



GILBERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 26, 2011 – OPEN SESSION

Board Members Present:

Scott Malm, Dan Roberts, Dustin Anderson, Ed Carr, Mark Fritts, Jim Sadler, Tim Fitzgerald, Brian Kingdeski

GCS Employees Present:

Jim Desmarchais, Adam Rasmussen & Michelle Ebright (note taker)

1.0 Call to order at 6:34 PM

- 1.1 Scott Malm commenced with Scripture from the book of Jude
- 1.2 Tim Fitzgerald opened in prayer

2.0 Call to the audience... No requests.

3.0 Approval of prior meeting minutes

- 3.1 Open Session for September 2011 approved
- 3.2 There were no Executive Session Minutes for September 2011
- 3.3 Minutes were also approved to be placed on the GCS website.

4.0 Condition of School Reports (Policy 2.8)

- 4.1 Adam Rasmussen presented on behalf of Ann Flagg, Elementary Principal
 - 4.1.1 Elementary Principal's Monthly Progress Report (Attachment A)
 - 4.1.2 Parent Survey regarding conferences and new grading system (Attachment B)
 - 4.1.2.1 Response numbers were very good
 - 4.1.2.2 Responses were positive, overall
 - 4.1.2.3 The plan for the survey results is to improve conferences.
- 4.2 Adam Rasmussen, Middle School Principal
 - 4.2.1 Middle School Principal's Monthly Progress Report (Attachment C)
 - 4.2.2 Growth
 - 4.2.2.1 Elementary is at capacity.
 - 4.2.2.2 Would like to be up by 35 students in the MS for the 2012-2013 school year

4.2.2.3 To allow for this growth, the following will have to happen:

4.2.2.3.1 Arrange some rooms differently

4.2.2.3.2 Hire a couple of new part-time teachers.

4.2.2.3.3 Rearrange student schedules

4.2.2.4 Discussion

4.2.2.4.1 Ideas about how to expand the K8 Campus

4.2.2.4.2 10-year plan of school

4.2.2.4.3 Jim Sadler will explore options for South side parking above field, where assisted living facility is planned.

4.2.3 AIMS

4.2.3.1 Pleased with where we are going.

4.2.3.2 Working on upping the scores for Math, Science and Reading

4.2.4 Mexico Mission Trip

4.2.4.1 Items were gathered from GCS families and taken down to Juarez, Mexico.

4.2.4.2 We were able to give the principal of the school a computer. Now hoping to be able to find someone or a group of people to fund internet access for him.

4.3 Jim Desmarchais, Superintendent

4.3.1 High School Monthly Status Report (Attachment D)

4.3.2 Chapels have been going well. We are gaining a good momentum with our relationship with churches in the area.

4.3.3 Homecoming Dance went well. It was encouraging to see the students enjoying being together and having a wonderful time.

4.3.4 iCollege Parent Night was a great night for parents and students to hear from Christian colleges. It motivated students to look beyond their high school years and use this time to prepare for the future. Next year we will invite churches to announce this event to their Student Ministries to give public, charter, and home school families the opportunity to attend as well.

4.3.5 SAT/ACT

4.3.5.1 Targeting the December test dates to prepare students in the classroom for these tests.

4.3.5.2 Princeton Review coming to train the students on test taking strategies.

- 4.3.6 College Readiness. Training teachers to teach towards college readiness, and those skills which will be transferable and needed when they go to college.
- 4.3.7 Part-time students discussion continued.
 - 4.3.7.1 Main discussion centered around the ceremony of graduation, allowing part-time students to fully participate including a separate certificate handed out.
 - 4.3.7.2 Some families have been a part of GCS for many years and feel a very significant part of the community of GCS. Because of this, their students feel a strong tie to GCS and would like to be a part of graduation, even if they moved to part-time status towards the end of their high school years.
 - 4.3.7.3 Talked about making Bible class a requirement at some point as a part-time student.
 - 4.3.7.4 The decision was made to discuss this topic more thoroughly.
- 4.3.8 Internal Grievance Policy will be added to the employee handbook with minor changes. This is not a Board approval item.

8:01 PM Break

8:17 PM Reconvened

4.3.9 Budget

- 4.3.9.1 Robyn Bishop supplied the Board with a helpful reference sheet for the GCS budget.
- 4.3.9.2 Would like to see:
 - 4.3.9.2.1 Budget vs. actual
 - 4.3.9.2.2 Variance relative to budget
 - 4.3.9.2.3 Historical expenses for cash flow planning in the future
- 4.3.9.3 Mark Fritts had a wonderful discussion with Robyn Bishop earlier in the day (October 26) regarding the budget. He stated that it was helpful to hear her perspective and the way she handles the budget.
- 4.3.9.4 Discussed the \$5,000 gift targeted to security at the K8 Campus. It was revenue, however it was not in the budget.
- 4.3.9.5 Discussed the fact that the church contributions (San Tan Bible Church and Harvest) are not contributions, but are incomes. Robyn is to work with Marcy on this clarification.

