

**CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2010**

DATE: February 11, 2010  
TIME: 7:00p.m.  
PLACE: CCA Library/Media Center-Elementary Building

1. Call To Order: 7:00p.m.  
Present: Jim Woolen, President  
Jimmie Rodgers, Vice President (Joined Meeting By Phone)  
Krissy Workman, Secretary  
David Frees, Representative At Large  
Sayed Hashimi, Board Member  
Kemi, Fadayomi, Board Member  
Absent: Paula Vaughn, Treasurer  
Also Present: Ronald G. Schneider, Superintendent  
Trudi Green, Director of Finance  
Kendall Schroeder, K-6 Principal  
Tom Saporito, MS/HS Principal  
Don Heist, GVSU Representative  
Bruce Blevins, WMES

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Sayed Hashimi, seconded by Krissy Workman to approve the agenda with the following change: Move 8B4. to 8B1; and everything else down in sequential order. Motion approved.

3. CCA Education Spotlight

Tom Saporito introduced Jim Sabo and Andy Fillwock, HS faculty members; noting that they are two of the most respected teachers by our students, parents, and faculty. You will enjoy their presentation.

Jim and Andy gave power point presentations noting interesting highlights of their personal lives and backgrounds prior to coming to CCA as teachers. They included all of the various subjects that they teach, and a brief synopsis describing content and student expectations. Jim is excited to be teaching Drama for the first time this year. Andy is diligently working on keeping the students active, nutrition awareness, and both are working on teaching life long sports.

Kemi stated that she would like to hear about the new drama class next year.

Jimmie Rodgers stated that he was glad to hear that someone is talking about and teaching the kids about life long sports. As we age, the life long sports become very important.

Both teachers were complimented on the great detail of their presentations.

4. Public Comments

Jeff Thorne (Parent and Head Football Coach)

He thanked the board for last month's approval to continue the football program, and we're very grateful. He stated that he was at this meeting to comment because they were a bit disappointed as well. They would like to ask that CCA add football to the regular sports program without the time condition. It would help with league contracts and as a recruiting tool. If this is not the direction you're going, he encouraged CCA to go across the board and do the same with all the athletic programs. He thanked the board again and encouraged them to consider this amendment to last month's approval of one year only.

Michelle Gabalis

Thank you for voting to bring the breakfast program to our school. Our boys really like the program. Jim Sabo, a CCA teacher, also spoke up in agreement, stating that his children like it too.

5. Board Response

Jim Woolen thanked them for their comments.

6. Reports:

A. P.A.C. Michelle Gabalis

Michelle gave her report, noting that she will be going to the Transition Conference coming up. The next P.A.C. meeting is March 16 at the ISD.

Jim Woolen asked that in the future P.A.C. would submit their report in writing prior to the board meeting. (Send the written report to Debbie to include in the Board Packets one week ahead).

B. P.T.O. Val Saunders

Val was not present at the meeting, but submitted their written report in advance.

C. Director of Finance Trudi Green

Trudi gave the Treasurer's Report. We are having about 80 percent participation in the Breakfast program. It seems to be going over well. Staff feel the kids are perkier after having breakfast. The staff is supporting it well, and we really appreciate it. It's been a big change, a teachable moment.

Krissy stated that it is awesome because so many kids don't get breakfast. However, her children do, and want to eat at home and school. Are the students allowed to keep it for a snack later, or should they be turning it down?

Kendall stated that we encourage them to take two items; which they can save for later. Kemi stated that her boys are keeping it for later. Ron said that it is great for after school, especially if they are here for an activity.

D. K-6 Principal Kendall Schroeder

He complimented the staff for working the breakfast program into their schedules. It's a change in thinking, and they have done a great job with it. We have seen the benefits from it, and it is showing its effects throughout the day. The new parking procedure is going very, very well. He is the monitor down below, and it is going very well.

Jimmie stated that he has been pleased to see Kendall's use of thinking outside the box with the Bright Ideas program among the staff. Kendall stated they will be putting some of the ideas into place in the near future.

