

**Grand Rapids Christian Schools
Board of Trustees
Millbrook Christian School
February 19, 2007 Minutes**

Members Present: Cathie Brasser, Ric Hernandez, Dan Holtrop, Dan Hubka, Paul Jeltema, Ross Leisman, Jim McClurg, Jim Schipper, Candace Sorensen, Dave Tiesenga, Gayle VanGessel, Tim Wiersma

Members Absent: Jim Bush

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

Guests: Mark Krommendyk, Millbrook Christian School Principal

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Jim Schipper, President
2. Devotions – Dan Holtrop
3. Approval of the Minutes from January 22, 2007
MOTION PRESENTED BY DAN HOLTROP AND SECONDED BY PAUL JELTEMA to approve the Grand Rapids Christian Schools Board of Trustees minutes of January 22, 2007.
MOTION PASSED
4. Public Comment – None
5. Reports
 - A. Superintendent's Report
 - 1) Get Healthy – Passed \$23 million in contributions
 - 2) Sales Tax – Tom reported several updates relative to Michigan sales tax and potential impact on parent organizations
 - 3) Faith in Action – Millbrook staff presented Powerpoint on Millbrook's inclusion program
 - B. Executive Committee
 - 1) Spiritual Formation Task Force Report
MOTION MADE BY CANDACE SORENSEN AND SUPPORTED BY JIM SCHIPPER that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees endorse the January 2007 Spiritual Formation Task Force Report presented to the Board on February 19, 2007
MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY CANDACE SORENSEN AND SUPPORTED BY JIM SCHIPPER that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees adopt the following spiritual formation goals for GRCS: Knowing God, Loving God, Serving God
MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY CANDACE SORENSEN AND SUPPORTED BY GAYLE VANGESSEL to direct the Superintendent to develop key concepts for grades K – 12 which address the Reformed Christian framework of Creation – Fall – Redemption – Restoration
MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY CANDACE SORENSEN that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees, in order to support and enhance spiritual formation within GRCS and once funds are secured:
 - a) **AND SUPPORTED BY JIM SCHIPPER** to create a position for the purpose of providing direction and leadership in the area of spiritual formation and development
MOTION PASSED

- b) **AND SUPPORTED BY DAVE TIESENGA** to direct the superintendent to seek input from K – 12 staff in order to formulate a position description for the position
MOTION PASSED
- c) **AND SUPPORTED BY JIM MCCLURG** to create the position of middle school chaplain
MOTION PASSED
- d) **AND SUPPORTED BY JIM MCCLURG** to create the position of part time clerical staff to support spiritual formation and other GRCS administrative staff functions
MOTION PASSED
- e) **AND SUPPORTED BY PAUL JELTEMA** to include spiritual formation professional development funds and other related costs in the operating budget of the schools
MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY CANDACE SORENSEN AND SUPPORTED BY DAVE TIESENGA that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to establish an assessment tool for the purpose of gathering data on the spiritual climate of GRCS students
MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY CANDACE SORENSEN AND SUPPORTED BY JIM MCCLURG that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees, through the GRCS Strategic Planning Committee, studies and develops a long-range plan with respect to GRCS' utilization of Shared Time staff with local public schools
MOTION PASSED

- 2) Calendar for 2007 – 08 School Year
MOTION PRESENTED BY JIM SCHIPPER AND SUPPORTED BY PAUL JELTEMA that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees approve the 2007 – 08 school year calendars as proposed by the Superintendent on February 19, 2007
MOTION PASSED
- 3) Proposed Amendments to GRCS Bylaws
MOTION PRESENTED BY JIM SCHIPPER AND SUPPORTED BY DAVE TIESENGA that the GRCS Board of Trustees:
 - not endorse any of the Bylaw amendments submitted by a member of the Association to the Board in February 2006
MOTION PASSED
 - submit the member's proposed amendments to the Bylaws to the membership at the Annual meeting on March 19, 2007 with the understanding that the Board of Trustees does not support the amendments
MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE BY ROSS LEISMAN AND SUPPORTED BY PAUL JELTEMA to submit the following amendments to GRCS Bylaws to members of the Association at the March 19, 2007 Annual Meeting:

WHEREAS, Section 3.6, Quorum, and Section 13.1, Amendments, have been amended over the years separately from the remaining bylaws; and
 WHEREAS, confusion, ambiguity, and argument has arisen as to whether or not those amendments could allow a small minority of members to alter the voting rights of other members, force the merger or disposition of substantially all of the assets of the Association, and/or disrupt the balance of power in or usurp the authority of the Board of Trustees; and
 WHEREAS, a question has arisen whether this interpretation is consistent with state law; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Grand Rapids Christian School Association to protect the rights of the majority of its members and to allow for the orderly conduct of its business as provided in the current bylaws;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Grand Rapids Christian School Association Board of Trustees recommends that the Grand Rapids Christian School Association membership adopt the following amendments to the "Amended and Restated Grand Rapids Christian School Association Bylaws."