- 4.3.9.6 Would like to look for someone with large business finance experience to be an advisor and oversight on budgeting, policies, chart of accounts, and balance sheet to round out current team. This person would donate their time.
- 4.3.9.7 Jim Desmarchais feels good about the current budget and the ways in which Robyn is handling it.
- 4.3.9.8 Two concerns and line of credit update:
 - 4.3.9.8.1 Fundraising \$300,000
 - 4.3.9.8.2 Applied current year funds to close prior fiscal year.
 - 4.3.9.8.3 Robyn Bishop is looking in to the \$250,000 line of credit. The application cost is \$500. This was in the plan originally. The Board would like to see the details and terms of the line.
- 4.3.10 IT is going very well this year.
 - 4.3.10.1 Not having the students take the computers home has done wonders.
 - 4.3.10.2 The students are using the computers in the classrooms, but not on their own time, which is good.
 - 4.3.10.3 The computer class is creating the website for The Christian Cup basketball tournament.

5.0 Task Force Reports (Policy 4.7)

5.1 Solar Project – Jim Sadler

5.1.1 Going well on both campuses

- 5.1.1.1 On K8 campus, inspection is complete, just waiting on transformer and connection step from SRP. All should be functional by the first 2 weeks in November.
- 5.1.1.2 The education module is gaining excitement. Teachers on the K8 campus are eager to learn the software and use it as a teaching tool.
- 5.1.1.3 Chuck Bishop and his team did an excellent job of having safety first, no disruptive to the daily school routines, and doing a first-class job on the project.
- 5.1.1.4 On the high school campus, everything looks great! It is about one week out from completion, then on to SRP's inspection and connection.

5.1.1.5 There is still some documentation required at the high school, which will be worked through with the Melchizedek Foundation.

5.2 Marketing – Jim Desmarchais

5.2.1 Brain Shark

5.2.1.1 We were approved as 1 of 5 grants in the nation.

5.2.1.2 Working on ways to fully utilize the program.

5.2.2 EnrollMark (Gannett local division)

5.2.2.1 Starting up well with our assigned team of experts who each specialize in the different media arenas.

5.2.2.2 An ad in the Arizona Republic will run in the next few weeks.

5.2.2.3 Fifty new students on target from their effort for the 2012-2013 year.

5.2.2.4 A video will be made highlighting the high school with the focus on a call to parents to share their story as well as getting content from teachers.

5.2.2.5 All interested families will be encouraged to attend a Future Families Meeting.

5.3 Fundraising – Dustin Anderson

5.3.1 Gala Event to be held February 16, 2012

5.3.1.1 Dustin Anderson's wife will chair the event.

5.3.1.2 Fundraising for:

5.3.1.2.1 Teachers' salaries

5.3.1.2.2 Community help

5.3.1.3 Entertainment:

5.3.1.3.1 Comedian, Michael Junior

5.3.1.3.2 Looking for a musical element

5.3.1.4 Hoping for 200-300 guests.

5.3.1.5 Guests will purchase a table and fill it with friends and family.

5.3.1.6 Looking for a location

5.3.1.6.1 Ideas included: Legado, Falcon Field Hanger, TW Lewis banquet area on NW corner of Cooper and Elliot.

5.3.2 Golf Tournament in the Spring. May go to a new Scottsdale location through Doug Fougny's contacts.

6.0 Board Training (Policy 4.4.3)

- 6.1 Item 2.3.5 : We have never had the funds for this.
- 6.2 Item 2.3.7 : communicate to the Board the names.
- 6.3 Item 2.3.9 : This falls under Jim Sadler's idea for an advisor.
- 6.4 No questions or changes.

7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 Part-time student graduation issue was discussed above at 4.3.7.

8.0 New Business

Jim Sadler will look into the land owned by the assisted living structure to be built in Agritopia.

9.0 Executive Session

Executive Session ended at approximately 9:45 pm.

BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2011

ATTACHMENT A

Elementary Principal's Monthly Progress Report



Gilbert Christian Schools

Elementary Principal's Monthly Progress Report

October 26, 2011

Ann Flagg is working towards a state principal certificate in administration through Northern Arizona University. The course she must take this semester is on Wednesday evenings. She will send a written report until she can rejoin the board meetings in January.