- E. MS/HS Principal Tom Saporito  
Tom stated that the blood drive has been postponed to the end of March due to the snow day on February 10, 2010. The Yellow Ribbon presentation was very well received by the students and faculty. A number of our students signed up to be “Gate Keepers” for their friends. Many great conversations in classrooms among staff and students were prompted from the assembly.

Sayed congratulated those who participated in the Math Counts program, and that we did very well. They received three trophies. He asked that his warmest regards be given to the teacher for what she has done; it takes a lot of work to do this.

- F. Superintendent Ronald Schneider  
Ron received a letter from Croskey, Lanni, and Co. thanking us for our business and continued involvement with them. He attended the Great Start Readiness Program and gave gifts to the board members. It is the local early childhood program committee; which he is a part of. They are a very active group.

He presented Jimmie and Sayed with their Board Appreciation Certificates that they missed last month, along with the gifts from the high school art students.

Tom Crandall from FSU will be here in March to begin an energy audit to help us see if there are any further ways we can conserve and save money.

- G. GVSU Representative Don Heist  
They have a seminar coming up with Lynn Wolfe for administration and boards on state funding and other issues. Bob Fortin sends his best wishes to you.

Jimmie stated that anytime you can go to a seminar by Lynn Wolfe, it’s a great opportunity. He is very knowledgeable and you will not be disappointed.

7. Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2010
- B. Recommend Woodbridge Group Hire:
  - a. Jim Huston—Custodial/Bus Driver
  - b. Julia Brummeler—Part-Time Parapro
  - c. Cynthia Bullock—Part-Time Parapro—MS/HS
- C. Recommend Woodbridge Group Post & Hire:
  - a. Two Part-Time Title I Elementary Parapros

Motion was made by Krissy Workman, seconded by Sayed Hashimi to approve the Consent Agenda Items as noted. Motion carried.

8. Individual Action Items:

- A. Old Business: None
- B. New Business:
  - 1. Approve Senior Trip Itinerary

Motion was made by Sayed Hashimi, seconded by Krissy Workman, to approve the Senior Trip Itinerary as presented. Motion carried.

## 2. Finance Committee Report &amp; Recommendations

Ron presented the Athletic spreadsheet on sports expenses at CCA. He was asked which ones will need something in the next few years? Trudi got us a 3.5 cent reduction in our fuel costs for the bus. It also looks like we will be saving about \$200 a month by staying with AT&T for our cell phones.

David asked if we were going to look at football and schedule this for our next meeting? Is \$4,000 enough? Jeff talked about needing a wireless mic; do we know a cost? Will this be enough, as the other sports will want to get their fair share of the \$4,000?

Ron stated that he doesn't foresee the budget changing. Jeff usually goes out and raises the money he needs. Trudi and he are not recommending the addition of anything in these times.

Jimmie asked if we are talking about general fund money that would go into this? The picture for next year's state aid doesn't look very good.

At this point we need more information. What is our liability long term? What are we going to have to replace that we don't have in this budget? We need a sports booster club that will help out. We will not be increasing the budget. We need to contact the coaches and say this is what we have to spend, can you do it on this budget.

Krissy stated that in all fairness we may be looking at all of the programs by next year in order to make this work.

Jimmie said that he understands Coach Thorne wanting a long-term support approval. However, with the budget and financial situation in the State of Michigan, etc. I cannot support at this point agreeing to make it a long-term sport. It probably needs more discussion, and Coach Thorne needs an answer.

Kemi asked for clarification on the extra expenses in Volleyball. Ron stated that they started with a carry-over coach, and it will go down next year as we drop off the extra coaching position. It will be \$4,930, but there are other costs included in Volleyball unique to that sport.

Jim stated that Coach Thorne needs to understand this budget will not increase.

David stated that we need to keep in mind the other coaches as well. They now have to share with football. It's a great revenue maker, but also a great revenue taker. It's hard to undo once it gets going and becomes who the school is. Do we need to consult the other coaches? It has also cut into who goes out for the other sports.

