

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Held in GSA Media Center at 6 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:03 p.m.

Open and Welcome

Roll Call of Members: Ms. Amy Noble

Board Members Present: Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Dr. Sandra White, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell

Board Members Present via phone/Skype: Dr. Linda Bass, Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Mr. Brian Wilson

Board Members Absent: Mr. William Smith, Ms. Virda Adams, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Ms. Tammie Hall

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Andrea Carroll, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mr. Elton O'Neal, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Ms. Nikia Glass, Ms. Amy Brock, Mrs. Shana Brye

Agenda Approval

The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. White and a second by Dr. Bass.

Public Input

None

Meeting Minutes Approval

The Board minutes from Tuesday, November 13, 2018 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. White and a second by Dr. Johnson.

Presentations

Ms. Brock – GSA's middle school science teacher shared about how the middle school scholars shared their academic progress with their parents through student-led conferences. An 8th grader presented her academic progress as of mid-year and her direction for the rest of the school year. Scholars built a presentation to explain their learning styles, progression of grades from 1st to 2nd quarter, academic strengths and weaknesses, areas for growth, high school plans and career goals, and SMART goals.

Standard Reports:

Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School Academic Reports

Current enrollment is 206.

A draft of the 2019-2020 School Calendar was included in the packet. Dr. Carroll asked the Board Members to review the calendar and provide feedback. She highlighted one of the strong points of the

calendar is having early release days to provide an opportunity for teachers to have professional development, which aligns with our School Improvement Plan.

The following permanent staff positions have been filled:
Middle school guidance counselor – Mrs. Lakeisha Thomas
Grade 3 teacher and BT coordinator - Mrs. Anitra Williams
Visual Arts teacher - Ms. Linda Cato

The following long-term subs are in place:
Exceptional Children's teacher – Ms. Emunda Reed
Intervention teacher – Dr. Brenda Crowder-Gaines

Professional Development opportunities were offered to staff in January – A+ Training and Differentiation.

Our first School Improvement Plan Committee Meeting will be held on February 6 and will include parent volunteers.

Our GSA Chess Champion is Casey Mitchell, a 4th grade scholar. He was the only scholar to complete and meet the 100 problem challenge! He will be granted a free opportunity to participate in the K-12 Triangle Chess Tournament Championship this weekend.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Tech Stewardship

Only a few incidents – continuing to monitor streaming activities. There was a social media incident which will be discussed in Closed Session. A letter went home today regarding cyber bullying. Mrs. Hairston Mitchell and Dr. Carroll are working to bring a resource to a Parent Empowerment Meeting to discuss impacts of cyber bullying. The no cell phone policy is also being enforced.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Financial Reports

Ms. Curry presented the financial reports through November and December.
We received some EC funds, Title 1 funds are pending DPI approval – expecting a total of \$91k.
Union Baptist Church year-to-date giving to GSA is \$23,895.
A mid-year budget assessment was had with leadership in December to discuss staff openings and upcoming events that may impact the budget.
A Fresh Fruit and Vegetable audit is coming up February 2019.
A School Nutrition Audit will be held in March 2019.
December tracker - high note – we are halfway through the year and expenses are on track.

Government Shutdown: Implications for GSA

GSA funds that have been impacted by to the government shutdown: Title 1 funds, Title 4 funds, School Nutrition funds, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program funds. Total funds we are expecting: \$169k. A letter was received regarding the shutdown and school nutrition funds indicating there are funds through March. The opening of the 21st Century grant application process may be delayed due to the shutdown – as soon as it opens, GSA will apply.

Old Business:

Technology Stewardship: Worksmart Transition
We are managing the transition from Worksmart to performing the services in house with a consultant from Avin technologies. We will realize significant savings through this process.

Fundraising - \$50k challenge update - we landed at \$121k!! We used MailChimp and Classy Email Campaigns. As a result of this challenge and their generous donation, we will have a site visit from the Kenan Charitable Trust.

Tabitha Foundation - Dr. Johnson had dinner with Susan Heinemann and continues to foster the relationship.

Ms. Curry will also follow up with Fletcher Foundation

GSA is working on a web page for the Board Members. Requested items: a letter from the Board and background information for Board Member bios.

New Business:

Forward Thinking – upcoming events at GSA were mentioned.

Dr. Allen moved and Dr. White seconded to accept the November and December financial reports. Motion carries.

Adjournment for Closed Session:

A motion was made by Dr. White to go into Closed Session at 6:58 p.m. Second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Dr. Allen at 8:01 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell.

Dr. Carroll will follow up on professional development opportunities.

Ms. Nobles will research the Benefit Bank program.

Adjournment

Dr. Allen made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.