



# GRAND RAPIDS ADVENTIST ACADEMY

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September 18, 2017

GRAA Constituency Delegates  
Constituent Pastors  
Constituent Head Elders  
Constituent Clerks

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to announce the convening of the Grand Rapids Adventist Academy regular Constituency Meeting to take place on Monday, November 6, 2017. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the GRAA music room.

We would ask that Pastors, Head Elders and Clerks make sure this meeting is announced in your local church bulletins and that the appropriate delegates are informed. Delegates, please bring this packet with you to the meeting.

Included with this letter you will find important items that will be covered at the upcoming meeting. Please look these items over before coming to the meeting. If you wish to have additional information on any of the agenda items please contact the school. They will direct you to the correct individuals.

Your prayers and your participation in this meeting are both very important to our school and its continued ministry in the lives of our students. Thank you for your dedication to Adventist Christian education and to the growth of our local Academy.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bob Stewart  
GRAA Constituency Chairperson



***Educating for Life and Eternity***  
Constituency Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2017

Pastor Bob Stewart, Constituency Chairperson  
Burney Culpepper, GRAA Principal

**PRESENT**

**CENTRAL DELEGATES (2):**

Doug LaFave

**MARANATHA SPANISH DELEGATES (2):**

Altagracia Cruz, Pastor Leeroy Hernandez

**ROGERS HEIGHTS SPANISH DELEGATES (2):**

Vanessa Portela, Pastor Eric Del Valle

**WYOMING DELEGATES (2):**

Yvonne Greene, Pastor Dan Rachor

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

Nereida Martinez, School Board Chairperson

Scott Evans, Assistant Chair of Finances

Lynn Snelling, Financial Manager

**GUESTS:**

Debra Barr, Karen Everett, Brenda Mejeur, Yudelka Orosco, Tim Rasmussen,  
Mike Snelling, Eric Velez, Dale Vinton

Pastor Bob Stewart  
Call to Order

**7:00 PM**

Pastor Bob Stewart

**PRAYER**

A devotional talk by Pastor Dan Rachor of Wyoming Church

**DEVOTION**

**MOTION:** To approve the October 2016 Constituency Minutes as sent out

**16/17 – 6C**

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**MINUTES**

Burney Culpepper reported on Principal's Report as follows:

**PRINCIPAL'S  
REPORT**

- Our current enrollment: 120 students (65 elementary, 55 secondary)
- Appreciation to the staff, parents and school board volunteers for their support and hard work was expressed.
- GRAA being a mission driven school:
  - Focusing our energies to vision for spiritual, academic and facilities
  - Use students for church visitation and assistance such as choir, band, preaching, praise groups etc...

- Train our students to continue to grow and be able to serve the community, families and churches

Scott Evans, Assistant Chair of Finances, presented Financial Report of March 2017

**FINANCE  
REPORT**

**MOTION:** To approve the Finance Report of March 2017

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**16/17 – 7C  
FINANCE  
REPORT**

A preliminary budget for the 2017-18 school year was presented by Scott Evans. We have 120 students enrolled this school year and achieved our goal. An earlier projected goal for the 2017-18 school year was an enrollment of 135 students. The preliminary budget being recommended today is for 105 students, which is more realistic based on our current student population. The challenge to the board and the constituency today is to find ways to increase the enrollment by this fall to 135 students who can financially pay tuition either by the family, donors, or both. If we succeed, we will be much closer to a balanced budget that will not compromise our basic programs.

**PRELIMINARY  
BUDGET  
2017-18**

With 105 students, there are several things to consider:

- Projected 15 student decrease rather than a 15 increase
- Projected loss of \$137,056
  - Elementary teacher position open
  - Possibly hire assistants rather than a teacher to reduce deficit
  - Proposed tuition did not increase

The Michigan Conference is changing back to senior academy payroll subsidy which includes:

- Currently, all high school teachers are subsidized at a flat rate
- Only 1.5 high school teachers will be subsidized at a flat rate
- 1.5 additional high school positions will be subsidized by the senior academy formula
  - Subsidy changes are projected to be less than a \$500 loss

To sustain GRAA over the next few years, we must increase enrollment with a student body whose tuition and fees are paid throughout the year. Neither the board, pastors, nor administration have reason to believe a group of families exist to enroll 30 additional students who can pay full tuition for next year. More students are out there if we had financial aid for them. Even then we may or may not be able to get 30 more students.

For a number of years, it has been discussed that in addition to tuition covered by parents and churches, we need an additional source of revenue. An example would be for the school to run a business, but no ideas with plans have been submitted. If you have ideas or other suggestions, please share them with the administration.

**MOTION:** To approve the preliminary budget of 2017-18 as presented

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**16/17 – 8C  
RELIMINARY  
BUDGET  
2017-18**

Nereida Martinez presented recommendations of by-laws changes from the school board as follows:

**BY-LAWS  
CHANGES**

To increase constituent delegates currently 2 delegates to 5 delegates (page 5, line: 111)

**MOTION:** To accept the recommendation

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**16/17 – 9C**

The current bylaws states that:

“A quorum shall consist of those constituency delegates present at a biannual meeting, at a special meeting, provided notice for a special meeting has been followed, a quorum shall consist of 25% of the total delegates” (page 7, line: 175)

The school board recommends to keep the same quorum of 25% of the total delegates as is, but include attendance of at least one voting delegate from each constituent church:

“A quorum for constituency and special meetings shall consist of twenty-five (25%) of the total delegates, which should include at least one voting delegate from each constituent church.”

A delegate voiced concerns to add “at least one voting delegate from each constituent church.”

A delegate pointed out to change the word “should” to “will” or “must” to clarify the concept or completely remove the very last sentence.

**MOTION:** To remove last sentence from the recommendation:

“A quorum for constituency and special meetings shall consist of twenty-five (25%) of the total delegates”

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**16/17 – 10C  
BY-LAWS  
CHANGES (1)**

The school board recommends to add the Alumni President as a board position (page 10, line: 268)

**MOTION:** To accept the recommendation

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**16/17 – 11C  
BY-LAWS  
CHANGES (2)**

**MOTION:** To adjourn

**VOTED:** To carry the motion

**16/17 – 12C  
ADJOURN**

Prayer by Pastor Eric Del Valle

Pastor Bob Stewart, Constituency Chairperson  
Burney Culpepper, Principal