1. Spiritual Health

1.1 Special Programs in October Promote Spiritual Growth

Thanks middle school for hosting elementary students for "Who Will be King?" morning
Thanks to veterans and service to God and country taught at October Grandma's
Cookies

1.2 Fieldtrip to House of Refuge Supports Food Drive

House of Refuge visit next week will help elementary children in grades 2-5 understand
how their food drive items help others.

1.3 Enrollment increased to 328 PK - 5 students this quarter

2. Academic Health

2.1 Science Program

AIMS scores have dramatically increased since changing curriculum and format. In 2009
76% of GCS 4th grade students passed and 24% exceeded. In 2011 87% of 4th grade
students passed and 44% exceeded. The AIMS test is only given in the 4th and 8th
grades. Good job to Mrs. Enright, the elementary science specialist.

2.2 Strings Program

Mrs. Flagg visited a Suzuki strings program at a Mesa Public School and gathered
information from an ASU and NAU professor concerning early childhood strings
pedagogy. Both sources report that an "ear-based" method of instruction is the best for
early elementary children. All sources agree the motor skills a stringed instrument
requires are so complex that it is best to leave other skills such as note reading for a
later grade. The early-childhood techniques Mrs. Flagg observed were delightfully
effective with the young children.

2.3 Parent Survey Emailed to Elementary Parents as Follow-Up to Conferences

An electronic survey was sent to all parents on Monday, October 24 to gather feedback about the new report card format and conferences. Mrs. Flagg used SurveyMonkey to construct the survey. Results are attached to this board report. She hopes to survey elementary families several times this year.

2.4 Teacher Evaluation Plan in Process

Elementary teachers in their 1st and 2nd year of teaching at GCS were each videotaped first quarter while teaching a Spalding spelling lesson and then coached in Spalding instruction. Second quarter's goal is to videotape every teacher so she may self-evaluate her group instruction techniques. Specific training has been given by Jim Desmarchais and follow-up steps and specific criteria introduced by Ann Flagg are helping teachers improve their group lessons. After self-evaluation, each teacher with Mrs. Flagg will establish her own goals for instructional improvement. This lays the groundwork for formal evaluations in January and February.

BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2011

ATTACHMENT B

Parent Survey Results

Can't find your account? It may have been deleted. Find it under your user name or to the right. Log in now.

egg3354@gmail.com

Sign Out Help

My Surveys Address Book Resources Plans & Pricing

+ Create Survey

You have a **BASIC** account | To remove the limits of a BASIC account and get unlimited questions, upgrade now!

Elementary School Conferences

Education Edit

Design Survey Collect Responses Analyze Results

View Summary

Default Report

+ Add Report

Browse Responses

Filter Responses

Crosstab Responses

Download Responses

Share Responses

Response Summary

Total Started Survey: 84
Total Completed Survey: 84 (100%)

PAGE: 1

1. Please mark the grade level of your child. (If you have multiple children enrolled in the elementary school, you may take this survey for each child. This survey does not include preschool.)

Create Chart

Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
kindergarten	19.0%	16
1st grade	19.0%	16
2nd grade	22.6%	19
3rd grade	19.0%	16
4th grade	7.1%	6
5th grade	19.0%	16
answered question		84
skipped question		0

2. I was informed about my child's academic progress.

Create Chart

Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	85.7%	72
Agree	14.3%	12
No opinion	0.0%	0
Disagree	0.0%	0
Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
answered question		84
skipped question		0

3. I was informed about my child's spiritual and character development.

Create Chart

Download

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	72.6%	61
Agree	21.4%	18
answered question		84
skipped question		0

3. I was informed about my child's spiritual and character development.	Create Chart	Download
No opinion	1.2%	1
Disagree	3.6%	3
Strongly disagree	1.2%	1
answered question		84
skipped question		0

4. The new K-3 report card is a helpful tool for communicating academic progress.	Create Chart	Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	45.1%	37
Agree	29.3%	24
No opinion - I do not have a child in these grade levels	20.7%	17
Disagree	4.9%	4
Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
answered question		82
skipped question		2

5. If you have a brief comment about the new K-3 report card, you may include one here.	Download
	Response Count
Show Responses	18
answered question	18
skipped question	66

6. If you are taking this survey about a child in the 4th or 5th grade, do you regularly check Renweb grades on-line during the quarter?	Create Chart	Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	21.9%	14
No	7.8%	5
I did not know this was available	6.3%	4
I do not have a child in the 4th or 5th grade.	64.1%	41
answered question		64
skipped question		20

