

# Charter Day School



Charter Day School Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
4 PM; Thursday April 28, 2011 Activity Center

Attendance	Trustees: (conference call by phone) Bill Barker Lori Boldt Mark Cramer Baker Mitchell Donnie Norris Steve Windham  Mark Dudeck, Assist. Treasurer Brad Barth, Dir. Pub. Info.
Executive Session	None
Call to Order	Donnie called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM with a quorum of 6 present.
Review of Present & Future Agenda Items	No changes
Approval of Minutes	The January minutes were reviewed and on motion by Donnie, seconded by Bill, they were approved as written.
Communications To/From Board	None.
RBA Report	General Items:  Baker noted several items beginning with the fact that the attorneys were proceeding with collection efforts with the counties.  He gave the status of SB8 to lift the cap as being in a conference committee.  Next the progress of the Columbus Middle School campus was noted with all approvals now having been received. He discussed the fact that the roads would be gravel base for the first several years until the price of asphalt (oil) came down from \$150/barrel. The septic field was finished and running power and water would be next.  Baker discussed the accelerated efforts to enhance the internet presence via facebook, Twitter, and Wordpress blogs. He and Brad had attended a seminar on the use of "new media" that had been very helpful. Baker has a personal blog where he rants about various topics and it is clearly labeled as not necessarily representing the views of RBA or the schools. Mark has a blog that addresses the

schools' topics with no personal input.

The new ham radio club was mentioned and the press release that went out about their participation in the air show.

Finally, Baker discussed the audit team (5 people, 2 days) that came down from Raleigh to audit our activities with regard to a number of federal grant activities. At the final briefing, they were most complimentary about our detailed records. It audit was "clean" with no findings.

#### Superintendent's Report

Mark said that he was looking into contracting bus services in the event we have an enrollment decline because of high gas prices

Next, he discussed the confluence of several separate curricula studies concerning reading comprehension, grammar, and writing over the last several years that had resulted in fitting together a package that would greatly improve our instruction in these areas.

Our DI Reading Mastery – used in K-5 – was still superior in K-2 basic reading instruction. But we have been supplementing the 3-5 grades for more advanced vocabulary and for instruction in specific comprehension skills and strategies. Other publishers have, over the last 4 or 5 years been greatly improving their basal reader series to the point where it now makes better sense to use one comprehensive series than continuing to use RM with our home-grown supplements.

On the writing side of the curriculum, recall that Cary along with a committee had been researching a number of programs but a final review found them all lacking in one component or another – usually grammar. Cary had experience with a program in Alabama – Shurley – a few years back that he thought had good possibilities but had not been considered by the committee. At a conference in Franklin he saw a later version of Shurley and was excited by its success in K-2. Mark said the coverage of Shurley in K-2 flowed well into the Treasure basal that he was proposing in 3-5 to replace RM.

The cost to transition into these new programs were included in the numbers that Mark D. would discuss in his revised budget that he was proposing later in the meeting.

Mark described a proposed "leave buy-back" program for teachers that would be optional for any teacher who did not feel the need to use all of her days off. There was no cost impact because it would merely replace substitute teacher pay for days repurchased.

Finally Mark discussed the broad impact of the continuing budget cuts from the state. Heretofore, we have been making adjustments in other areas to insulate the students from any effects of these cuts – now approaching 20% in real terms over the last 3 years. However, to now protect the core instructional mission in reading, math, science and social studies, we would be having to make programmatic cuts/adjustments in other areas such as art, music, PE, and elective activities. These areas would be addressed but in a less expansive

	<p>manner than as in the past.</p> <p><b>Budgets for 2010-2011</b>                  For the next hour, Mark D. explained the budget revisions that had occurred due to changes in revenue from the counties and from the inclusion of the proposed curricula changes. Also equipment additions and replacements were suggested to be purchased outright, rather than to be rented as in the past. Obviously the up-front costs were more but now that we had built up our reserves and could well afford these costs, it would pay off in future years by reducing the rent payments for these items. This, in general, would be Mark's strategy going forward.</p> <p>For CDS the prior approved budget surplus less the teacher bonuses approved was \$302K. The revised budget, if approved would yield a cash surplus of about \$290K with an increase in fix assets of nearly \$???? For a new increase of projected assets of \$zzzz.</p> <p>On motion by Steve, seconded by Bill, the revised CDS budget for 2010-2011 was approved with Baker and Mark abstaining.</p> <p>Mark next discussed the CDS 2011-12 projection with 930 children and assuming cuts in state and county reimbursements of 2.5%. Teacher salaries were flat but a \$90K bonus was allowed. With the cuts and the bonus, it is essentially a break-even budget with the programmatic revisions mentioned earlier by Mark C. No action was needed but it would be submitted for approval by the board in June when better estimates of the state and county amounts could be made.</p> <p>Following a similar discussion for CCS, Mark summarized the situation as the prior approved budget surplus less the teacher bonuses approved was \$203K. The revised budget, if approved would yield a cash surplus of about \$181K with an increase in fix assets of nearly \$???? For a new increase of projected assets of \$zzzz.</p> <p>On motion by Lori, seconded by Steve, the revised CCS budget for 2010-2011 was approved with Baker and Mark abstaining.</p> <p>At this point, mindful of the tornado warnings and severe weather approaching, Donnie omitted the school reports.</p>
CDS- "School of Distinction" "High Growth"	
CCS "School of Distinction" "High Growth"	
Old Business	none
New Business	On a motion by Lori and seconded by Steve, the board ratified the actions taken with Mark and Baker abstaining.
Adjournment	Donnie adjourned the meeting at 5:33PM.