

**CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2009**

DATE: October 8, 2009
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
Paula Vaughn, Treasurer
Sayed, Hashimi
Kemi Fadayomi
Absent: Krissy Workman, Secretary
David Frees, Representative At Large
Also Present: Ronald Schneider, Superintendent
Trudi Green, Director of Finance
Kendall Schroeder, K-6 Principal
Tom Saporito, MS/HS Principal
Bob Fortin, GVSU Representative
Bruce Blevins, WMES

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Sayed Hashimi, seconded by Paula Vaughn, to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Sayed Hashimi, seconded by Paula Vaughn, to approve the minutes with the noted corrections to the P.A.C. report section. Motion carried.

4. Reports:

P.A.C.: Michelle Gabalis

Michelle gave her monthly report noting that there will be a training workshop October 27 after 6:30p.m. on 504 plans. The next meeting is November 17 at 9:00a.m.

P.T.O.: Valerie Saunders

Valerie gave the report to the board, and a written report was requested for the future to accompany the live report at the board meeting. Their next meeting is October 20 at 3:30p.m. They are going to suggest trying an evening meeting. If it goes well, they would do a few months after school and a few in the evening. They will be providing a meal for the K-6 staff on conference days. They are hoping that the MS/HS PTO will become active and do the same for that staff.

Director of Finance: Trudi Green

Trudi presented the financial report for the month, noting that the Bridge Loan was our income for the month. We did receive the GVSU Grant money and the month has been reconciled.

K-6 Principal: Kendall Schroeder

Kendall gave highlights from his report. Map testing is completed, and we will be starting MEAP on October 13. All Star Academy begins next week, we're excited, and took in \$2,000 which will help pay for staff and materials.

MS/HS Principal: Tom Saporito

Ron Schneider highlighted Tom's report, as he was handling the homecoming football game and festivities.

Academic Spotlight: Tatum Alexander, Diane Kreh, John Nawrot, Jean Robinson, & Ben Talsma

Elementary teachers presented an update from the Summer Institute detailing their work on the Math curriculum alignments and differentiated instruction for the classroom. The new structure is being incorporated this school year. The board was very impressed, and Sayed suggested that they put something like "Math Moments" in the Cougar Mews; giving parents creative ideas of things to do at home with their students to further impact what they are learning in the classroom.

The board was very thankful for their presentation, noting that these presentations will be a great help to them in making academic driven decisions. Next month the MS/HS will be presenting on their Summer Institute.

Superintendent's Report: Ron Schneider

We continue to wait on the State of Michigan concerning our State Aid. At 11:00a.m. this morning he was informed that the House and Senate were very close. At 5:30p.m. Darwin Booher called to say that was not true anymore. They are still trying to push for the \$218 per student reduction. However, everything shows that we could be short by January. Darwin had pushed for a June and July session, but the leadership put it off. A \$218 cut would mean \$132,000 for us. The good thing is that our count is up. They are actually going back into session at the State right now at 7:30p.m. They hope to have a decision by tomorrow, otherwise our October State Aid is in jeopardy. The State is looking at many options. Increase of the sales tax has been suggested by many people.

We have two MOP Coop technology staff from the ISD working with us now; Rob Horan and Jesse Jones. Ross Meads has been an absolute life saver, working daily with these two technicians. We are in 100 percent better shape now than the last time we sat at this table. We are so fortunate to have one of our own teachers who knows the software and history around here.

We have a maintenance staff person off on medical leave, so have posted for a temporary sub for that position until we know where we are with our staff person.

On October 17 FSU will be doing a CCA Hockey game. We will have a publicity table with handouts, our history, brochures, etc. The announcer will be highlighting us during the game on breaks. We will pick up some CCA shirts to be given away during the game.

We received a nice thank you from Relay For Life. The football players are wearing pink socks for the game tonight and all proceeds will be going to the Susan P. Wheatlake Wellness Center.

We have had a lot of bus repairs lately. Current bus mileage is around 80-90,000 on both.

We are running an ad in the Pioneer to try and find additional substitute teachers and bus drivers.

GVSU: Bob Fortin

I applaud your Academic Spotlight. It is good for the board to hear these types of things. You are getting a survey on board training. Please respond quickly. Every three years we meet for a Performance Review. On the odd years we give you a report. Please read through it and ask questions. Your time will be counted toward the P.D. portion of the grant.

5. Public Comments: None

6. Action Items

A. Old Business: None

B. New Business:

1. Approve Auditor's Report

Pat Sweeney of Croskey, Lanni & Company, P.C. presented the Annual Audit. CCA received an Unqualified Audit; which is the best you can get. Due to the stimulus money, we were also required to have a separate Single Audit this year. They looked at AARA and Title I and found no issues. "You passed with flying colors."

The board expressed their appreciation to Trudi Green and Deb Kanouse for all their hard work to make this possible. Ron stated that we were nervous, but we had a lot of help from Charissa Talsma, Mary Strom and the Title I staff who came in and helped us prepare.

Pat said that to get done with nothing found in your first year is an excellent job. He presented a graph analysis report showing growth and further clarification. You have increased your fund balance to 25 percent. You are in great shape. Your debt is going down; which is good. You have spent more on instruction than operations; which is very positive. You spend \$4,168 per student on instruction of your State Aid allotment.

