



April 5, 2023

The Hon. Rocky Hanna
Superintendent
Leon County Schools
2757 West Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Re: March 31, 2023 letter

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Dear Superintendent Hanna,

Please allow this correspondence to serve as an official response to your March 31, 2023 letter to me as Chair of the Tallahassee Classical School (TCS) Board of Trustees.

In your letter, you raise the issue of whether TCS is “out of compliance” with our contract with Leon County Schools, as well as Florida law, by failing to have five Board members.

You indicate in your letter that this issue was initially raised when your staff sent an email on January 19, 2023, to the former Principal of TCS. This appears to violate section 12 K. of the Charter which states that “Every notice, approval, consent or other communication authorized by this Charter shall not be effective unless same shall be in writing and sent postage prepaid by United States mail, directed to the other party at its address hereinafter provided...”. Pursuant to the contract notices to the school are specifically to be in writing and sent by U.S. mail to the “Governing Board Chair” or the school’s prior legal counsel “Arnold Law Firm”.

Your staff’s January 19, 2023 email to the former Principal of TCS is therefore out of compliance with the Charter and legally insufficient for two reasons. First, it was not in writing and sent by U.S. mail. Second, it was not sent to the proper people. Although the Charter also has an email notice provision---it appears that provision was also not followed.

I can tell you that neither I nor anyone else on the TCS Board was ever made aware of your staff’s January 19th email and we are not aware if your office ever received a response from our former Principal. However, this situation is exactly why the Charter requires notice to be sent to the Chair of the Board – to make sure the right people are made aware of such issues so appropriate action can be taken.

Hon. Rocky Hanna
April 5, 2023

With respect to the issue of the number of Board members please be aware that Section III C. of the TCS Bylaws indicates that there shall be “not less than three nor more than eleven” Board members. This is consistent with Florida Statute 617.0803 which states that Boards for not-for-profits like TCS “must consist of three or more individuals, with the number specified in or fixed in accordance with the articles of incorporation or the bylaws”.

Section 12 L. of our Charter with Leon County Schools states that “In any case where this charter conflicts with Florida law, the terms of the applicable Statute...will control over the Charter”. Since both the TCS bylaws and Florida law, only require three Board members the Charter requirement of having five Board members appears to be superseded by state law.

Finally, I would note that even if TCS is required to have five Board members---the issue is moot since the TCS Board of Trustees has five members. Please allow this letter to serve as notice that the current members of the Tallahassee Classical School Board of Trustees are: Barney Bishop (Chair), Tim Qualls (Vice Chair & Secretary), Matthew Mohler, Pam Griggs (Treasurer), and Louis Jean-Baptiste.

In any event, I would like to meet with you to discuss this matter further because the Charter calls for open communications and provides for a specific dispute/resolution process which I would like to invoke. I’m available tomorrow, April 6th, or April 7th to meet with you so we can put this matter behind us and allow Tallahassee Classical to continue in the business of educating young minds with a traditional Western Civilization curriculum. You may contact me regarding the meeting via email at BBishop@TlhCLASSICAL.org or please call me on my cell at 850-510-9922. I am,

Sincerely yours
TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL



Barney Bishop III
Board of Trustees Chair

Cc: TCS Board of Trustees
Hon. Jeff Kottkamp, TCS General Counsel
Molly Shaddock, Esq., TCS Education Counsel