

**CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

DATE: November 12, 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
Krissy Workman, Secretary
Sayed, Hashimi, Board Member
Kemi Fadayomi, Board Member
Absent: David Frees, Representative At Large
Also Present: Ronald Schneider, Superintendent
Kendall Schroeder, K-6 Principal
Tom Saporito, MS/HS Principal
Bob Fortin, GVSU Representative
Guest: Mark Klumpp, M-OISD Assistant Superintendent

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Jimmie Rodgers, seconded by Paula Vaughn, to approve the agenda with the noted corrections: correct spelling of Jami Haner's name, and change "Next Meeting" date to December 10, 2009. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Kemi Fadayomi, seconded by Jimmie Rodgers, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

4. CCA Education Spotlight

Equestrian Team

Dee Bozek, Equestrian Team Coach—(non-CCA sponsored) reported on the results of their season. Elise Bittner and Amber Bedgood comprised the team this year. The girls won districts, took 2nd at Regionals, and 4th at State in the D Team division. If we have 5 on the team next year we will compete in Division C; if over 5 Division B. We qualify for 16 classes, so each girl can participate in 8 classes each. They both took 1st's on the first day and continued through the weekend. Stop in the high school office to see their gorgeous trophies. We also have a junior team coached by Cathy Fountain, grades 6-8. They participate in one junior meet to get them familiar with how the high school competition works. Their meet will be in June. The board suggested that they put the Equestrian schedule on the CCA website.

MS/HS Teacher Institute

Jennifer Alber (Biology) and Tammy Pruden (English) presented an extensive report on the new teaching styles they are using based on what they gleaned from the institute.

Tammy presented first on Authentic Assessment of students; where they are at, what they know and how to apply it. She assigned reading the book "An Ordinary Man" based on the Hotel Rwanda story. Students were asked to discuss what we can learn from their situation. She's used actual news clips to support the details. They assess and gage the student's knowledge of the things being taught. They look at the evidence based on the rubric showing what they are missing and adjust teaching accordingly. They were assigned to read "Beowulf" and do a project: write and illustrate a story; power point presentation; or a written essay summary. She presented one of the student's illustrated books, and noted that the students have really gotten into this. One chose the essay and it revealed that he has a great grasp of the material. She attended the International Reading Seminar and is incorporating other innovative concepts into her classroom style which will be starting next Monday focusing on punctuation and grammar rules.

Jimmie Rodgers asked how they handle it if most of the students get it, but you have 4 or 5 who don't? We have to adjust instruction. Most of the students would go on with the next assignment, and I would give the 4 or 5 a similar assignment but one that has the components they need to work on included. We re-teach the small group. Its not easy but its doable. You have to adjust things. It means extra work, but then everyone is learning and staying on task.

Jennifer Alber shared the difference between a passive and active learner. She gets her students talking, playing teacher, sharing what they are learning with each other. She encourages them to go home and share with their family and friends. Its good for them to give a talk. We want them to be active learners and to teach. Teachers are not the only dispensers of knowledge. We need to get our students teaching. She gave a "Disease Discussion" assignment to her classes. They are excited about how much fun it's going to be. She has a group of boys that are interesting and very witty who especially got into it when they began looking at the pictures of the diseases. Students have to take their topic and get familiar with the terminology and subject so that they can teach the class according to the assignment requirements. They become the expert on that particular disease. The rest of the class will quiz them. The visuals required stimulate a lot of discussion and the student has to anticipate what questions might arise and be prepared to answer. We have turned the tables and put some of it back on the students. They learn to research and teach. If I find that they are misrepresenting the information, I step in and offer help. Its been working just fine. The rubric is on the back of their assignment sheet. This is a great way to get kids up in front of a group and talking; which will be required at the university level and is the most common fear of adults.

Jim Woolen asked if our other teachers are adopting this style. Tom Saporito stated that eight of our teachers attended the Institute and those have adopted it. We're trying to expand it and get everyone involved. We have grant money to run it again next year.

Jimmie commended them on the active learning style. Middle school kids learn twice as much when they are actively involved in the process. They love active learning. Thank you ladies.

5. Reports:

P.A.C.: Michelle Gabalis

Their October meeting was a presentation on 504's by a very knowledgeable lawyer. A 504 is used if the student's disability does not directly affect their academics.

There is no funding attached to a 504. Every school in the ISD will be receiving a 504 software package, and training. The next meeting is November 17 at 9:00a.m. at the Miller wing of the Career Center. (Ron Schneider noted that CCA has already received our package and we are moving forward).

P.T.O.: Valerie Saunders

Their next meeting is Tuesday, November 17 at 3:30p.m. They made \$1,800 on the Carnival. They have already talked with the DVE, and they want us again for next year. We were blessed with the team that came out to help. Scrip is up and running, as we got a parent to run the program for both buildings. The food drive from the carnival turned out very well, and the recipient is very appreciative of the help. It was initiated by the CCA 4th grade.

Director of Finance: Ron Schneider

Ron gave Trudi Green's report as she had personal business today in Grand Rapids. We are monitoring the Lansing situation daily. We may be waiting to know numbers until January. We are getting more and more reports which fall on Central Office staff. Its getting crazy. Her budget adjustments have to be put on hold until we know from the state. We will apply for another Bridge Loan, and our Auditors approve of this, vs. using from our fund balance. We have turned in the Healthy Fruits and Vegetables Grant and are waiting to hear on that. Pupil head count and how the state figures state aid was discussed, including the fact that the state just dropped the preliminary count requirement for established PSA's. We will now get Fall State Aid based on the same process as other public schools.

Principals: Kendall Schroeder and Tom Saporito

Both gave their reports, highlighting points of interest from their buildings.

Superintendent: Ron Schneider

We just received our first credit from MOTA, as more and more families are participating in the pick-up service. State of Michigan contact information was given to board members. We just got a call and information today from the Health Department that we are back on as an H1N1 immunization site on December 2. We will be sending the 4 page information packets home to our families, one per student. Our current Free & Reduced data indicates that we have 54 percent of our students eligible. Bookkeeping processes continue to grow. Breakfast is becoming more popular.

GVSU: Bob Fortin

Congratulations! You are the first board to complete your twenty hours of training. In fact you actually have more hours. Tim Wood is getting us involved in providing things to staff also, such as the Curriculum Crafter. He is instituting payment through GVSU for those schools that want to obtain NCA accreditation. Some schools choose not to, but it is available if you want it. Let Tim know that you like the things that are going on. Tell your teachers to let him know you appreciate it. Give him feedback.

Ron thanked Don Heist for creating additional trainings to accommodate the number of staff wanting to attend.

6. Public Comments

Michelle Gabalis: Are there any programs to teach kids about bullying? Ron stated that we did it last year through FSU for our 4th-8th graders. It was very well done. We also did something on cyber safety last year. We can do something against this year. She would like to see something for the K-3 set too. We need to get them understanding how to relate to others also.

The Central Office staff stated that we are still getting new students and families coming into our school. It is new families moving into the area or coming from private tuition schools. They are hearing about us and coming to check us out. This should encourage the board that we are continuing to live up to the newly revised Mission and Vision statements crafted last year. It is great to see.

Mark Klumpp, ISD Assistant Superintendent: We appreciate working with Ron Schneider. He does a great job working with us on all of our committees and to be one step ahead of the state, such as our MOP Co-op. We are also getting hit with our 31A funding with cuts up to 30 percent. Most of it will affect Maryann Robinson and professional development. Our problem is due to property devaluation, etc. On a positive note, we will be turning dirt in the spring to add to our existing career center building due to increased enrollment. We have to create revenues through savings, as we cannot do bonding.

7. Action Items:

A. Old Business: None

B. New Business:

1. Recommend Woodbridge Group Hire:

Motion was made by Jimmie Rodgers, seconded by Sayed Hashimi, to recommend Woodbridge Group hire:

Perry Douglas as Sub Maintenance & Bus Driver
Amanda Shears as Girl's Varsity Cheerleading Coach
Bridget Thompson as K-6 Special Ed. Teacher Part-Time
Jami Haner as Parapro

Motion carried.

2. Finance Committee Report

Paula Vaughn stated that Scott Morningstar and his group continue to donate their time, services, and product to CCA. They have been a tremendous support to the school. We will be sending them a thank you note to show our appreciation.

3. Building & Grounds Committee Report

Sayed Hashimi requested that we ask for an energy audit of our facilities. FSU conducted one in 06/07. With so many changes since the bonding, it is time to have it done again. Ron Schneider will talk to FSU and see if they would be able to do this for us.

4. Education Committee Report: No meeting, no report.

8. Board Round Table Discussion

Paula Vaughn would like to see us do a Teacher Survey to get more information on their needs and how we can help. This will help the board be better informed. We want them to know that we are here to support and encourage them. It was noted that we have done this in the past, and can look at that template. Woodbridge also has a survey available for use.

Sayed quoted Collin Powell saying, "When your soldiers stop talking to you, you have problems." We need their input.

Kemi Fadayomi has been visiting teachers and their classrooms on the 2nd floor especially. She saw great things happening, and commended their efforts on behalf of the board. They really appreciated it. All of the board should do this occasionally.

Jim Woolen agreed, stating that they should attend sports functions as well, even if they don't have a child playing.

Jimmie Rodgers told Tom Saporito that he was really impressed with the poise and confidence displayed by our student athletes at the event he attended. It was a fun evening to watch those young ladies play. He suggested that the minutes be down sized by not recording anything that is already stated in one of the reports or in the board packet for the meeting. Those creating written reports would not have to highlight them at the meeting; which would save time and recording by the secretary. As discussed last month, we should have the action item motions already written ready for approval.

The Wall Street Journal had an article by Carolyn Hoxby who did a report years ago on charter schools. She has just written a new review and finds them moving forward, improving, running ahead of their host districts, but public school districts have also been improving due to the competition. There's a great explosion happening in online learning. Florida has one of the largest virtual centers for K-12 in the country.

Jimmie stated that his role as a board member was changing. He was originally going to miss only two meetings a year, but it will now be at least 4 meetings due to his retirement. He will be in Florida from January to April. He asked the board to reconsider whether he should remain on the board as he would miss so many meetings. The board unanimously stated that they want him to stay on, and we can use web cam, skype, phone conference, etc. to allow him to join the meeting long-distance. Bob Fortin stated that as long as there is a quorum present, he can still vote.

Kemi Fadayomi stated that she was aware of a new program K-6 that Kendall has initiated. It is "lunch with the Principal" for 100 points of reading. This is catching on really big. She knows from her own household that kids who don't like to read are reading because they want to have lunch with Mr. Schroeder. Its wonderful.

Jim Woolen stated that this is one of the best groups I have ever worked with. You have good camaraderie and are family. Jimmie you are a great addition to this board. The whole board is about educating our students and this discussion adds to that.

9. Next Regular Meeting: December 10, 2009

10. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted By: _____ Dated: _____