

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, August 21, 2018
Held in GSA Media Center at 6 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:08 p.m.

Open and Welcome

Dr. Johnson announced new leadership for the school - Dr. Andrea Carroll is the new Head of School. She brings a wealth of experience in K-12 education. Mr. Elton O'Neal will serve as the new Assistant Head of School.

Ms. Nikia Glass will serve as a teacher representative on the Board.

Roll Call of Members: Amy Noble

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

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

Board Members Absent: Ms. Tammie Hall, Dr. Sandra White

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Andrea Carroll, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mr. Elton O'Neal, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Ms. Nikia Glass, Ms. Tamika Satchell, Mrs. Shana Brye, Ms. Lakeisha Holliday, Mr. Marcus Blackwell (online)

Agenda Approval

Ms. Curry asked for an amendment to the agenda regarding the removal of the Sonya Quijada presentation as she is unable to attend. The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. McCoy and a second by Mr. Smith.

Public Input

Mrs. Shana Brye – parent of a first grader, Ms. Tamika Satchel – Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Lakeisha Holliday – Middle School Math teacher present.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The Board minutes from Tuesday, June 19, 2018 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. McCoy and a second by Dr. Bass.

Marcus Blackwell – Make Music Count Special Presentation

Mr. Blackwell presented his program, Make Music Count. This program marries music and math. Students solve math problems and the answers are musical notes to a popular song. He demonstrated how the program works. Students would use iPads or computers. Mr. Blackwell will be available to train the teachers on the application. For the first year, Mr. Blackwell will offer the program to GSA at 25% of the cost - \$3k. Ms. Curry will follow up with Mr. Blackwell.

Lakeisha Holliday – Faculty Update

Ms. Holliday, GSA's Middle School Math teacher, shared how she came into teaching and her passion to teach math. She showed examples of project-based learning being implemented in the classroom and how using math translates into everyday life skills.

Standard Reports:

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Hot Topics

Financial Audit coming up with Ms. Barr.

Mr. Smith presented Fraud Audit information.

Staffing updates - most positions have been filled.

Ms. Glass - GSA Board Representative

BOD nominations are being accepted.

Current enrollment is 216.

IT Consultant - will deliver comprehensive report that will highlight ways we can save money.

Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School Academic Reports

Dr. Carroll presented areas of focus since the beginning of the school year.

Focus - re-aligning the staff, students, and community to the mission of GSA. Reference

Assessments - 3rd grade BOG (beginning-of-grade testing) has been completed. Case 21 assessments are coming up shortly. BOG results: A large number of students are struggling with reading and test-taking strategies. M-class data indicates many of the scholars are at or close to grade level in regards to reading level.

GSA New Hires – Asst. Head of School, 3rd grade Instructional Assistant, 4th grade teacher, Middle Grades Math teacher, Middle Grades Science teacher

Vacancies – In-school suspension/behavior educationally developed position

Contracted Services - Sylvia Biddle as a teacher mentor (two half days per week) and a Math consultant (one day per week for 6 weeks)

Focusing on growth in all levels of learners - low performing, bubble students, and high flyers. Focus on challenging the high flyers and AIG program.

Surveyed teachers regarding software they are using.

A school improvement plan will be developed during Intersession.

Master Schedule Changes – requiring the integration of Literacy and Social Studies and Math and Science in K-5, Math and Reading intervention.

Extended Day – focus on building a stronger program that seamlessly connects extended day learning to earlier in the school day.

Staff development – New staff development in MTSS and cooperative learning.

Dr. Allen asked how the LEGO kits can be integrated in K-8 and asked that the consultant be contacted regarding the rest of the paid training. EC program – Asked Dr. Carroll to contact the EC consultant (Mrs. Barnes) regarding IEP system training and updates.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Tech Stewardship

100% compliance in July. Grades 5-8 have new devices. Management programs are on those computers. Students use Hot Spots when out of the building. We are preparing old computers for a buyback program to help recoup some costs.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Financial Reports

Ms. Curry presented the financial report through June 30, 2018. \$134k delivered to reserve this year.

No major revenue updates.

21st Century – clean audit in July.

Workers Compensation audit coming up August 27.

Financial audit is September 7.
Updated 2018-2019 proposed budget – assuming on the revenue side for 215 students.
\$340k fundraising goal for this school year
Salaries - retention bonuses
\$65k grant received
Compilation report from Thomas and Gibbs

Mr. Smith moved and Dr. Allen seconded to approve financial report from Thomas and Gibbs for end of 2017-2018 school year. Motion carries.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Fundraising Reports

Tabitha Foundation - very positive visit.
Kenan Charitable Trust – good feedback from visit and Ms. Curry will follow up with a plan on instructional, fundraising, and professional development sides.
National Security Agency from NC State – GSA will enter into a partnership with them.
Transportation Funds - no funds allocated yet this year.
Received \$4k grant for physical education and nutrition.
Received \$65k grant for mental health professional.

The fundraising sub-committee had a kickoff meeting in June.

Old Business:

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Teacher Working Conditions Survey

This topic has been tabled until the next Board Meeting.

New Business:

Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School Organizational Chart

This topic has been tabled until Closed Session.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Walter Bannerman

Walter Bannerman, graduated from GSA last year, has been accepted on a full-ride scholarship to Woodberry Forest School!

Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School School wide Instructional Plan

A school improvement plan will be developed during Intersession.

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 Mr. McCoy to go into Closed Session at 8:07 p.m.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. McCoy at 9:08 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to ratify the Finance Committee contract negotiations and spend with a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to approve the revised budget with a second by Mr. McCoy. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to table the organization chart discussion and publication until Dr. Johnson has a meeting with leadership. Second by Mr. McCoy. Motion carries.

Dr. Johnson recognized Mr. Smith, Ms. Curry, and Mrs. Hairston Mitchell with a gift for work and support during the transition.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mr. McCoy. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.