Kemi asked why it has been considered different? Ron stated that the original start up costs were around \$28,000 and that Jeff went out and raised most of it himself.

Jim stated that it is premature to undo what we did last month. We need to know more about what it will cost long-term.

3. Education Committee Report & Recommendations

a. Approve NCA Process

Ron stated that we apply, and once they get the money from GVSU then we move to step B. GVSU will pay for it annually. We will pay for the onsite assessment team expenses.

Motion was made by David Frees, seconded by Sayed Hashimi, to approve moving forward on the NCA process for CCA. Motion carried.

b. Approve African American History Textbook

PTO will pay for the books. It is an 11th and 12th grade course.

David brought up the fact that we have 5th grade students without history books. We have kids who cannot study and pass their tests because they have nothing to study with. We have kids that are failing. Why are we not fixing this problem first. He has many parents asking about this. We have kids failing because they don't have a book. My child came home and asked for help and I had nothing to look at to get the correct answer. If I don't have a book, I can't help them. This class of students is suffering. Why are we doing this? We need to do both. We need to get rolling and get these books.

Jim stated that this board voted in favor of the rolling set of books, and it goes back a long way. We just need to get it done.

David stated to get it done soon because we have kids coming home failing.

Motion was made by Sayed Hashimi, seconded by Kemi Fadayomi, to approve the purchase of the African American History Textbooks, to be paid for by PTO funds. Motion carried.

Ron and Jim both agreed to move post haste on purchasing the rest of the history books for 5th grade as well.

c. Approve Elimination of the "Community/Civics/Careers" Class Requirement and Revise the Graduation Policy

Tom Saporito stated that the topics are now covered in other classes and so it is a great redundancy, since we now have state requirements to fulfill. We still have the community service requirement; which has not changed. We want them looking at more rigorous classes, as the MMC has brought a lot of pressure on our kids and it's hard to fit it in. We will keep it on the books in case we want it in the future, but for now it has served it's purpose.

Motion was made by Jimmie Rodgers, seconded by Krissy Workman, to approve dropping the course and revising the Graduation Requirements Policy accordingly. Motion carried.

4. Building & Grounds Committee Report & Recommendations

There were no recommendations this month. It was noted that we have used 11 percent less fuel so far this year with our new boilers.

9. Discussion/Information/First Reading Items

A. Internal Board Operations Policy Revision: Member Participation by Electronics

Motion was made by Kemi Fadayomi, seconded by Sayed Hashimi, to approve the revision of the Internal Board Operations Policy on page 5 to include the following:

“A Board member may participate in a meeting by conference telephone or similar communications equipment through which all persons participating in the meeting, including members of the public, can communicate with the other participants. It shall be the responsibility of the non-present Board member to make arrangements to participate electronically in a Board meeting. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section constitutes presence in person at the meeting but shall not apply to the quorum requirement, as four (4) Board members are required to be present in person to meet the quorum requirements.”

Motion carried.

10. Board Round Table Discussion

Jimmie asked if there are schools here using Study Island. Ron stated that it is very popular in the state. Jimmie said that if we need a school to talk to about it, he can put us in touch with one. Ron stated that we will be using it for our Title I program, as it can be used at home.

Jimmie asked if the special education issue been resolved? He also finds the 5th grade history book situation a little unsettling; that a child has to go home and say they cannot study because they don't have a textbook. This situation should never have come up. Ron stated that we agree this shouldn't have happened and it will be rectified ASAP.

Jimmie apologized for missing the retreat due to a family need. He also thanked everyone for making it possible for him to participate in the board meetings.

Kemi stated that she will be at a conference in San Francisco and miss the March meeting.

Sayed stated that he really liked the teacher presentations today; the personal information about their what they have done prior to CCA was great.

11. Next Regular Meeting: March 11, 2010

12. Adjournment

Jim Woolen adjourned the meeting at 8:39p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