That the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees approve the amendment to Article III, Sections 3.6 and 3.7 to read in their entirety as follows:

Section 3.6. Quorum. Fifty (50) of the members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of members. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of the members, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. *Notwithstanding the foregoing, a quorum of a majority of all members of the Association, in person or by proxy, shall be required for consideration of any Bylaw amendments.*

Section 3.7. Absentee Ballots. At all meetings of members, a member may vote by absentee ballot *or proxy* signed by the member. Such absentee ballot *or proxy* shall be filed with the Secretary of the Association before or at the time of the meeting.

MOTION PASSED

That the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees approve the amendment to Article XIII, Section 13.1 to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 13.1. Amendments. Except for Section 1.3, these bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted as follows:

- (a) In the event the alterations, amendment, repeal, or new bylaws is proposed by the board of trustees, such alteration, amendment, repeal, or new bylaw may be adopted by a simple majority vote of the members of the association present at any meeting of the members of the association, the notice of which has included the proposed alteration, amendment, repeal, or new bylaw.
- (b) In the event the alteration, amendment, repeal, or new bylaw is proposed by a member of the association, *and after approval of the form and content of the amendment by either a majority of the Board of Trustees or a majority of the District Boards,* such alteration, amendment, repeal, or new bylaw may be adopted by a simple majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the members of the association, if such alteration, amendment, repeal, or new bylaw has been presented to the board of trustees ~~thirty (30)~~ **sixty (60)** days before the date of the membership meeting and is included in the notice for the meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Section 1.3 may be altered or amended only by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the total number of members of the Association after approval of such alteration or amendment by the Board of Trustees. *Also notwithstanding the foregoing, Bylaws shall only be amended by an affirmative vote of a majority of the total number of members of the Association.*

MOTION PASSED

C. Personnel Committee

The board reviewed proposed revisions to Section 575 – Teacher Evaluation Policy and a new section – Professional Obligations which is comprised of revisions to existing teacher credentialing, professional memberships, and professional development policies: approval of revisions and review of procedural documents is expected in April 2007

D. Finance and Operations

1) December 2006 Financials were submitted for review

2) **MOTION MADE BY DAVE TIESENGA AND SUPPORTED BY TIM WIERSMA** that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees approves the 2007 – 08 budget and corresponding

tuition rates as presented to the Board on February 19, 2007 and directs the Superintendent to submit the proposed budget to the members of the Association for its vote at the Annual Meeting on March 19, 2007.

MOTION FAILED

MOTION MADE BY ROSS LIESMAN AND SUPPORTED BY DAN HOLTROP to approve the proposed 2007-08 budget as presented with the following adjustments:

- Bus fee to be set at a sliding scale per child – discretion of staff
- Tuition increase for elementary below 5%
- Tuition increase for high school below 7%

MOTION PASSED

- 3) Reviewed cash flow for Get Healthy, including construction costs, debt service needs, and debt principle retirement
- 4) Discussed a policy to require parents who withdraw their children from school midyear to a commitment of payment for the entire semester their child attended
- 5) Reviewed the sale of Evergreen and the property having an environmental survey completed. Hope to have the sale final in the near future.

E. Nominations Committee Motion

MOTION MADE BY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE AND SUPPORTED BY RIC HERNANDEZ that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees elects the At-large nominees as presented to the Board on February 19, 2007 and directs the Superintendent to submit their names to the members of the Association for endorsement at the Annual Meeting on March 19, 2007.

- LaRissa Hollingsworth – (2007-2010)
- Eric Boender – (2007-2010)
- Tricia Dodds – (2007-2009, completing Candace Sorensen's current term)

MOTION PASSED

F. Development Office

Foundation Bylaw Revisions

MOTION MADE BY JIM SCHIPPER AND SUPPORTED BY GAYLE VANGESSEL that the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees approve the amendment of Article I, Section 2(b)-3 of the GRCS Foundation Bylaws as follows:

Normally retain the principal of all such properties and gifts received, absolutely, while paying some or all of the income there from, after payment of expenses, to the Association, or its successors, for the normal and usual costs and expenses of providing Christian education.

The Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Foundation board shall annually, no less than 60 days prior to the GRCS Annual Meeting, recommend to the Grand Rapids Christian Schools' Board of Trustees the use of the income. This Corporation may, but shall not be required to, demand proof of the proper use of such income by the Association.

MOTION TABLED

MOTION MADE BY JIM SCHIPPER AND SECONDED BY DAVE TIESENGA to approve the amended Article I, Section 2(c) of the GRCS Foundation Bylaws as follows:

Manage and report to the Association with respect to all fundraising, development, and advancement activities of the ***Association, including but not limited to annual fundraising, capital fundraising, and student recruitment Foundation.***

MOTION PASSED

G. Admissions Office – No report

H. Champions Update – No report

I. New 2 You – No report

6. Correspondence – Letter relative to GRCS tuition collection policy received from a brother of a current parent going through a divorce
7. Public Comment
 - M. Bosscher – referenced concern over proposed increase in cost of tuition and membership desire to be engaged in the Schools’ operations and governance
 - M. Swets – referenced concern about Bylaw amendments submitted to Board in February 2006
8. Round the Table
9. Closing Prayer – Cathy Brassler
10. Adjournment – 11:10 p.m.
11. Next Meeting: March 19, 2007 – Annual Meeting of the Association - VanAndel Lobby of the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship