



TA Board of Directors Meeting 08/15/2025

Call to Order

- Mike Reid welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

Roll Call to Establish Quorum

- Shannon DeRosa called the roll.
- Present were: Dave Wyatt, Pat Medlin, Julie Wolfe, Mike Reid, Racheal Winger, Terri Duncan
- Absent were: Woody Weddington, Christy Hopkins
- Staff present were: Cathy Gantz, Thomas Academy Principal, Janice Toporek, BGH CFO, and Shannon DeRosa, Thomas Academy Office and Data Manager
- Parent(s) present were: None.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Mike Reid led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading of the Vision

- Mike Reid read the TA Vision and Mission Statement.

Consider and Approve Current Agenda

- Racheal Winger moved to approve the agenda. Julie Wolfe seconded and the motion passed.

Consider and Approve Minutes for Last Month.

- Terri Duncan moved to approve the minutes from May 27th 2025. Dave Wyatt seconded and the motion passed

Public Comments

- Former students stated that the Library has had a major improvement since they were here last.

Director of Education/Principal Report- Dr. Cathy Gantz

♦ Student Enrollment:

- Target Enrollment: eighty-five
- Current Student Enrollment: sixty two
- Community Students: thirty eight
- Residential Students: twenty-four

Students enrolled by grade level	Residential	Community
3rd	1	0
4th	1	0
5th	0	3
6th	1	2
7th	5	2
8th	2	6
9th	2	5
10th	6	10
11th	3	6
12th	3	4

Potential Graduates for June 2025: 7 - 12th graders

♦ Student Activities:

- TA Rotary Interact Club.
- TA Key Club/Event.
- SCC Partnership/Vocation Education Classes- HVACR- First Semester.
- Advisory Dance/Sports Opportunities.
- Participation in Special Olympics
- Career Day Field Trips.
- College Field Trips.
- Art and Theatre Activities.
- UNCW STEM Partnership (Summer of 2026 TBD Students).

♦ Professional Development:

- PowerSchool transition to Infinite Campus
- NCES Appraisal Process
- NC Star Key Indicators updates during the first week back.
- School Improvement Team (SIT) meetings are scheduled for the Second and Fourth Wednesdays of the month from 3:00-4:00 pm in the library/media center.

♦ Academic Report:

- TA filled the following positions for 2025-2026 school year: MS Science teacher, HS Math teacher, Physical Education/Health teacher, Exceptional Children's teacher, and Art/Theatre teacher.
- Student attendance: Yearly average: 94.76%
- Behavior referrals: From April to May 2025, behavioral referrals decreased by 50%. The Teaching Family Model is making a tremendous difference in bringing about positive behaviors in our boys and girls.

♦ **Student/School Success:**

- Our partnership with Southeastern Community College (SCC) vocational opportunities will continue for the first semester of 2025. HVACR will be offered third period.
- The renovation of the LANG Building has begun with a new roof and painting and new flooring for the carpentry classroom.

♦ **Upcoming:**

- The administration of TA visited the Dream Center, Whiteville, on June 17 th for parent night to display Thomas Academy Charter School and to recruit students for Thomas Academy.
- A STEM Camp for Residential High School students was held during the week of June 16th-20th and for Residential Middle School students during the week of June 23rd-27th. Jake and Chelsea Townsend, UNCW Instructors, sponsored this event.
- Thomas Academy made an application for a Federal Charter School Grant, \$1,924,044.05 for TA's 3 rd -5 th Grade Expansion. The grant was due, July 11th.
- Thomas Academy's new intermediate playground was dedicated on July 17 th at 1:00 pm.
- The following open houses were held for student recruiting: Saturday, August 9th, 10:00 am-2:00 pm; and Thursday, August 14 th , 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Another open house is planned for Tuesday, August 19 th , 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Parents will also be encouraged to call the school to schedule a tour of the school.
- Thomas Academy Teachers will return on Wednesday, August 13 th . Professional Development training is planned on the following topics: Teaching Family Model and Surfing into a New School year at Thomas Academy, and Infinite Campus (Formerly PowerSchool).
- Thomas Academy Board of Directors will meet at TA on Friday, August 15 th at 2:00 pm.
- A parent/student night is planned for Thursday, August 21 st , 5:00 pm-7:00 pm so that parents/students can complete necessary paperwork and receive their schedules.

- TA Students will return to school on Monday, August 25 th for the 2025-2026 school year.
- TA 2026 Charter renewal is in year two of the renewal process. Below you will find a timeline and information specific to charter renewal:
 - September 2025 - Final data will be collected, including the 2024-2025 test scores. OCS will prepare the DPI Portfolio for Renewal Schools.
 - October 2025 - Schools will receive invitations to interview with the Charter School Review Board (CSRB) if they do not qualify for the statutory 10 Year Renewal. Additionally, Renewal schools will receive a final email regarding any outstanding compliance items that will be presented to the review board and will have the opportunity to provide any feedback.
 - October 6-7, 2025 - CSRB Meeting: Renewals Preview - OCS will present to the CSRB a preview of the 2026 Renewals Cohort.
 - November 12-13, 2025 - CSRB Meeting: Renewal Interviews Part 1
 - December 8-9, 2025 - CSRB Meeting: Renewal Interviews Part 2
 - January 12-13, 2026 - CSRB Meeting: Remaining Renewal Interviews, School Business Presentation on Renewal Schools Financial Compliance.
 - February 9-10, 2026 - CSRB Meeting: Vote on final renewal terms. Schools will receive a letter outlining the final vote and renewal term.
 - April 2026 - OCS will send schools their new Charter Agreements to be signed by the Board Chair, notarized, and mailed back to OCS.
 - May 2026 - OCS will take the signed and notarized Charter Agreements to the State Superintendent for final signature.
 - June 2026 - Schools will receive a digital copy of the Final Charter Agreement via email. Final Hard Copy Agreements will be filed in the OCS.
 - July 1, 2026 - New Charter Agreements begin!

♦ **Action Items:**

1. None at this time.

♦ **Attachments/Requests:**

- Can be requested at the meeting.

♦ **Financials**

- Janice Toporek reviewed the Financial Report that had been provided to the members and a copy of the financial report will be attached.

♦ **Old Business**

- Pat Medlin recommended that TA look into NC Ed Connect.
- Dave Wyatt recommended TA look into teacher licences.
- Terri Duncan recommended that TA look into Narcan for the school.

◆ **Public Adjournment**

- Julie Wolfe moved to adjourn the public meeting. Dave Wyatt seconded and the motion passed at 3:52 PM.

◆ **Closed Session**

- No Closed Session.