

**GREEN WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Dennis Winters, Board President.

Tom Schrand, Board Secretary, called roll.

Present: Joan Carr, Rick Meketon, Tom Schrand, Laura Schwingel, Barry Sunshine, Dennis Winters

Absent: Julie Stapleton Carroll, Kevin Godshall, Dennis Wesley

Staff and parents present: Jean Wallace, Kim Birkmire, Joyce Clugston, Melanie Dudek, Kathleen Geist, Christy Coughlin, Mary France Wainwright, Allison Hart, Elizabeth Farwell, Barbara Mail.

A motion to approve the August 2009 Minutes made by Meketon, seconded by Sunshine. The minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report: Winters reported the increasing cooperation between the GWCS and SCEE boards. The presidents of each board will be attending each other's meetings 6 times per year. SCEE is undertaking a restoration project for the Center, and GWCS will make an effort to assist with the fundraising.

CEO's Report: Jean Wallace shared some comments posted in the online competition for best school. This year's Outward Bound trip was a success.

Business Report: Gerald Santilli reported that the state is not releasing FICA funds yet. The school district paid 70% of the normal subsidy amount, and we may not receive any money in October. The governor stated that it may be 2-3 weeks before funds are available. Philadelphia is doing better than the rest of the state in providing funds for charter schools during this crisis. Santilli reviewed the profit and loss sheet, which showed no major variances, aside from the state funding problems. GWCS has enough cash on hand to weather the budget impasse.

Committee Reports:

- Finance - Joan Carr, Chair: the Finance Committee met with Santilli to review the budget—the initial impression was favorable.
- Nominating - Barry Sunshine, Chair: two possible candidates have declined to join the board, so the committee is still looking. Ideally, the board will find someone with experience in capital campaigns. Schrand asked about finding candidates through Leadership, Inc. Sunshine offered to contact them to see if there are any appropriate candidates.
- Facilities - Dennis Winters, Chair: no report.
- Curriculum & Accountability - Tom Schrand, Chair: the CEO accountability report has been approved by the board; the committee is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the CEO.

- Strategic Planning - Barry Sunshine, Chair: the committee is trying to identify facilitators for a planning process. Winters raised the issue of board members arriving late or missing meetings. He suggested some process for automatically removing board members who miss a certain number of meetings. The bylaws have some provisions for that, but they give the board some discretion.
- Home and School - Melody Dudak, Chair: the first Home and School meeting had good attendance. Book fair is starting on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Back to School Barbecue is scheduled for Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The school directory will be published next week, with an allowance for families to opt out. Cheese cake and coupon book sales are coming up.

Old Business: Wallace asked the board members if they remembered a discussion with Mike Whisman if Charter School Choice had applied for all available stimulus funding. Rick Meketon recounted that Julie Stapleton Carroll had asked Whisman about this, and he said that he had. It has since been discovered that this had not been done, or had been done erroneously.

New Business: Meketon brought forward a motion that the board raise the opt-out option for employees from \$100 to \$350. Winters seconded the motion. Winters pointed out that even at this higher rate, GWCS would save \$1000 for each employee who makes that choice. The motion passed unanimously. The ext of resolution is printed below, as Resolution 9/23/09-4.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: the staff appreciated having Mr. Santilli speak with them during the faculty development session, and thanked the board for the higher opt-out choice, and reported that the faculty development week was very successful.

Resolutions:

- **9/23/09 -1, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees approves the August 2009 Bills List.  
**Moved by Meketon, seconded by Schwingel. The motion carried unanimously.**
- **9/23/09 -2, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees approves the contract for Catapult Learning in the amount of \$50,000 per year. This will include \$38,000 for counseling services and a \$12,000 set aside for future psychological evaluations. The \$38,000 fee also includes Catapult services for the 8th grade high school application process.  
**Moved by Sunshine, seconded by Carr. The motion carried unanimously.**
- **9/23/09 -3, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees approves the contract for Andrea Reek, Special Education Teacher, for the salary listed in the approved budget.  
**Moved by Schwingel, seconded by Meketon. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9/23/09 -3, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees approves the revised 2009-2010 operating budget, Federal budget and Stimulus budget.

**Moved by Meketon, seconded by Schwingel. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9/23/09-4, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Green Woods Charter School approve a benefit opt out program for employees with a monthly stipend of \$350.

**Moved by Meketon, seconded by Winters. The motion carried unanimously.**

Public comments: Will the board continue to distribute its budget documents? The board replied that it will discontinue the practice of handing out copies of the budget at public meetings, since this is not a common policy for charter schools. The budget documents are available to the public, but by request after the board meeting.

The staff stated that the availability of the new guidance counselor has been very helpful. Could the board post the agenda online before their meetings, so that parents and staff can decide if they want to attend? The board will make an effort to set its agenda in advance, so that it can be published in advance.

The staff also approved of moving the public meeting ahead of the executive session. Meketon thanked the staff for attending the meeting.

Meketon moved to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned by consent at 7:58 pm.