

**Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes Tuesday, April 17, 2018**  
**Held in GSA Media Center at 6 p.m.**

*Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:11 p.m.*

**Open and Welcome**

**Roll Call of Members:** Ms. Amy Noble

**Board Members Present:** Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. William Smith, Ms. Virda Adams, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Dr. Linda Bass, Dr. Sandra White

**Board Members Present via phone:** Dr. Zakiya Whatley

**Board Members Absent:** Ms. Tammie Hall, Mr. Brian Wilson, Mr. Kirk McCoy

**Non-Board Members Present:** Mr. Jason Jowers, Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mrs. Christanna Griffin-Cradle, Ms. Tamika Satchell, Ms. Elyse Otten, Ms. Wilishia Bettis, Mrs. Jeanetta Hopkins

**Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Curry asked for an amendment to the agenda regarding the Strings Presentation being moved up to after the agenda approval. The agenda for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. White and a second by Dr. Bass with the amendment of moving up the String Presentation.

**Strings Proposal – Special Presentation**

Mrs. Jeanetta Hopkins, founder of Bull City Music School, presented information regarding a proposal for a Strings Program at GSA. As a former Durham Public Schools teacher, Mrs. Hopkins explained how the Strings Program integrates motor, interpersonal, and organizational skills into learning how to play the violin or viola.

She proposed Strings classes be offered 2 days per week – 2 classes, 45 minutes each, with 10 students per class. She recommends starting with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Students may rent the instruments from outside organizations which would include insurance or the school may buy the instruments and rent them to the students. Estimated cost to purchase the instruments: Violins - \$200-240, Viola - about \$275. Mrs. Hopkins has been working with Mr. Jowers regarding grants that would help cover the cost of the program.

**Public Input**

Ms. Elyse Otten - current 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Tamika Satchell - Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Christanna Griffin-Cradle – Kindergarten Instructional Assistant, and Ms. Wilishia Bettis - 2nd grade Instructional Assistant introduced themselves.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Board minutes from Tuesday, March 20, 2018 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Allen and a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell.

**Standard Reports:**

***Brittany Curry – Managing Director Quick Hits***

- Looking for proctors for testing - training in May and testing in June.
- EC audit – GSA received a request for additional financial information. The deadline is April 27. Ms. Barnes is scheduled to be onsite Wednesday-Friday to assist.
- Washington D.C. trip was a huge success. Dr. White read her letter from a student that attended.
- Staff Retreat - Looking to do an end-of-year event – more information to come.

- Lottery Analysis - Full analysis coming next month.
- Current enrollment is 194.

**Jason Jowers – Head of School      Academic Updates**

North Carolina is officially moving away from the Common Core standards beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

mClass end of year assessments will take place May 1-21.

The 2018-2019 preliminary draft schedule has been shared with the scheduling subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet for approval. Tabling the discussion until the May meeting.

Teacher of the Year will be announced May 4.

Teacher Appreciation Week is April 30-May 4.

The GSA Book Fair is April 30-May 4.

**Jason Jowers – Head of School      21<sup>st</sup> Century Program Updates**

All 21<sup>st</sup> Century extra-curricular classes for grades 3-8 will conclude May 1 (except for STEM and Chess).

Spiral plans were developed during Intersession for each class. All classes will begin intensive EOG review in May.

EOG packets are being developed for classes without a licensed teacher.

Tutors will begin providing intervention May 1.

**Brittany Curry – Managing Director      Tech Stewardship**

We continue to improve month over month as additional firewalls are added and surprise checks are performed.

**Jamie Nobles – GSA Accountant      Financial Report**

Ms. Nobles presented the financial report. We are 75% through school year. GSA received federal funds and last allotment for 21st Century. We received a \$10k federal grant in April that Agatha Brown worked on.

Expenses - on track.

Beginning April payroll, GSA is implementing auto enroll for 401K at 3% matching for all full-time staff. Staff have the option to opt out.

Cash balances for Kenan Charitable Trust and Tabitha Foundation were also reported.

Mr. Smith highlighted the importance for continued accuracy for Federal funds.

Union Baptist Church (UBC) - received \$38,242 year to date - about 54% of target. Collecting money after 3rd Monday and donation letters will go out once a month. Ms. Adams said she will call every Monday for Ms. Nobles to come over if there are checks.

Audits - Ms. Rebekah Barr (who performed the GSA audit last year) sent audit contract. Contingent upon the review of contract, there was a motion by Mr. Smith to renew the contract with Ms. Barr to perform the audit and 990 form if she is eligible to continue as our expert with a second by Dr. White. Motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the Financial Report from March 29 as reported with a second by Dr. Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

Ms. Curry – gave a report regarding a meeting with UBC. We are working with a great new team including Shelton Gore and Allen Ingram.

We are to expect a payment for online donations to GSA. GSA will be removed from the website and there will be one place where people may donate. We may receive a slight shift in church support. The rent will be raised in September - have not received information as to what the increase will be. They are not supportive of first right of refusal so we will co-manage a calendar. GSA will pay for the fire inspection on the school building. Dr. Johnson asked for the topic to be tabled and a meeting to be setup with Pastor Rivers with the executive committee of the school as soon as possible.

Building maintenance issues - UBS requested continuing physical work orders. Mr. Giles is sharing time at UBC and GSA for building repairs.

#### ***Brittany Curry – Managing Director Grants***

21st Century - funding cut across North Carolina. The State still asks for a letter of intent.

Steelcase - did not receive. They shifted their focus to upper grades and university level.

Transportation Grant - GSA received this grant for at least \$22k. Allotment will drop in June.

Retention Engagement Plans are underway with Kenan Charitable Trust, Tabitha Foundation, and Goodnight Foundation.

We are going after a Digital Learning Initiative grant and a Coding grant.

Grandfather Mountain - did not receive this grant but will likely receive in the next round to be announced in June.

#### ***Brittany Curry – Managing Director Budget Planning***

GSA administration met last week with the Board Finance Committee. Mr. Jowers, Ms. Curry, and Ms. Nobles met this week and will meet again with the Finance Committee. They are pushing for review with the full Board in May. Mr. Smith indicated the budget will be tight for the next school year and expressed the importance of keeping financial discipline in place.

#### **Old Business:**

##### ***Brittany Curry – Managing Director Washington, D.C. Trip Recap***

The GSA Student Ambassadors had a wonderful trip to Washington D.C. They spent several hours in the Nation Museum of African American History and Culture, visited the monuments, portraits in the Smithsonian, attended the USA Science and Engineering Festival, and met with local community leaders. It was a phenomenal experience for the scholars.

**Adjournment for Closed Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to go into Closed Session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes under the North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) with a second by Dr. Allen at 7:33 p.m.

**Open Session:**

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. Smith at 8:12 p.m. with a second by Dr. Allen.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Smith made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.