

Grand Rapids Christian Schools
Board of Trustees
September 17, 2007
Minutes

Members Present: Eric Boender, Cathie Brassler, Tricia Dodds, LaRissa Hollingsworth, Dan Holtrop, Dan Hubka, Paul Jeltema, Ross Leisman, Jim McClurg, Jim Schipper, Dave Tiesenga, Gayle VanGessel, Tim Wiersma

Staff Present: Tom DeJonge, Eric Burgess, Jay Laninga, and Lon Swartzentruber

1. **Welcome and call to order** – Jim Schipper, President
2. **Devotions and opening prayer** – Tom DeJonge, Superintendent
3. **Approval of minutes**

MOTION MADE BY ROSS LEISMAN AND SUPPORTED BY JIM MCCLURG to approve the minutes of August 22, 2007 as revised.

MOTION PASSED

4. **Reports**

A. **Superintendent's Report** – Tom DeJonge

Tom reviewed the September 2007 Superintendent's Report; the board expressed compliments to the staff for a wonderful opening of Eagles Stadium on September 14, 2007.

B. **Executive Committee Report** – Jim Schipper

Dave Tiesenga reviewed the Committee's approval of an Inducement Reimbursement Resolution, allowing the Finance and Operations Committee opportunity to explore debt-restructuring options.

C. **Personnel Committee** – Dan Holtrop

No report

D. **Champions of Diversity** – Tom DeJonge

Tom reported that Champions leadership is being reviewed due to Ben Boerkoel's resignation; LaRissa will serve as the board representative on the committee.

E. **Development Report** – Lon Swartzentruber

Lon reported on the receipt of a three-year matching gift to launch an ESS fund drive to be done in the spring of 2008, 2009, and 2010; on the ECCES board disbanding and how GRCS will take over their annual fundraising; and on Oakdale's 115th anniversary scheduled for September 27, 2007.

F. **Admissions Office Report** – Eric Burgess

Eric provided a summary of K – 12 enrollment as of September 14, 2007, which stood at 2321 or 61 students below projections.

G. New 2 You – Dan Hubka

Jay Laninga reported that the planning for the Shoppe's \$250,000 addition is well underway and that all funds have been secured.

H. Operations and Finance Committee – Dave Tiesenga

Dave reported on:

- The Committee's review of a projected \$250,000 tuition shortfall due to enrollment coming in below projections; discussed the Committee's recommendation that no more than 1/3 of contingency be used to offset the loss of tuition revenue at this time; and that the use of more contingency will be brought back to the Committee for review and approval if necessary.
- The construction costs of Eagles Stadium being \$175,000 under budget; that the unused portion will be rolled into contingencies established for the north gymnasium.
- The Committee's recommendation that the board set budget parameters for the 2008-09 budget no later than November 2007.
- Jay Laninga reported that as of August 31, GRCS no longer had any operating line of credit and that the Schools ended the 2007-08 school year in the black.

I. Strategic Planning Committee – Tim Wiersma

Tim led a board discussion on the proposed strategic initiatives.

MOTION MADE BY JIM SCHIPPER AND SUPPORTED BY PAUL JELTEMA that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees adopts the 2007-08 Strategic Plan as presented and revised on September 17, 2007.

MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY JIM SCHIPPER AND SUPPORTED BY LARISSA

HOLLINGSWORTH that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees charges the superintendent to form task forces to address each of the strategic initiatives as described in the 2007-08 Strategic Plan. Each task force is to bring a report or recommendations to the Board for its review no later than January 21, 2008.

MOTION PASSED

5. Correspondence – Cathie Brassler

Cathie reported that she had received, on behalf of the board, a letter Tom DeJonge sent to L. and N. VanKuiken, Association members; and to J. Kuiper, President of the ECCES Board

6. Round table

- October 16 – Bright Hope for Tomorrow
- Compliment for the new strategic plan
- Encourage continued communication with parents
- Distribution of Good to Great and the Social Sectors
- Board minutes will be mailed the Tuesday before the Board Meeting
- Next meetings: Full District Boards – October 1 at GRCHS, Stapert Commons, 7:00 p.m., Board of Trustees – October 15 at GRCHS, Conference room, 7:00 p.m.

7. Closing prayer – Cathie Brassler, Secretary

8. Meeting adjourned – 9:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Buchholz, GRCS Administrative Assistant