There were questions on the bridge loan, when we have such a good fund balance. However, it was noted that the bridge loan supplies us with cash flow and at a more secure, low interest rate. Its better that we not dip into our fund balance at present if possible. We need to keep it for a rainy day, should we have need with the State Aid situation.

Jim Woolen congratulated Pat Sweeney on becoming a partner at Croskey Lanni. "You presented very well and we understand you. You keep it simple and in terms that the board can understand. The visual graphs are great."

The State is now requiring that all schools upload their audits to a central website where they will be available to the public at the MDE. Pat will take care of this for CCA.

Motion was made by Jimmie Rodgers, seconded by Sayed Hashimi, to approve and accept the Audit for 2008-2009. Motion carried.

Jim Woolen signed the Auditor's Letter.

2. Finance Committee Report & Recommendations

Paula Vaughn presented the report for the committee.

a. Approve 401K Amendment

Motion was made by Paula Vaughn, seconded by Kemi Fadayomi, to approve the "Resolution, that the attached Amendment reflecting certain provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA'06), the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (HEART), the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA), and the Workers, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (WRERA) is hereby approved for adoption effective January 1st, 2009." Motion carried.

b. Approve CCA Liability & Facilities Insurance

Motion was made by Jimmie Rodgers, seconded by Paula Vaughn, to approve General Agency for CCA's liability and facilities insurance agency. Motion carried.

c. Approve Snow Removal Bid

Motion was made by Paula Vaughn, seconded by Kemi Fadayomi, to approve the bid and use Morningstar for our snow removal service of 2009-2010 and 2010-11. Motion carried.

3. Education Committee Report & Recommendations

No actions items, but they moved to sell all our ancient, old text books and use the money towards textbook purchases in the appropriate legal manner.

Question was asked on how we like the new website. Sandy Smaltz let out a "Wahoo!" It is great and the links work. It is a work in progress but looks great.

4. Building & Grounds Committee & Recommendations

Sayed gave the report. The concession stand was broken into and security measures have been improved on the door. We have repaired one light and added two new ones at the field. We are working at replacing the paper towel dispensers in the elementary bathrooms with blowers. We are getting bids. They will need to be on separate circuits. The approximate cost is coming in around \$945 each. We need to do four. When factoring in the cost of towels, toilet overflow, staff time vs. blowers, it will probably be cheaper in the long run. It will help improve health issues, and be a great advantage to us.

The sensory room on the 3rd floor needs improved ventilation, as there are no windows. The fan is used for circulation, but we are look at venting through the door.

Kudos to Van Johnson of the city, who brought a crew over to fix our pot holes as soon as we called. They did a fantastic job.

5. Recommend Woodbridge Group Hire:

Motion was made by Sayed Hashimi, seconded by Paula Vaughn, to recommend that Woodbridge Group hire:

Carrie Diekema as HS Art Teacher
Shannon McDonald as Playground Aide
Matthew Olsen as 7-8 Boy's Basketball Coach

Motion carried.

6. Approve Proposed Exam Schedule

Motion was made by Jimmie Rodgers, seconded by Kemi Fadayomi, to approve 1st Trimester end on November 25 with the proposed adjusted exam schedule. Motion carried.

Changes need to be made to the calendar and the information gotten out to all parents, website, etc.

7. Approve Board Retreat Date and Place

Discussion was held on the Board Retreat. It will be held on January 9, 2010. The agenda should include a presentation by GVSU and review of the Policy Manual. Ron will look into a meeting place, etc.

7. Board Round Table Discussion

Jimmie Rodgers:

- ❖ Digital Directions Conference—K-12 Technology
China—goal to have their entire country linked by cell phone systems. Disable Smart Phone voice—leaves computer/camera. Gave to 2nd graders at a cost of \$30 each. Kids protected them like gold—not one was lost. Sent out into the building and grounds to take pictures of prepositions and then shared their pictures with the class. They'll never forget this lesson. Technology is going to become the Swiss army knife of education. America is resisting the new and lagging behind other countries.
- Article on "One of You Has Got To Get Out of Bed" by Chester Finn
- ❖ Kendall, please tell your people their presentation was great.
- ❖ Would like to see written motions presented from the Board Committees for approval
Committee board member can draft the wording for the motion and have ready for the board meeting.

Kemi Fadayomi:

- ❖ She totally enjoyed the presented by the teachers.
- ❖ Show and tell us what they are doing, but also how we can help them. What do they need?
She would like to see more participation from the high school side.
They are coming next month.

Paula Vaughn: Had nothing tonight.

Sayed Hashimi:

- ❖ Article that appeared in the Pioneer relative to the performance of the local schools, Ron Schneider did a very diplomatic job of explaining why CCA's enrollment is up.

There's nothing wrong in saying our praises, where we excel in academics and character education.

Ron stated that he gave about eight quotes, but the writer decides what he will include and it is not always accurate.

Sayed stated that you did an excellent job, just be more blunt with the true facts: we have the best teachers in the world. Its true. Give credit where it is due.

Our students are the product of our classrooms and teachers.

Jim Woolen:

- ❖ Move the Academic Spotlight idea to right after Approval of Minutes on future agendas. We want to know what we can do to help them. We will not do this at the June meeting, but will come back to it in August. They can tell us what the have planned for the new school year. The spotlight can highlight other things as well. Whatever is going well. Let those in the trenches get to know us and that we are one of them.

8. Next Regular Meeting: November 12, 2009

9. Adjournment

Jim Woolen adjourned the meeting at 9:00a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____ Dated: _____