym space. Einstein is over-capacity in sixth grade. We have almost 40 students in

band; normally we would break this into two classes, but at the present the puzzle is not working. **Mr. Dugal:** Is Febrer an option? **Mr. Winch:** The gym is smaller, and the middle school curriculum does not work as well in that gym (due to equipment). But I don't want this to be Plan A, B, or C. I think that our students need to have a middle-school-sized gym. **Ms. VanRyzin:** If music is a problem for scheduling; could we schedule gym against another class during the day? **Mr. Winch:** We would have 39 students who would have to go somewhere. Not only does Einstein not have space, but we don't have the same schedule. **Ms. Meisel:** Should we cap the size of band to help distribute students? **Mr. Winch:** I don't really want to limit the choices for the only elective we give them. **Mr. Champaign:** Will we not have a new band room? **Mr. Winch:** Our space is not the problem; it is the scheduling. **Ms. Meisel:** We should be sure to distribute students around the other music classes as well. **Mr. Champaign:** After a fundraiser largely for music, it would be *very* unfortunate to cap band. **Ms. Meisel:** What is the criteria for students to switch from string to band? Is there a way to reduce some of the switching out of strings? **Mr. Dugal:** I think this is a problem school-wide; and might need some thinking about orchestra. **Mr. Winch:** We will continue to work on scheduling.

C. Potential Schedule Adjustments

1. Could we start a bit earlier to lessen *traffic problems* outside? We might be able to move back somewhat to take advantage of the start time difference between Einstein and Ferber. For middle school, could start at 7:55 with a 7:58 tardy bell. Most class periods would be 46 minutes, including the resource hour (which would have Core Virtues twice a week in that time). For elementary, would start at 7:59 (instead of 7:55) and end at 2:55. **Mr. Dugal:** Have you talked with staff? **Mr. Winch:** I've talked with traveling staff and there were no apparent problems. These plans will extend the window on both sides for pickup and dropoff. These might also line up with Einstein's gym schedule somewhat better. **Mr. Champaign:** What I like is that the proposed schedule lines up with a gym schedule much better; which might help with our other scheduling problems. **Mr. Dugal:** We should emphasize that we are being flexible, so AASD might be more flexible.

D. Enrollment Update from Lottery

1. Numbers are a bit lower than historical numbers. 77 K applications; 14 32 16 11 30 14 7 7 208 in the pool. Last year 246 265 277 230 297. So this number is historically low. 264 is our 10-year average. Post-lottery numbers (wait list): 25 14 32 15 9 28 10 6 7. **Ms. Meisel:** What are the new-to-this-school numbers? (As opposed to siblings on the wait-list.) **Ms. Ziemet:** What is our retention between grades. **Mr. Winch:** We have

very few people who say they are leaving. **Ms. Schroeder:** About 30 students this year were siblings: and 8 in 2d grade 8 in 5th grade and 4 elsewhere. Drop-off so far is nothing like what we saw last year.

2. Perhaps we should made a video once the construction is finished.

V. Finance (**Ms. Ziemet**)

- A. \$41,114.89 BMO
- B. \$4,877.19 BlueSky

VI. Public Relations (**Ms. Behm**):

- A. **Skate Night:** 180 people! We had triple what we expected, but having middle school separately will be a good idea. **Mr. Winch:** We could just allow K-5 or 6-8 along if they had a parent along. **Ms. Behm:** It cost us nothing, but many thought it was a fund-raiser.
- B. **Upcoming events: Color Run May 30.** 150 students was the original plan, but after the turnout for the Skate Night, I'd like to plan for 400 participants, so that would be \$5,000, but we would be selling food also to recoup some of that cost. **Mr. Champaign:** What is our financial obligation to those who would get shirts from the Pegasus Project? **Ms. Behm:** \$2,700. That is the bulk of the cost. We will wait for April to ask for money.
- C. **Mr. Champaign:** We should have a Gala next year.
- D. **Ms. Behm:** Packer game volunteering for next year? We would need to pick dates in early summer.

VII. Other Board Business

- A. Staff listening session in six to eight weeks
- B. First week of May is a staff appreciation week.
- C. **Mr. Champaign:** We won't solve any problems tonight, but I'm looking for a sense of the board. Could we reduce class sizes in the school? **Mr. Shober:** The dilemma is that we would either have to shrink the size of the school or hire many more teachers. **Ms. VanRyzin:** We need to ensure the middle school numbers don't fall so that we lose FTEs in middle-school. **Ms. Meisel:** We might have too much extra loading on teachers in higher grades. **Mr. Winch:** If we were to reduce to 20, we would probably keep our FTEs in elementary, but we would lose teachers in middle school. **Ms. Meisel:** Mr. Cotti worked the data carefully to ensure keeping middle school open. **Mr. Dugal:** We had to increase earlier grades to keep students through 8th grade. We would have to make substantial changes to the curriculum. I'd urge to Board to think carefully about justifying reducing students. **Ms. VanRyzin:** We have not lost FTEs in middle school since the school started; we have often gotten the benefit of the doubt. **Ms. Meisel:** Could we be clear what the problem is? Compete with other schools, or K-1 classroom

management? Both suggest different problems and solutions. **Ms. Abbi:** What is the problem we would be solving? It is not clear here.

D. Writing Revolution (**Mr. Winch**):

1. NIFDI provided great training in August; now we want to focus on writing across the curriculum. We are exploring a Natalie Wexler (*Writing Revolution 2.0*) resource. Do we need to find some experts, or can we do this on our own? This is not a curriculum change but the addition of a staff support piece.

E. Parent Survey Results

1. **Ms. Grosskreutz:** I was pleased that there was a longer list of good things than negative things. But there was a desire for more community engagement and a desire for more teachers at community engagement events. **Ms. Ziemet:** I think we need to bring back additional “fun” events and more events. **Ms. Meisel:** There were a lot of donation comments, particularly the unclarity about where, say, KAT money it used for. **Ms. Ziemet:** I think there were a lot of financial asks through the year — and they were clumped together.

VIII. **Public Comment:**

- A. Concerned about the placement of the special education classroom. I have talked to Mr. Winch about this. I am concerned about noise from music. Students need quiet space.
- B. Kindergarten has been at 26 for 20 years. I don’t think it is doable anymore because children’s behavior has changed. I can handle my classroom in the classroom, it’s mostly outside the classroom.

IX. Closed Session (Van Ryzin/Ziemet): All in Favor

X. Motion to return to open session (VanRyzin/Behm): All in Favor

XI. **Motion to Adjourn:** (Ziemet/VanRyzin): All in Favor.