7. The academic needs of my child are being met at Gilbert Christian Elementary School.		
	Create Chart	Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	71.4%	60
Agree	26.2%	22
No opinion	1.2%	1
Disagree	1.2%	1
Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
answered question		84
skipped question		0

8. The teacher cares about my child.		
	Create Chart	Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	88.1%	74
Agree	10.7%	9
No opinion	1.2%	1
Disagree	0.0%	0
Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
answered question		84
skipped question		0

9. I understand the teacher's goals for my child.		
	Create Chart	Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	69.0%	58
Agree	26.2%	22
No opinion	1.2%	1
Disagree	3.6%	3
Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
answered question		84
skipped question		0

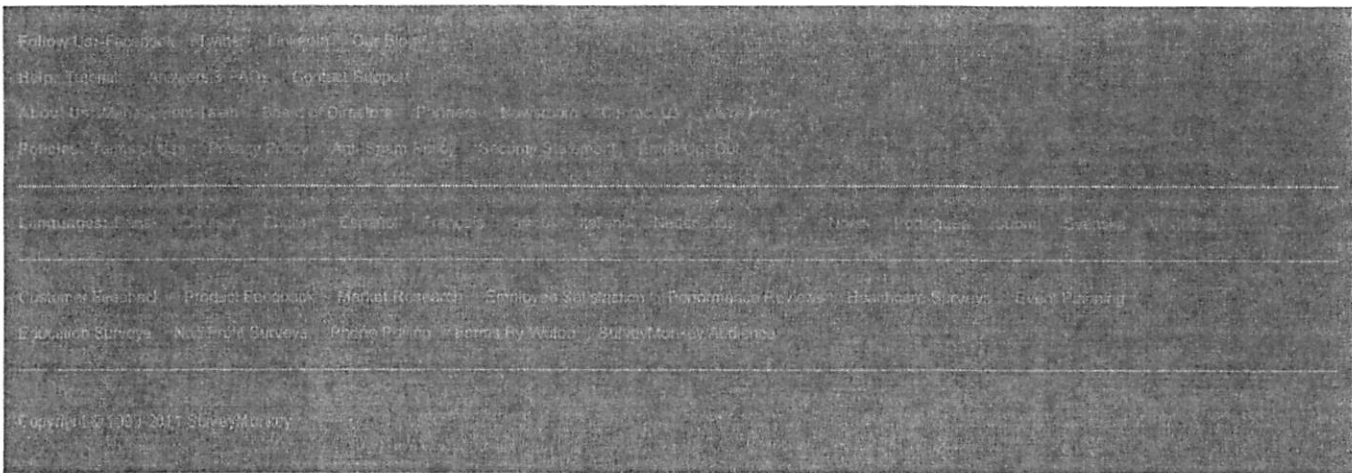
10. My family is pleased with our overall experience at the elementary school.		
	Create Chart	Download
	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree	73.8%	62
Agree	23.8%	20
answered question		84
skipped question		0

10. My family is pleased with our overall experience at the elementary school.

Create Chart

Download

Response	Percentage	Count
No opinion	1.2%	1
Disagree	1.2%	1
Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
answered question		84
skipped question		0



BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2011

ATTACHMENT C

Middle School Principal's Monthly Progress Report



Gilbert Christian Schools

Middle School Principal's Report

Academic and Spiritual Health

October 26, 2011

1. Academic Health

GCS Middle School Enrollment

GCS middle school enrollment is up 6% from last year. Praise God for the growth during an economically difficult time. The total enrollment increase between the years 2009-2011 is 17% (10% growth in 2010).

- 2009-2010 116 students (2009- 35, 45, 36)
- 2010-2011 128 students (2010- 46, 46, 36)
- 2011-2012 136 students (2011- 51, 48, 37)

AIMS 2011 GCS Compared to State Averages

More data came in this week regarding 2011 AIMS scores. As matter of review, in 100% of all subjects and grade levels, GCS middle school students as a whole greatly exceeded the state average. There are 173 different strands and concepts covering the four subjects of AIMS: reading, writing, math, and science. In the 2010-2011 school year GCS middle school students met or exceeded the state average in all but one area. 172 of 173 concepts equal 99.4%.

