



**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

<b>Students enrolled by grade level</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Community</b>
<b>3rd</b>	1	0
<b>4th</b>	1	0
<b>5th</b>	0	3
<b>6th</b>	1	2
<b>7th</b>	5	2
<b>8th</b>	2	6
<b>9th</b>	2	5
<b>10th</b>	6	10
<b>11th</b>	3	6
<b>12th</b>	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<sup>th</sup> 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.