AIMS 2011 GCS Compared to HUSD

	Reading	Writing	Math	Science
Grade 6	GCS E-31 HUSD E- 12	GCS E-37 HUSD E-13	GCS E-59 HUSD E-39	N/A
Grade 7	GCS E-26 HUSD E-16	GCS E-22 HUSD E-7	GCS E-41 HUSD E-37	N/A
Grade 8	GCS E-22 HUSD E-24	N/A	GCS E-24 HUSD E-24	GCS E-46 HUSD E-57

Communication with Stakeholders

Great communication with parents is critical to a great school. This year we are working hard to build lasting lines of communication.

- Meetings, emails, and newsletters to communicate our mission: *To transform students into effective communicators, critical thinkers, and servant leaders who will impact the world for the glory of Jesus Christ.*
- Parents' Meeting- 7:00pm November 12 "How to Raise an Effective Communicator"
- Monthly Newsletters

Upgrade in K-8 Campus Safety and Security

Through the generous donations of GCS families we are installing an outdoor paging system and surveillance cameras. This upgrade in safety and security will make the K8 campus an even better place for our students.

ACSI Conference

On November 4 GCS teachers will attend the ACSI Conference in Tempe. Dr. Mark Eckel will be presenting the topic Integrative Learning: It's Not One More Thing- It's the Only Thing. This professional development experience is a great opportunity for us to network with other Christian schools, learn about curriculum, strengthen morale, and build up our wonderful teachers.

8th Grade Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 18 at 7pm in the K8 Field House with a reception to follow in the cafeteria.

2. Spiritual Health

Mr. Redding

Our beloved Bible teacher, Jerome Redding has been diagnosed with sarcoma and will be traveling to New York to have surgery and receive treatment. The outpouring of God's grace on our campus at this difficult time has truly been humbling. Joey Tartaglia will be the substitute teacher for the time Mr. Redding is gone.

S.A.L.T.

On Tuesday, October 18 the entire middle school was mobilized for S.A.L.T. ("Serve And Learn Together"). We served the elementary students in a day camp focused on the question, "Who Will Be Your King?"

Mexico Trip

The first school-wide ministry project was a huge success. Over fall break 43 individuals brought food and supplies to needy families in Mexico. We built 2 houses, did a food outreach, sponsored a medical clinic, and visited with the principal of a middle school in the area.

BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2011

ATTACHMENT D

Superintendent's Monthly Progress Report



Gilbert Christian Schools

High School Monthly Status Report

October 26, 2011

SPIRITUAL HEALTH

A. Chapel

GCHS continues to invite local pastors to be guest speakers at Chapel. In the past month we have been blessed by Clay Miller from San Tan Bible and Joey Baysinger from Gateway Fellowship. Darren Zink led worship with student Katelyn Moses adding vocals.

B. Homecoming Dance

Our first dance of the year was the Homecoming Dance on September 24th. It was well attended. Student Council, under Pam Palacio's leadership, did an outstanding job of preparing the cafeteria for the dance. The behavior at all our dances has been exceptional, but this one exceeded all past dances for behavior. The students were outstanding. It is the type of environment where any parent can feel comfortable that their child is in a "safe" environment.

ACADEMIC HEALTH

A. iCollege Parent Night

Our iCollege Parent Night was October 19th. We had over 100 parents and students attend this special night which introduced 13 different Christian universities to our families. Parents and students had the opportunity to hear presentations and receive information on the following schools:

- ❖ Colorado Christian University
- ❖ Point Loma Nazarene University
- ❖ Simpson University
- ❖ Vanguard University
- ❖ Biola University
- ❖ Azusa Pacific University
- ❖ Hope College

- ❖ Providence Christian University
- ❖ Arizona Christian University
- ❖ Grand Canyon University
- ❖ The Master's College
- ❖ Gordon College
- ❖ Dordt College

Next year we will publicize the event through local churches to increase attendance.

B. SAT/ACT Prep

As a school we are focused on students participating in the December 3rd SAT or the December 10th ACT tests. Math and English teachers will be providing reviews leading up to the tests to help students prepare. We will also be providing an SAT/ACT test-taking strategy session for students leading up to the test. Our goal is to increase student performance on college entrance exams, and increase the correlation between academic performance at GCS and scores on college entrance exams.

C. Teacher Training

This week we looked at college readiness. My goal is for teachers to make it a priority to focus on college readiness when determining what curriculum will be taught, and how it will be emphasized through teaching, assignments and assessments. We need to focus our students on the subject content and skills that will transfer to college success.

D. Enrollment as of 10/26/11

Total Enrollment – 608 (+8)

Elementary – 327 (+2)

Middle School – 135 (+3)

High School – 146 (+3)

PK	29	6	50
K	67	7	48
1	45	8	37
2	56		
3	41	9	35
4	42	10	42
5	47	11	30
		12	39